GSWS 321-4: Qualitative Methods in Feminist Research

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Lecture & Seminar: Mondays 1:30 – 5:20
Office hours: TBA
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Course Description:
This course is an exploration into the theories, purpose, scope, and strategies for qualitative research, particularly as used in feminist social sciences. We will examine a range of qualitative methods, including participatory action research, interviews, ethnography, participant observation, discourse analysis, and oral history methodologies. We will discuss how these methods are employed in different research contexts, by focusing on the methodological and ethical considerations that emerge from the research question.

In addition to reading about and evaluating qualitative research design, the course aims to involve students in conducting research using participatory methods. The course uses experiential learning to foster an understanding of the process of participatory research: students will be tasked with the design, organization, outreach, and facilitation of focus group sessions, where the topic will be healthy cities and feminist urban activism, broadly defined. Focus group sessions will take place in Burnaby, Surrey, and Vancouver, and students will be expected to participate in one focus group session.

Learning Outcomes:
The goal of this course is to engage students in an examination of, and conversation about, qualitative research methods. Likewise, this course seeks to provide students with hands-on experience in the design and practice of participatory methods. As such, the course offers students experience in the praxis of feminist/urban activism, following the course's engagement with the Women Transforming Cities initiatives.

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Readings on reserve or electronically accessed through the SFU Library.
- Content on course blog, TBA.

***Provisional***
Course Evaluation and Assignments:
- Attendance and Participation 20%
- Reading responses (3) 30%
- Student-led seminar facilitation 20%
- Research portfolio 30%

Prerequisite: 15 units

THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN’S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.
IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW POLICY 110.02 WITH RESPECT TO “INTELLECTUAL HONESTY,” AND “ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE” (WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING)