WS800-5: Methodology in Women’s Studies Research

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Lecture: Fridays 10:30 – 15:20 – AQ 5019
Office hours: TBD

Course Description:
This interdisciplinary course examines concepts and methods that feminist scholars use to study women's/gender issues across a range of disciplines. Students will examine the production of feminist knowledge through a wide range of methodological approaches that ultimately demystifies feminist research. The objectives of this course are: (i) to explore feminist research and to analyse the androcentric and sexist production of knowledge and research across various disciplines; (ii) to evaluate critically a number of research methods that include survey, participant observation, interview, statistical analysis, cross-cultural and archival research, case study, ethnography, and oral history; (iii) to discuss the quantitative and qualitative controversy; and (v) to explore the challenges and lessons of actions, policy-oriented and community-based research. The course will also focus on research ethics and examine SFU Research Ethics guidelines, and discuss the act of interpretation, and how to write and present research work.

Course Texts and Courseware:


In addition, a set of readings will be placed on reserve in the library.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
One Short Paper and Presentation 20%
Research Project Exercise 25%
Final Research Paper 40%
Participation/Attendance/Class Presentations 15%

The Department of 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 T10.02 with respect to “Intellectual Honesty,” and “Academic Discipline” (WWW.SFU.CA/Policies/Teaching)