DPLS 779 Feminist Research Ethics
Summer 2014 - 2 Credits
Th 6-10pm

Instructor: Dr. Sara Diaz
Office: Women's and Gender Studies House #5
Email: diazs@gonzaga.edu
Phone: x5779

Description

In this course we will discuss, analyze, and apply feminist approaches to research ethics. First we will examine the basic principles of feminist research. Then we will reflect on the history of research abuses in the social and biomedical sciences with particular emphasis on gender and race. We will study both mainstream and feminist responses to that history. Next we will investigate some ethical problems that arise in feminist research and survey critiques of mainstream and feminist approaches to research ethics. Finally, we will investigate two alternative ethical frameworks advocated by feminists: 1) Phronetic and 2) Decolonial research methods.

We will use the 1979 Health and Human Service Department statement on research ethics, known as the Belmont Report, as a starting point for our discussions. An exploration of the Belmont Report's ethical mandates of respect for persons, beneficence, and justice and their application in the form of informed consent, risk assessment, and subject selection will be woven throughout the course.

Course Goals

• Students will learn the basic objectives of feminist research.
• Students will identify and analyze feminist critiques of the three pillars of research ethics: respect for persons, beneficence, and justice.
• Students will develop their knowledge of ethical problems within feminist research.
• Students will learn the basic principles of phronetic and decolonial feminist research ethics frameworks.
• Students will be able to identify potential ethical problems from a feminist perspective in their own research agenda
• Students will apply the phronetic and decolonial research models as ethical frameworks to their own research questions.

Readings

Books (Available at the Bookstore)

Rebecca Skloot - The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
**Articles (Available on Blackboard)**  
Belmont Report  
Linda Alcoff -- The Problem of Speaking for the Other  
Virginia Eubanks -- "Feminist Phronesis and Technologies of Citizenship" in *Real Social Science*  
Maria Lugones & Elizabeth Spelman -- Have We Got a Theory for You!  
Daphne Patai -- US Academics and Third World Women: Is Ethical Research Possible in *Women's Words*  
Nancy Shore -- Reconceptualizing the Belmont Report  
Andrea Smith -- Unsettling the Privilege of Self-Reflexivity in *Geographies of Privilege*

---

**Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hesse-Biber (Chapters 1-4)</td>
<td>Synthetic Paper</td>
<td><em>Introduction to Feminist Research and Feminist Research Ethics</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2       | Skloot Belmont Report Shore | Synthetic Paper | *
| 3       | Flyvbjerg Selections TBD Eubanks | Synthetic Paper | *
| 4       | LT Smith Selections TBD Lugones & Spelman Patai | Synthetic Paper | *
| 5       | Alcoff A Smith Ethical Statements | Presentation of Ethical Statement in class | *

*Advanced Problems: Voice & Reflexivity  
Applying feminist research ethics to student's research projects*
Assignments

Synthesis Paper

There will be four synthesis papers due over the course of the semester (see schedule). In this paper you will synthesize the readings assigned for that day. You will identify the thesis, arguments, evidence (if applicable), and key assumptions for each of the authors. Then you place the authors in conversation with one another and draw some general conclusions grounded in the readings pertaining to the central topic(s) for that week. Papers are due on Blackboard before the start of class each Thursdays.

Statement of Ethics

In this paper you will outline the potential ethical problems pertaining to gender, race, or other social power differentials that may arise in relation to your own research. Then, using the texts from the course, you will develop a plan to address these ethical problems in your research. The paper will be 15-20 pages in length and will use the style of your choice (APA, MLA, CMS, etc). This will be your principle work product for the course and will represent 50% of your final grade.

A working draft of the paper will be due on Blackboard three days before our last class meeting. In addition to the assigned readings you will read your classmate’s statements and be prepared to discuss them on the last day of class. You will be allowed to incorporate feedback in your final draft which will be due on TBD.

Presentation of Ethical Statement

In our final class session you will present your ethical statement to the class. You may use media to supplement your presentation but you are not required to do so. Be prepared to discuss your statement with the class. If there are questions you have been unable to address, pose them to your classmates.

Grading

20% Participation in class discussion
20% Synthesis Papers (5% each)
50% Statement of Ethics
10% Presentation