



# FEMINIST METHODOLOGIES AND GENDER RESEARCH

ZARA SAEIDZADEH, GENDER STUDIES, ÖREBRO UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN



## FORMAT

- OBLIGATORY
- 4 ECTS
- THEORETICAL  
AND PRACTICAL
- 23 PAGES

---

---

# AIM AND OBJECTIVES



Criticizing traditional and male dominated research and knowledge production.

- HOW TO CONDUCT RESEARCH WITH A GENDER PERSPECTIVE
- THROUGH RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES INSPIRED BY FEMINIST ONTOLOGICAL AND EPISTEMOLOGICAL APPROACHES

## LEARNING GOALS

- To elaborate on how **feminist research methodologies** are developed in order to contribute to the process of production of knowledge on social reality
- To show **diversity among feminist epistemologies** that opt for challenging power structure: male dominated perspectives
- To put an **emphasis on qualitative methods** in feminist research based on the feminist epistemologies rather than mainstream scientific methods
- To provide necessary knowledge and **practical skill** on academic writing.

# GENDER RESEARCH

- Problematises hierarchical power relations between genders in everyday life
- Integrates diversity of social structures such as race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, socioeconomic status, age, and disability into analysis of structural inequalities
- Addresses traditional bias by adopting alternative methods of qualitative and quantitative data collection to pay attention to gender differences and gender relations

# GENDER RESEARCH AT INTERPLAY BETWEEN LAW AND SOCIETY

- Analyses law in terms of its power, potential and shortcomings in society
- Investigates social realities of gender relations and constructions within law
- Explores gendered social and legal process and practices of legislation, judgements, jurisprudence and advocacy among legal professionals and institutions.

# FEMINIST RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

- Emerged from feminist politics, that is feminist theories and practices
- Does not stem from a unified set of thought and perspective but share common ideas
- Reflects on marginalization of women in social and political life
- Criticizes dominant norms of science which maintain male superiority
- Is informed by variety of epistemological and ontological approaches: the ways in which one understands the world and the knowledge produced about the world

# FEMINIST EPISTEMOLOGIES

- Identify how gender influences our conception of knowledge and practices of inquiry
- Problematize how dominant conceptions and practices of knowledge production exclude and subordinate some groups of people
- Offer diverse accounts of how to overcome this problem: situated knowledge
- Focus on how social location of individual affects everyday life experiences
- Have opted for various ways to understand social phenomena and the ways in which knowledge is produced



## EXAMPLES OF FEMINIST EPISTEMOLOGIES

- Feminist Standpoint Theory
- Feminist Poststructuralism
- Intersectional Feminist

# FEMINIST SOCIO-LEGAL METHODS

## **Feminist standpoint theory**

- asking the question of women,
- Practical reasoning: women's context and experiences
- Consciousness raising experience for collective empowerment

## **Poststructuralism: Gender mainstreaming**

Gender mainstreaming involves discursive analysis of the process and practices through which laws and policies are created

## **Intersectionality**

- Intersectionality in anti-discrimination laws, and GBV in Europe

# FEMINIST EMPIRICAL METHODS OF GENDER RESEARCH

**Theoretical and empirical research**

**Qualitative and quantitative research**

**In Qualitative Research:**

Positionality, reflexivity

Research ethics

- Research plan, design, strategy
- Research methods of collecting data: Interviews, documents
- Research methods of analysing data: Thematic analysis, document analysis, discourse analysis

# WRITING UP THE RESEARCH

## Skills:

- Critical engagement
- Analytical approach
- Describing materials
- Building arguments, supporting arguments, using arguments
- Referencing and plagiarism
- Structuring