

Engaging with a shift to the empirical in feminist scholarship



A symposium

The symposium will be held at the University of Sydney on Friday November 11 (12.30-4.30) and is supported by event funding from the Australian Women and Gender Studies Association (AWGSA). The focus of the symposium is the re-engagement of feminist scholarship with empirical research and the challenges and possibilities this poses in light of developments in feminist theoretical work (i.e. conducting non-binary gendered research, operationalising the concept of intersectionality for empirical investigation).

While empirical research is by no means 'new' to feminism and indeed has a long tradition both inside and outside the academy, recent commentary has focused on a (re)'turn' or shift towards the empirical in contemporary feminist scholarship. In particular highlighting the novel and exciting methodological challenges and orientations, this entails (for example Adkins and Denver 2015, Asberg, Thiel & Tuin 2015, Frost 2011, Silius 2010).

In planning the symposium, we have had two key objectives in mind. The first, to consider the possibilities this re-engagement with the empirical holds for innovative theoretical and methodological developments (including a lessening of their traditional dichotomised relationship) and the second to examine this development in the context of the social and political context in which knowledge is produced.

To enable this we are aiming to facilitate a relaxed but intellectually stimulating environment where knowing, not knowing and unknowing are equally valid. We have also been keen for this to be an opportunity to engage in cross institutional and cross disciplinary dialogue and accordingly are delighted to have attracted participants from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds and institutional affiliations.

We look forward to seeing you

Sue Goodwin & Suzanne Egan

Date: Friday November 11
Time: 12.3- 4.30 (lunch included)
Venue: Room 612
Faculty of Education and Social Work
(Building A35) Manning Road,
University of Sydney
Contact suzanne.egan@sydney.edu.au



Programme Overview

Informal roundtable discussion. During the first part of the afternoon, some participants will make brief (5 to 10m max) informal presentations on their chosen concept or theory and associated links to methodological innovations and challenges, with plenty of time for discussion. The last part of the afternoon will focus on drawing together of the main themes and ideas that have emerged in relation to the overall symposium theme.

Participants

- ❖ Pat Drake is from Victoria University. She is interested in using email as data, and would like to discuss as an example the use of email as a means of constructing identity.
 - ❖ Leah Williams Veazey is from the University of Sydney and interested in feminist research on migration, motherhood, and digitally mediated relationships in those contexts.
 - ◆ Deb Hayes is from the University of Sydney and is exploring the implications of new materialist writers, such as Karen Barad, for ethnographies of schooling.
 - ❖ Pauline Johnson is from Macquarie University and is interested in discussing the 'seduction' of feminism by neoliberalism.
 - ◆ Rosemary Hancock is from the University of Notre Dame and is interested in discussing collaborative ethnography as a feminist research practice.
 - ❖ Alanna Kamp is from the University of Western Sydney and is interested in discussing feminist and post colonial theory.
 - ◆ Shawna Marks is from the University of Adelaide and is interested in discussing consent and sexual ethics.
 - ❖ Robyn North is from Western Sydney University and is interested in discussing the concept of heterosexuality in feminist research.
 - ◆ Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt is from the Australian National University and engages with empiricism in the multidisciplinary fields of gender, resources and the environment.
 - ❖ Ruth Phillips is from the University of Sydney, is researching 4th wave feminism in NGOs and is interested in exploring how to utilise data from quantitative surveys to explore qualitative issues, e.g. feminist identity.
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Participants continued

- ◆ Pippa Yeoman is from the University of Sydney and is interested in new materialist theories - knowledge as becoming - with particular reference to the materiality of learning.
- ❖ Yulia Maleta from the University of Sydney aims to integrate feminism within socio-political and environmental sciences. Her goal is to advocate CALD and Indigenous women's greater leadership within renewables governance.
- ◆ Jaya Keaney is from the University of Sydney and is interested in deploying the concepts of race and queerness in research on assisted reproduction.
- ◆ Archana P. Voola is from the University of Sydney and is interested in discussing post structural feminist analyses in poverty studies.
- ❖ Helen Proctor is from the University of Sydney and is interested in developing new approaches to the history of contemporary parenting.
- ◆ Lobna Yassine is from the University of Sydney and is interested in gender, juvenile justice and policy analysis.
- ❖ Claire Farrugia is from Macquarie University and is interested in migration , feminist political economy , cultural geography and the role sharing plays in ethnographic research.
- ◆ Catriona Elder is from the University of Sydney and works on textual and narrative analysis related to inter-racial relations.
- ❖ Sue Goodwin is from the University of Sydney and is interested in applying post structural methodologies in feminist policy research.
- ◆ Suzanne Egan works at Sydney and Western Sydney universities & is interested in using Foucauldian theoretical concepts as methodological strategies in feminist research.