

Feminist Philosophy of Science

This course introduces students to a range of historical and contemporary issues in feminist approaches to science, knowledge, and human nature. Is there an essential difference between women and men? If so, what is the nature of this difference and what are its social and political implications? If not, what explains the apparent differences? Can assumptions about gender and sexuality compromise scientific objectivity? If so, should we rethink the nature of scientific objectivity and knowledge in general? Can social and psychological accounts of how we tend to sort people into distinct categories illuminate how we *ought* to understand these categories? How do questions about gender and sexuality intersect with questions about race and cross-cultural difference? How are these categories represented in popular scientific media? We will focus in particular on case studies from recent evolutionary biology, psychology, and neuroscience.

Required Readings

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*

Michael Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume I: An Introduction*

Rebecca Jordan-Young, *Brain Storm: The Flaws in the Science of Sex Differences*

Thomas Laqueur, *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud*

- All other readings will be available in a Course Reader and on Moodle.

Topics and ReadingsHistory of Essentialism; Gendered Souls & Virtue

Genesis 1-3

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Émile*, selections

Mary Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, selections

Sarah Grimke, *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Woman*, selections

John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women*, selections

Construction and Critique of Essentialism

Friedrich Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State*, selections

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, selections

Virginia Valian, "Gender Begins—and Continues—in the Home"

Carol Gilligan, *In a Different Voice*, selections

Alison Jaggar, *Feminist Politics and Human Nature*, selections

Jennifer Saul, "Women's 'Different Voice'"

Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality*

Sandra Lee Bartky, "Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power"

Laqueur, *Making Sex*, Chs. 1-2, 3 (pp. 69, 82, 88, 98-99), Ch.5 (149-63), Ch.6 (193-207; 243)

Cristan Williams, "Gender Performance: The TransAdvocate interviews Judith Butler" and embedded video, "Your Behavior Creates Your Gender"

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble*, Prefaces (1999, 1990), Ch. 1, Ch. 3 (Concluding Unscientific Postscript (p.144) to End), Conclusion

Elizabeth Spelman, "Woman: The One and the Many"

Ethnicity, Class, and Gender in Social Science

Margaret Anderson & Patricia Hill Collins, "Race, Class, and Gender"

Kimberlé Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics and Violence against Women of Color"

Ron Mallon, "Social Construction, Social Roles, and Stability"

Mari Mikkola, "Elizabeth Spelman, Gender Realism and Women"

Mikkola, "Gender Sceptics and Feminist Politics"

Feminism, Social Science, and the Global Context

Uma Narayan, "Cross-Cultural Connections, Border Crossings, and Death by Culture"

Joseph Massad, "ReOrienting Desire: The Gay International and the Arab World"

Saba Mahmood, "Feminist Theory, Embodiment, and the Docile Agent: Some Reflections on the Egyptian Islamic Revival"

Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Feminist Epistemology

Nalini Ambady, video lecture, "How Subtle Cues Shape Behavior and Performance"

David Pedulla, "The Positive Consequences of Negative Stereotypes: Race, Sexual Orientation, and the Job Application Process"

Miranda Fricker, podcast interview for Philosophy Bites

Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice*, Preface, Intro, Ch.7 "Hermeneutical Injustice"

Elizabeth Anderson, "Epistemic Justice as a Virtue of Social Institutions"

Tamar Szabó Gendler, "On the epistemic costs of implicit bias"

Alex Madva, "Virtue, Social Knowledge, and Implicit Bias"

Alex Madva, "Biased Against De-Biasing: On the Role of (Institutionally Sponsored) Self-Transformation in the Struggle Against Prejudice"

Feminism, Objectivity, Bias

Elisabeth Lloyd, "Objectivity and the double standard for feminist epistemologies"

Lloyd, "Pre-theoretical Assumptions in Evolutionary Explanations of Female Sexuality"

Helen Longino, *The Fate of Knowledge in Social Theories of Science*, selections

Jennifer Saul, "Feminism, Science, and Bias"

Louise Antony, "Quine as feminist: The radical import of naturalized epistemology"

Antony, "Sisters, Please, I'd Rather Do It Myself: A Defense of Individualism in Feminist Epistemology"

Antony, "'Human Nature' and Its Role in Feminist Theory"

Elizabeth Anderson, "Feminist Epistemology: An Interpretation and a Defense"

Alison Wylie, "Feminism in Philosophy of Science"

Reemerging Essentialism in Neuroscience, Evolutionary Psychology, and Popular Media

Rebecca Jordan-Young, *Brain Storm: The Flaws in the Science of Sex Differences*

Sarah Richardson, "Y All the Hype?"

Lori Oliwenstein, *Time Magazine*, "The Most Important Sex Organ"

Randy Thornhill & Craig Palmer, "Why Men Rape"

Ariel Levy, "Either/Or: Sports, Sex, and the Case of Caster Semenya"