

## PhD course on gender and research methodologies Radboud University October 11-12, 2018

### **(Preliminary) Course program**

- Organisers:* prof.dr. Marieke van den Brink, dr. Inge Bleijenbergh
- Contact:* [w.meerstadt@ru.nl](mailto:w.meerstadt@ru.nl) (practical matters)  
[m.vandenbrink@ru.nl](mailto:m.vandenbrink@ru.nl) (programme content) or [i.bleijenbergh@fm.ru.nl](mailto:i.bleijenbergh@fm.ru.nl) (programme content)
- Subject:* This course serves as an introduction to research methods in interdisciplinary gender studies. Classical and modern debate on the use of qualitative and quantitative research methods from a gender perspective.
- Objective:* Students will be able to gain a better understanding of feminist epistemologies and methodologies. They will be able to critically reflect upon the choice and application of research methods from a gender perspective in their own PhD research.
- Design:* The course takes two full days, with an alternation of lectures, discussion of literature and discussion of assignments made by students. The first day will focus on qualitative research methods, the second day on quantitative research methods. Both days will take the different phases in the research process into consideration, namely design, research question, operationalization, choice of methods for accessing sources, data collection, data-analysis and interpretation and reporting. In order to receive a certificate participants must have actively participated in both days, read the assigned literature, written two short assignments on their own method selection, and actively participated in the discussions.
- Institutional context:* The course is designed and delivered as an interdisciplinary, interfaculty endeavor headed by Radboud University's Gender & Diversity Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, in collaboration with the Nijmegen School of Management, the Netherlands Research School of Gender (NOG) and the Hochschule Rhein-Waal, Kleve.
- Participants:* Estimated number of students: 15. The maximum is set at 20 PhD researchers in order to enable in depth discussion. The course is also open to advanced MA students and other young researchers for the remaining places.
- Fee:* The participation fee is €200,-, which includes two full days of lectures/discussion, feedback on assignments, a certificate and coffee/tea during breaks. Registered NOG members, PhD students from participating faculties and members of the Gender & Diversity PhD seminar do not pay a fee.

- Reading:* You are advised to buy the books of Nagy Hesse-Biber and Reinharz or borrow them from your own university library. Copies of the books and the articles will be available (for consultation only) at the Gender & Diversity Secretariat, Montessorilaan 3, A.3.11 (Spinoza building), Nijmegen.
- Study load:* 2 x 7 hours workshop days, 2 x 4 hours working on the assignments and an estimated 2 x 32 hours of reading (= 84 hours, 3 ECT).
- Date/time:* Thursday October 11 and Friday October 12, 2018.
- Location:* Radboud University Nijmegen, Thomas v Aquinonstraat 8, room 8.00.12.  
(for Information on how to get there see [www.ru.nl/english/about-us/contact/how-get/](http://www.ru.nl/english/about-us/contact/how-get/))
- Registration:* Please send the fully completed registration form (on p. 8) to [w.meerstadt@ru.nl](mailto:w.meerstadt@ru.nl) no later than September 20, 2018.
- Assignment deadline:* Send in the completed assignments no later than September 26, 2018 to [w.meerstadt@ru.nl](mailto:w.meerstadt@ru.nl)

## Course schedule

### Day 1, Thursday October 11, 2018: Qualitative research

Topics: Feminist epistemologies. Explorative research questions. Defining concepts. Discursive analysis of text and interviews.

Time	Activity	Lecturer
9:30 - 10:30	Lecture 1, General introduction: Are there any feminist research methods? Feminist epistemologies	prof. dr. Marieke van den Brink
	Discussion of the lecture and assigned literature	
10:30 - 10:45	<i>Break</i>	
10:45 - 12:00	Discussion of students assignments	
12:00 - 13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13:30 - 14:30	Lecture 2, Discursive analysis of text and interviews	dr. Laura Dobusch
	Discussion of the lecture and the literature	
14:30 – 15:15	Discussion of students' assignments	
15:15 - 15:30	<i>Tea break</i>	
15:30 - 16:45	Lecture 3, Analyzing gendered images and artefacts	dr. Els Rommes
	Discussion of the lecture and the literature, closing of the meeting	
16:45 – 17:00	Closing of the meeting	prof. dr. Marieke van den Brink

### Day two: Friday October 12, 2018: Quantitative and mixed methods research

Topics: Gender bias in selection of sample, quantitative data-analysis and interpretation and reporting. Hypothesis testing research questions. Defining concepts. Collecting quantitative data and gender bias.

Time	Activity	Lecturer
9:30 - 10:30	Lecture 1, Quantitative techniques in feminist research	dr. Niels Spierings
	Discussion of the lecture and assigned literature	
10:30 - 10:45	<i>Break</i>	
10:45 - 12:00	Discussion of students assignments	
12:00 - 13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13:30 - 14:30	Lecture 2, Mixed methods in gender and diversity research	dr. Inge Bleijenbergh
	Discussion of the lecture and the literature	
14:30 – 15:15	Discussion of students' assignments	
15:15 - 15:30	<i>Tea break</i>	
15:30 - 16:45	Lecture 3, Triangulation of quantitative and qualitative methods in life-course analysis	prof. dr. Ingrid Jungwirth
	Discussion of the lecture and the literature	
16:45 – 17:00	Closing of the meeting	prof. dr. Marieke van den Brink

## Assignments

### Assignment I

Provide your name, the title of your research and a summary of your research topic in 10. Describe the qualitative aspects of your research and how you apply the chosen qualitative methods in a gender critical manner. Also indicate the problems you have encountered in your research or any methodological questions you may have.

### Assignment II

Provide your name and title of your research. Describe the quantitative aspects of your research, and how you apply the chosen quantitative methods in a gender critical manner. Also indicate the problems you have encountered in your research or any methodological questions you may have.

Each assignment must be two pages at maximum, letter size 12. The deadline is: **September 26, 2018**. Send your assignments to [w.meerstadt@ru.nl](mailto:w.meerstadt@ru.nl).

## Mandatory literature

### Day I

*Read and prepare one discussion point for each article or chapter:*

- Harding, S. (1986) From the Woman Question in Science to the Science Question in Feminism. *The Science Question in Feminism*. Cornell University Press, p 15-29.
- Lazar, M. M. (2007). Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis: Articulating a Feminist Discourse Praxis. *Critical Discourse Studies*, 4(2), 141-164.
- Naggy Hesse-Biber, S. ed (2014). *Feminist Research Practice*. Sage. p 1-72.

### Day II

*Read and prepare one discussion point for each article or chapter:*

- Bleijenbergh, I. & Fielden, S. (2015) Examining Diversity in Organizations from Critical Perspectives: the Validity of the Research Process. *Oxford Handbook on Diversity in Organizations*. London: Oxford University Press (21 p.).
- Leckenby, D. (2007) Feminist empiricism: Challenging gender bias and "Setting the Record Straight" In S. Nagy Hesse-Biber & P. Lina Leavy (Ed.) *Feminist Research Practice. A Primer*. London: Sage, p 27-51.

## Lecture descriptions

### Day I

Lecture 1, General introduction: Are there any feminist research methods? Feminist epistemologies (prof. dr. Marieke van den Brink)

This class provides a general introduction in feminist epistemologies and research methods. We will focus on how feminist scholars challenge dominant theories of knowledge and the major methodologies employed in the social sciences. We explore how gender theory and feminist politics shape the kinds of research questions we ask, the types of materials we use, and how we define our relationships with our subjects.

Lecture 2, Discursive analysis of text and interviews (dr. Laura Dobusch)

The lecture gives an overview of the origin and contemporary applications of the method of discourse analysis. It discusses what a feminist discourse analytical approach might entail and also touches upon epistemological dilemmas connected to conducting empirical research from a discourse oriented perspective.

Lecture 3, Lecture 3, Analyzing gendered images and artefacts (dr. Els Rommes)

The famous sentence by Bruno Latour 'science (and technology) is politics with other means' indicates the relevance for doing a feminist analysis of science and technologies. But how can we study non-textual material, like artefacts (a door closer, bridge or tea cup), standardized systems (e.g. computer programs, the energy infrastructure or scientific discoveries) or images (e.g. in advertisements for the university, cartoons or a soap opera series)? And how do we study the power hierarchies within these non-textual, non-human things?

Day II

Lecture 2, Mixed methods in gender and diversity research (dr. Inge Bleijenbergh)

The lecture discusses the strengths and pitfalls of using mixed methods in gender and diversity research. The lecture focuses on the challenges of combining research methods from different epistemological backgrounds and of coping with resistance from organizational stakeholders in accepting the knowledge produced in gender and diversity research.

## Lecturers

<p><a href="#"><u>Prof.dr. Marieke van den Brink</u></a> Professor Gender and Diversity</p>	<p>Marieke van den Brink is Professor Gender &amp; Diversity at the Faculty of Social Sciences. She researches the place and functioning of gender and diversity in organizations (especially professional recruitment and selection) for Radboud Cultural and Social Research and provides education for, inter alia, the Bachelor and (research) Master programmes of Sociology and Cultural Anthropology and Development Studies. Furthermore she is dedicated to further university wide interdisciplinary research and education on Gender and Diversity.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Dr. Inge Bleijenbergh</u></a> Associate professor Research Methods</p>	<p>Inge Bleijenbergh is associate professor Research Methods, specialized in participatory action research, gender &amp; decision-making and social policies. She finished her PhD on European social citizenship at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam in 2004 and moved to Radboud University in 2006. She coordinated two EU funded research projects on gender equality in academia and is co-editor of the Oxford Handbook of Diversity in Organizations (2015).</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Dr. Laura Dobusch</u></a> Assistant professor Gender &amp; Diversity</p>	<p>Laura Dobusch's main research and teaching topics are: why and how differences become relevant in organizations, how organizational inclusion can be theorized and practically implemented as well as how contemporary forms of organizing are linked to il-/legitimate subjectivities. She has developed a special focus on gender and dis_ability and their relevance for inclusion and exclusion at the workplace. In her theoretical approach she builds on poststructuralist theories, inclusion/exclusion theories and a relational sociology perspective in general.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Prof. dr. Ingrid Jungwirth</u></a> Professor Social Sciences: Diversity and Inclusion</p>	<p>The research fields of Prof. Dr. Ingrid Jungwirth are mobility and migration, gender studies, sociology of work and organizations, sociology of the life course and social inequality as well as social theories. Prof. Jungwirth has taught at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Free University Berlin, BTU Cottbus (Brandenburg University of Technology) and HWR Berlin (Berlin School of Economics and Law). She has studied Sociology, Social Pedagogies and German Literature in Berlin and Munich.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Dr. Els Rommes</u></a> Assistant professor Gender and Diversity</p>	<p>Els Rommes studied gender and the sociology of technology (especially ICTs) in society. Her research interests and main publication areas include gender scripts and ICTs, images of technology in the media, feminist e-learning; heteronormativity and gendered educational and occupational choices as well as research in cultural and other diversities in the mental health care system for young people. She presently is the leader of the 'diversities in youth care' specialization of pedagogical sciences at the RU.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Dr. Niels Spierings</u></a> Assistant professor Sociology</p>	<p>Niels Spierings' work concentrates on gender and political sociology. His interests include political behaviour and attitudes, gender attitudes, women's position, the Middle East, migration, Islam, social media, and populism. His PhD focused on women's employment in Muslim countries. Current projects</p>

	include the impact of migration on gender equality attitudes and women's position, gender and social media usage in politics, and the role gender plays in populist radical right politics.
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## Registration form –PhD course on gender and research methodologies

Radboud University October 11-12, 2018

Last name	
First name	
Email address	
Phone number	
University/institute	
(preliminary) Thesis title	
Supervisor's name	
What do you expect from this course/ are you most interested in?	
Does any of these situations apply to you*:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Registered NOG member</li><li>2. PhD candidate at the RU Social Sciences Faculty</li><li>3. PhD candidate at the RU Nijmegen School of Management</li><li>4. Member of the Gender &amp; Diversity PhD seminar</li><li>5. Student at the Hochschule Rhein-Waal</li></ol>

\*In case this does not apply to you, you are requested to pay a €200,- fee for participation in this course. Further information about making the payment will be sent to you after registration.

You can send this fully filled out form to Wenneke Meerstadt via email: [w.meerstadt@ru.nl](mailto:w.meerstadt@ru.nl)

The application deadline is **September 20, 2018**.

## **Suggested further readings**

### General feminist Methods

Reinharz, S. (1992). *Feminist Methods in Social Research*. Oxford University Press.

### Actor network model/heterogeneity

Leigh Star, S. (1990). Power, Technology and the Phenomenology of Conventions: On being Allergic to Onions. *The Sociological Review*. Vol 38, Issue 1\_suppl, pp. 26 – 56.

### Mixed methods

Naggy Hesse-Biber, S. (2014). Feminist approaches in mixed methods research. *Feminist Research Practice*. Sage. p 363-388.

### In depth interviewing and Focus groups

Naggy Hesse-Biber, S. (2014). Feminist approaches to in-depth interviewing. *Feminist Research Practice*. Sage. p 182-232.

Munday, J. (2014) The practice of Feminist Focus Groups Naggy Hesse-Biber, S. (2014). *Feminist Research Practice*. Sage. p 363-388.

### Materiality