



Recent Publications

BOOK REVIEWS

Feminist Research Methods: Exemplary Readings in the Social Sciences. Ed. by Joyce McCarl Nielsen. Boulder, San Francisco, and London: Westview Press, 1990. 262p. \$39.95 hc, \$16.95 pc (ISBN 0-8133-0604-3; ISBN 0-8133-0577-2 (pbk.)). LC 89-29019.

Editors of anthologies, by definition, bring together select writings that merit emphasis for one or more reasons. But this anthology is much more than a book of fine readings. It offers a quick overview of feminist and social scientific research for the nonexpert, and it appeals to the research professional because of its clearly articulated theoretical discussions and theses. As if it were an example of Nielsen's theory of the holistic qualities of feminist research, the book becomes whole in and of itself. The work in its entirety posits viable evidence of the new scientific revolution resulting from the paradigm of feminist research.

Based on the paradigm theory of Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (1962), the paradigm of feminist research is affecting all scientific and social scientific research, according to the well-documented and developed introduction by Joyce McCarl Nielsen. Nielsen examines numerous research methodologies and their theoretical underpinnings, even offering a brief history of scientific inquiry. She adeptly builds on issues in philosophy and history of science and assumptions in epistemology to illustrate her contention that feminist inquiry not only broadens the entire picture but is also

revolutionizing the way research is carried out in virtually all disciplines.

Two of several basic assumptions that Nielsen effectively overturns are the "objectivity" theory, i.e., the social world is objectively knowable, and the subject/object separation theory, which assumes that the social world can be known objectively by observers who are a part of it but can remain subjectively separated from it. Her introductory discussion on these and other assumptions as well as her fine explanation of the new feminist research paradigm are substantiated by the well-chosen readings.

These readings fall into two categories. The first group comprises four selections, each discussing different research methodologies: subjective-objective basis of scientific thinking, the dialectical nature of knowledge, epistemology and methodology in feminist sociological research, and appropriate applications of oral history.

The lead article, "Gender and Science" by Evelyn Fox Keller, points out the masculine characteristics of science and scientific inquiry. Keller bases her treatment on the subjective-objective distinction that underlies science and demonstrates that the ability to conduct modern-day scientific inquiry is developed along with an individual's emotional and sexual identity.

Part two includes several articles substantiating Keller's theme. "Women and Suicide in Historical Perspective" by Howard I. Kushner, "How Large Are Cognitive Gender Differences? A Meta-analysis Using w2 and d" by Janet Shibley Hyde,

Published:

Catalogue 32:

Philosophy

Old, Rare & Out of Print Books,
Journals and Pamphlets.

Catalogue 33:

Economics & Economical History.

Parts 1-2.

1. Finance - Banking - Stockmarket Taxes
2. Agriculture - Rural Economy

Catalogue 34:

Law & The History of Law - International Law.

Free on request.



A. GERITS & SONS

**Modern and Antiquarian Booksellers
Library Agents**

Prinsengracht 445, P.O. Box 664
1000 AR Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Teleph. 31-20-27 22 85 · Fax 31-20-25 89 70

*

Out of Print & Antiquarian Catalogues
and

Flyers of New and Forthcoming
European Publications

Free on request

**European (West & East) Out of Print
Searching Service**

"Interaction: The Work Women Do" by Pamela M. Fishman, and "A New Approach to Understanding the Impact of Gender on the Legislative Process" by Lyn Kathlene are not only relevant to the topic but particularly well selected.

Nielsen believes that theoretical discussions are most meaningful when offered in conjunction with specific examples of their applications. Her presentation in this volume is structured accordingly, with the second group of readings, offering examples of theory applied to specific areas of inquiry.

In part two, the article that illustrates the utilization of feminist literary criticism and anthropological fieldwork is a noteworthy example of the integration of empirical criteria and the hermeneutic and emancipatory themes of feminist research. Anna L. Tsing in her "The Vision of a Woman Shaman" gives an account of how Induan Hiling, a Meratus woman, becomes recognized in her own society for her shamanistic powers, powers usually attributed to men. Evolving with this recognition is the gradual transformation of the society itself as Induan Hiling creates new forms of rituals, songs, and expressions. Tsing is able to draw from her participant/observer fieldwork, her interpretive analysis of events and traditions, and the expansive attributes of feminist research. The reader understands clearly the sources of information and the contributions of various techniques.

Other authors selected for inclusion are: Marcia Westkott, Judith A. Cook, Mary Margaret Fonow, Kathryn Anderson, Susan Armitage, Dana Janc, Judith Wittner, Sherna Berger Gluck, and Myra Marx Ferree. The editor has coupled her excellent essay on the strengths of feminist research with an outstanding group of articles, thereby creating a valuable contribution to the literature of research methodology.—*Patricia A. Wand, The American University, Washington, D.C.*

Magrill, Rose Mary and John Corbin. *Acquisitions Management and Collection Development in Libraries.* 2d ed. Chicago: