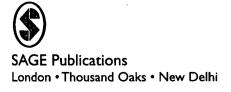


Feminist Methodology

Challenges and Choices

Caroline Ramazanoğlu with Janet Holland



Contents

		Page
i	Introduction	I
	Introduction 1	
	Three challenges to feminist methodology 3	
	What is gender? 4	
	What is feminism in the twenty-first century? 5	
	Are feminists women? 7	
	What is methodology in social research? 9	
	Is feminist methodology distinctively feminist? 15	~
	The structure of the book 17	
PAF	T I FEMINISM'S ENLIGHTENMENT LEGACY AND ITS CONTRADICTIONS	
2	Reason, science and progress: feminism's Enlightenment	
	inheritance	23
	Introduction 23	
	Enlightenment thought 24	
	Reason, science and progress: how Enlightenment thought has	
	shaped feminist approaches to methodology 25	
	Modern humanism 33	
	The long shadow of the Enlightenment: challenges and	
	contradictions at the roots of modern feminist methodology 36	
	Conclusion 39	
3	Can feminists tell the truth? Challenges of	
	scientific method	41
	Introduction 41	
	Feminist research as a quest for valid knowledge of social	
	realities by a knowing subject 42	
	Feminist objections to scientific method in social research 44	
	Objectivity, subjectivity, relativism: competing paths to truth 47	
	Conclusion 57	
4	From truth/reality to knowledge/power: taking a feminist	
7	standpoint	60
	Introduction 60	00
	The knowing feminist at the limits of modern methodology 61	
	A methodological continuum: slipping and sliding on	
	Haraway's greasy pole 61	
	Turaway 5 greasy pore or	

The research process 148

	What is a feminist standpoint? 63 Nancy Hartsock: achieving a feminist standpoint as a vantage point on male supremacy 68 Dorothy Smith: taking women's standpoint; beginning in experience 71 What problems remain? 74 Conclusion 78	
PAR	T II FREEDOM, FRAGMENTATION AND RESISTANCE	
5	Escape from epistemology? The impact of postmodern thought on feminist methodology Introduction 83 Postmodern thought 84 Postmodern freedoms: sweeping away the foundations of feminist methodology 86 Thus far but no further? Feminist resistance to postmodern thought 96 Conclusion 102	83
6	Researching 'others': feminist methodology and the politics of difference Introduction 105 Confronting difference in feminist social research 106 Being different: the constitution of 'otherness' 107 Being different: experiencing and resisting 'otherness' 110 Complications of difference 111 The politics of representing 'others': the privileged researcher 112 The power of interpretation: data analysis 116 Reflexivity in the research process 118 Conclusion 120	105
7	Knowledge, experience and reality: justifying feminist connections Introduction 123 The case against taking experience as a source of knowledge 124 A case for taking experience as a source of knowledge 127 The difficulties of connecting experience and material realities 132 Should feminists specify criteria of validity? 135 The idea of a feminist epistemic community 138 Conclusion 140	123
PAR	T III MEETING CHALLENGES, MAKING CHOICES	
8	Choices and decisions: doing a feminist research project Introduction 145 What makes social research feminist? 146	145

Situating your research question 149
Face to face with the research: data production 154
Face to face with the researched: putting reflexivity into practice 156
Face to face with the data: analysis and conclusions 159
Face to face with a blank sheet: writing up 161
Conclusion 163

9	Conclusion	16!
	Glossary	170
	References	174
	Index	19