

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Journal of Social Research Methodology *Feminism Counts: Quantitative Methods and Gender Research*

Guest Editors

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Closing Date for Initial Submissions: 30 April 2009

We are delighted to announce that submissions of no more than 6,000 words in length are invited for a special issue of the *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* (13:3) to be published July 2010.

The aims of the special issue are to:

- re-open debates concerned with feminist approaches to quantitative methods;
- contribute to widening the understanding and value of feminist approaches to quantitative methods;
- inform wider academic and public policy debate about the contemporary concerns of those using quantitative methods for gender research;

Context:

Despite the growth, and greater acceptance of qualitative approaches, quantification remains the 'gold standard' in much social science and policy oriented research. For example, national and international measures of gender equity draw heavily on statistical data and quantitative training is prioritised by the main funder of UK social science studentships (ESRC). Conversely, despite the range of feminists undertaking quantitative research, and despite more recent calls to 'rehabilitate' quantitative methods within feminism, the qualitatively devoted feminist researcher remains something of a stereotype. Indeed, the persistence of a division between qualitative and quantitative research has reinforced a host of gendered notions around hard/soft; emotional/rational; and so forth. Given the significance of quantified and quantifiable data to many policy deliberations associated with social justice, and the seeming lack of contemporary feminist attention to quantitative approaches, re-opening debates around feminist epistemologies and feminist empirics in terms of quantitative methodologies is of critical importance.

The proposed special issue will be devoted to exploring the philosophical, epistemological and practical issues that arise for feminists in respect of quantification. It will encourage submissions that critically debate a range of feminist concerns including: ethical and power issues; gender biases in quantitative data sources; the politics of using quantitative tools; issues of intersectionality; and dissemination. Whilst taking its cue from Second Wave feminist critiques of quantification in terms of the critique of 'malestream' social science and the objectification and silencing of women's lives, the special issue will also encourage contributions that explore contemporary debates around the rehabilitation of quantitative research for feminist purposes, particularly in the light of more recent debates around evidence based methodologies. It will also encourage contributions that explore the comparative status of quantitative methods within feminism internationally and across disciplines.

Substantive contributions on one of the following areas are especially welcome:

- ethical and power issues;
- gender biases in quantitative data sources and analytic techniques;
- the politics of using quantitative tools;
- issues of intersectionality;
- dissemination;
- the rehabilitation of quantitative research for feminist purposes;
- the inter-relationship between quantitative and qualitative methods;
- the comparative status of quantitative methods within feminism internationally.

Notes on Submitting Your Paper:

- Papers should be no more than 6000 words in length
- Email copy, and initial enquiries, to the guest editors is accepted.
- Deadline for initial submissions: **30 April 2009**