

**Module Outline for Course Participants**

**Critical Sexuality Studies and**

**Research Methodologies**

Adapted for the Anglophone Caribbean by:

Dr. Angelique V. Nixon

Caribbean International Resource Network

Created by: Professor Gary W. Dowsett

Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society

This adapted module was developed as part of the **Advanced Sexuality Studies Short Course**. The short course was adapted and developed by the Caribbean IRN (International Resource Network) and the University of West Indies St. Augustine (Trinidad and Tobago), *and* the International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society.

The original module was developed as part of **‘Introduction to Advancing Sexuality Studies: a short course on sexuality theory and research methodologies’**. The short course was developed by the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, *and* the International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society. **Funded by the Ford Foundation**

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o The Ford Foundation (as short course funder).

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This module was adapted by Dr. Angelique V. Nixon and the Caribbean IRN in partnership with the University of the West Indies (2013). The original module was created by Professor Gary W. Dowsett (with input from Dr Sean Slavin, Ms Gillian Fletcher, Mr Murray Couch, Dr Duane Duncan and Dr Jon Willis), and adapted by the Advancing Sexuality Studies short course team at the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia (2009, revised 2010).

**Abstract** This module is designed to provide participants with an overview of the key issues associated with conducting research in Critical Sexuality Studies, including the ethical, social, and political complexities of studying sexuality, and the relationship between epistemology, methodology and method.

In addition, the module will provide students with the opportunity to undertake a research design case study, starting from identification of the key issue to be researched through to development of a dissemination plan. Throughout, students will have the opportunity to reflect upon and share their own experiences of research, while learning more specific detail about the relationship between Critical Sexuality Studies and research

methodology.

**Module aims**

• To introduce participants to key terms and approaches within research methodologies

• To consider the intersections between ways of understanding the world, methodology and field method, and the implications for Critical Sexuality Studies research

• To examine the research design process, from a Critical Sexuality Studies’

perspective

**Participants will:**

• Develop an understanding of issues specific to conducting research on sexuality, including the ethical, political, cultural and social implications of sexuality as a field of inquiry

• Obtain basic familiarity with how to design a research project

• Be able to apply the principles of Critical Sexuality Studies methodologies to the development of a research project in co-operation with other members of the group

**Required Pre-reading**

Kempadoo, Kamala. “Sexuality in the Caribbean: Theory and Research (with an emphasis on the Anglophone Caribbean).” *Social and Economic Studies* 52.3 (September 2003). University of the West Indies. pp. 59-88.

Jenny Sharpe and Samantha Pinto. “The Sweetest Taboo: Studies of Caribbean Sexualities – A Review Essay.” *Signs* 32.1 (Autumn 2006). University of Chicago Press. pp. 247-274.

**Recommended Pre-reading**

Kamala Kempadoo, “Caribbean Sexuality: Mapping the Field.” *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*. Issue 3 - 2009. Online Journal. (Discussed in the Introduction Module already, but we will refer to it in this module as well when needed.) <http://sta.uwi.edu/crgs/november2009/journals/Kempadoo.pdf>

**Overview of module**

Introduction

The module schedule, aims and anticipated participant outcomes will be described.

Session 1. What *is* research? Key terms and concepts

This session will provide the grounding for the rest of the module. A Critical Sexuality Studies understanding of methodology will be provided, objective and subjective understandings of knowledge explored and key differences between quantitative and qualitative research will be described. The session will also provide an opportunity for participants to share their own experiences of research, and the module pre-readings will be examined.

Session 2. The importance (and difficulty) of CSS research

Participants will be given an overview of issues related to research within Critical Sexuality Studies. The challenges of CSS research will be explored, along with consideration of why Critical Sexuality Studies research is important. This session also introduces consideration of the many ethical issues related to Critical Sexuality Studies research, along with a guided reading of a key text.

Session 3. Conceptualising and designing CSS research

This session—which can be run at a later date, after Sessions 1 and 2 have been delivered together—takes participants through the main steps in research design. Guidance will be provided on each of these main steps, from identifying the larger context in which a research will ‘sit’ through to designing a dissemination plan. During the session, participants will be given the opportunity to apply design principles to practice through use of a research design case study.

Conclusion

The module’s key ‘take home’ points will be reviewed.

**Further reading (includes lecture bibliography)**

Bowling, A. (2009) *Research Methods in Health: Investigating Health and Health*

*Services*. Maidenhead, Open University Press.

Burawoy, M. (1991) The Extended Case Method. In M. Burawoy, A. Burton, A. Arnett Ferguson, H.J. Fox, J. Gamson, N. Gartrell, L. Hurst, C. Kurzman, L. Salzinger, J. Schiffman & S. Ui (Eds) *Ethnography Unbound: Power and Resistance in the Modern Metropolis* Berkeley, University of California Press, pp. 271-287.

Denzin, N.K. & Giardina, M.D. (Eds.) (2007) *Ethical Futures in Qualitative Research: Decolonizing the Politics of Knowledge* Walnut Creek, California, Left Coast Press.

Denzin, N.K. and Lincoln, Y.S. (2005), Introduction: The discipline and practice of qualitative research. In: *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*. Third Edition. Sage; California, p p. 1-32.

Gamson, J. (2000) Sexualities, queer theory and qualitative research. In N.K. Denzin and Y.S. Lincoln (Eds.) *Handbook of Qualitative Research: Second Edition*. Sage: California.

Gosine, Andil, ed. (2009) Special Issue on sexual desires, rights and regulation.

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[http://sta.uwi.edu/crgs/november2009/index.asp]

Hammersley, M. (1992) Deconstructing the qualitative-quantitative divide. In *What's*

*Wrong with Ethnography?* London, Routledge, pp. 159-173. Katz, J. N. (1995) *The Invention of Heterosexuality.* New York, Dutton.

Kempadoo, Kamala. (2003) “Sexuality in the Caribbean: Theory and Research (with an

emphasis on the Anglophone Caribbean).” *Social and Economic Studies* 52.3 (September 2003). University of the West Indies. Pp. 59-88.

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Kurzman, C. (1991) Convincing sociologists: values and interests in the sociology of knowledge. In M. Burawoy, A. Burton, A. Arnett Ferguson, H.J. Fox, J. Gamson, N. Gartrell, L. Hurst, C. Kurzman, L. Salzinger, J. Schiffman & S. Ui (Eds) *Ethnography Unbound: Power and Resistance in the Modern Metropolis.* Berkeley, University of California Press, pp. 250-268.

Lewis, Linden, ed. (2003) *The Culture of Gender and Sexuality in the Caribbean*.

Gainesville: University Press of Florida.

Mahey, J., Laumann, E.O., and S. Michaels (2001), Race, gender, and class in sexual scripts, in E.O. Laumann & R.T. Michael (Eds), *Sex, Love and Health in America: Private Choices and Public Policies*. University of Chicago Press; Chicago. C5, pp. 197-238.

Mohammed, Patricia, ed. (2004) *Gendered Realities: Essays in Caribbean Feminist*

*Thought*. Barbados: University of the West Indies.

Sharpe, Jenny and Samantha Pinto. “The Sweetest Taboo: Studies of Caribbean

Sexualities – A Review Essay.” *Signs* 32.1 (Autumn 2006). University of Chicago Press. pp. 247-274.

Strauss, A. & Corbin, J. (1990) *Basics of Qualitative Research: Grounded Theory*

*Procedures and Techniques*. London, Sage.

Tuhiwai Smith, L. (1999). *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples.* Zed Books and University of Otago Press, London, New York and Dunedin.

Wengraf, T. (2001) *Qualitative Research Interviewing: Biographic Narrative and Semi- structured Methods*. London, Sage.

Williams, M. & May, T. (1996) *Introduction to the Philosophy of Social Research*.

London, UCL Press Limited.

Willis, J.W., Jost, M. & Nilakanta, R. (2007) *Foundations of Qualitative Research: Interpretive and Critical Approaches*. London, Sage.