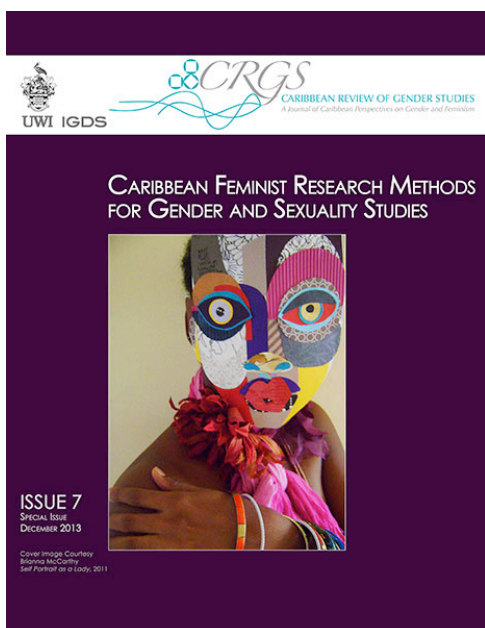


Caribbean Feminist Research Methods for Gender and Sexuality Studies

Editors:

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About Issue 7

Research is integral to Caribbean feminist studies on gender and sexualities and encompasses specific approaches as well as common methods and techniques. It can include participant observation, discourse or media analysis, statistical analyses, oral histories, community discussions, focus groups, archival research, interviewing, questionnaire surveys, or even research in library holdings. Research, after all, is what makes studies of social relations, practices and identities plausible, relevant, action- or policy-focussed, or, simply, interesting. Yet as we, the editors of this special issue, have found through our teaching in the academy about Caribbean feminisms, there is a paucity of materials that explicitly and consistently take up questions of how to do feminist research in the English-speaking Caribbean, that interrogate relations of power in the regional context, or are grounded in Caribbean cultural, social, or political experiences. We rely mostly on texts that are drawn from and relate to Caribbean sociology or to North American and European feminist experiences and examples. The paucity is even more evident when we are engaged in training Caribbean researchers-to-be outside the academy or when conducting research for government departments, international agencies, or non-governmental organizations. So, while there is growing interest in Caribbean gender and sexualities studies amongst different communities, and a growing demand for research in these areas by a variety of public and private organizations, there are few resources that can assist students and researchers in developing critical frameworks, analyses and skills for researching gender and sexualities. There are even fewer published resources to draw on which speak to feminist methodologies that emerge from specific Caribbean colonial and postcolonial histories and conditions. This special issue of the *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies* (CRGS) comprises, then, a first step in bringing together ideas about how to conduct Caribbean feminist research, in an effort to improve the quality of research in the region and to provide some tools that can be used in the research process that will allow for sound analysis about gender and sexuality.

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