

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Dear colleagues,

This coming academic year, I want to start up a feminist research group that meets monthly during the fall and winter terms to present and discuss research in progress. If you would like to join me in building this new hive of activity, I'd love to hear from you!

Q: What is 'feminist' research?

A: For the purposes of this hive, feminist research will be defined broadly as a type of inquiry that is concerned with understanding relations of power, particularly those based on gender as it intersects with race, class, sexuality, and ability. Some feminist researchers focus on women in their work, some don't. Some feminist researchers write theory, some don't. Some feminist researchers work on participatory action projects, some don't. You get the point - if you understand your research as feminist and/or motivated by feminist concerns, then you are a perfect fit for the hive. This will be an interdisciplinary hive with no departmental or programme affiliations, with researchers using a range of theoretical and methodological approaches. There are people at StFX doing feminist research in all four faculties (Arts, Business, Education, and Science), at the Coady International Institute, and at the Library - ideally the hive will have representation from all of these.

Q: What will the hive do?

This is something I would like to discuss during our first meeting; however, I do have some ideas of how we might work together. At each meeting, one or two participants could give a 10-15 minute presentation of their work in progress as well as the questions, challenges or blocks they are facing in that work, which would help guide the hive in our listening. Following the presentations, the hive will discuss the work presented. Another possibility would be to have a presenter and a discussant for each meeting as a way of facilitating lively discussion after the presentation – again, the world is our beehive and we can figure this out together! At the end of the session, we will establish the presenter or presenters and/or discussants for the next hive meeting.

Q: What kind of a time commitment will be required of me to participate in the hive?

A: The hive will meet once a month for 1-2 hours from September 2013 to April 2014. While it would be fabulous for all members to present their research,

presenting is not a requirement for participation in the hive and listeners/discussants are warmly welcomed too. I would love it if the hive could continue on into future years, but the commitment for now would be for one academic year.

Q: When will the group meet?

Based on the responses I receive, I will schedule our first meeting in September. We will meet at varied times and days of the week, to accommodate as many members as possible.

Q: Ok, I want to join the Hive for Feminist Research! What should I do now?

If you are interested in joining the hive, please send me an email at rahurst [at] stfx.ca by **WEDNESDAY, JULY 31ST** with the following information:

- *general* times when you are available from Monday-Friday (eg. Monday morning, Tuesday afternoon + evening, etc.) - please do *not* send specific dates;
- if you are interested in presenting your research, please indicate this as well as particular months from September-April that would work best; and
- helpful suggestions.

After I have received responses, I will schedule a social-type meeting for organizational purposes in the first half of September, so that we can introduce ourselves and discuss possibilities for the year. I will send out a notice of this first Hive for Feminist Research meeting to the faculty and AUT listservs in late August and early September, but after that I will only send notices to the list of people who have expressed interest in the hive. I hope you are all enjoying a fun and productive summertime!

Bzz bzzz bzzzz,
Rachel