

Feminist Methodology in Social Sciences Research

The lecture was delivered by Dr Debangana Chatterjee on 23rd February 2023 in the Conference Hall at Magis Block. Dr Chatterjee talked about her own doctoral research on the practices of Female Circumcision and Islamic Veiling, viewed through a lens of international politics.

Feminist Methodology has several features that lend themselves to a distinction from other kinds of Methodology, especially those suitable for research in the Sciences. The first is Opposition to Positivism; in other words, an empirical temperament towards research.

The speaker further talked about Science and that Science itself is not value-free. It is also a belief, and thus the task of research must be in the domain of producing justifiable knowledge of gender norms- i.e., knowledge construction.

Dr Chatterjee looked at how her research helped bring marginalised voices to the fore and gave examples of her on-field visits. She encouraged researchers to go to the field as a 'Learner'.

The approaches she suggested to conduct Feminist Methods for Research are: Deconstructive Approach, Juxtapositional Approach, Historical/Genealogical Approach, Narrative Approach, Descriptive/Ethnographic, and even Mixed-Method Approaches may be made.