

Facilitating the “Pivot”

Applying Feminist Pedagogy to Interdisciplinary Studies

How can praxis designed by feminist pedagogy
inform interdisciplinary efforts in
education, research, and more?

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Interdisciplinarity: what is it?

Interdisciplinary education aims to develop the critical thinking skills necessary for holistic comprehension of issues.

● Develops abilities to:

- Think conceptually
- Identify and solve problems
- Understand other value systems
- Evaluate alternatives and decide on course of action
- Change one's opinion in light of the facts

❖ Key aims of interdisciplinarity:

1. Ability to understand and value alternative perspectives
2. Facilitating cooperation and collaboration

❖ Obstacles for interdisciplinarity:

- Danger in potential superficiality, rootlessness
- Difficulty of learning world views and assumptions of various disciplines
- Overcoming terminological, methodological differences
- Effective communication of ideas

Feminist Pedagogy: what it offers

- Create learning environments where competition is reduced and cooperation encouraged
- Change the power distribution to counteract domination and hierarchy
- Share knowledge that ties in with learners' lives
- Value intuition and emotions as valid ways of knowing
- Take experience as a source of knowledge
- Demystify the construction of knowledge
- Transmitting the necessary intellectual tools to build up critique
- Use of verbal and written language which respects diversity
- Work towards the transformation of education

Applications for Interdisciplinary Efforts

Feminist theories can be used to analyze any institution, practice, reform, goal

- Challenge to traditional academic structures
- Alternative perspectives
- Multiple forms of knowledge
- Cross-cultural insight
- Communal pedagogy
- Critical (self-)reflection

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