



Illinois Wesleyan University Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

2004, 15th Annual JWP Conference

Apr 17th, 2:35 PM - 3:50 PM

The Powerful Scholar of Culture: Post-Structural Implications, Self-Reflexivity and (En)Gendered Subjectivities

Maria T. Holsen

Illinois Wesleyan University

David R. Fryer, Faculty Advisor

Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Maria T. Holsen and David R. Fryer, Faculty Advisor, "The Powerful Scholar of Culture: Post-Structural Implications, Self-Reflexivity and (En)Gendered Subjectivities" (April 17, 2004). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. Paper 3. <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2004/oralpres8/3>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation O8.3

**THE POWERFUL SCHOLAR OF CULTURE: POST-STRUCTURAL
IMPLICATIONS, SELF-REFLEXIVITY AND
(EN)GENDERED SUBJECTIVITIES**

Maria T. Holsen and David R. Fryer*
Department of Religion, Illinois Wesleyan University

In evaluating the rigidity between objectivity and subjectivity in the social sciences, the problem of scholars' power position in representing societies' and individuals' identity dominates the debate. Using post-structural theory, this research analyzes Western feminist and self-reflexive methodology, concentrating on the tensions, inequalities, and contradictory narcissism that may surface in the attempt to textually conceptualize, critique, and communicate culture. In deconstructing Western academia's power sphere, I endorse a political slant in the academic, calling for scrutiny of "truth," an understanding of hegemonic undertones, and a further examination of native and subaltern voices and perspectives. As scholars attempt to holistically accommodate these viewpoints, post-structural theory assists in prioritizing the need to recognize, dissect, and assess scholars' own subjectivities and its (biased) effects on social science research.