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# An Engaging and Inclusive Approach to Contemporary Feminist Research from Theory to Practice: A Review

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## An Engaging and Inclusive Approach to Contemporary Feminist Research from Theory to Practice: A Review

### **Abstract**

*Contemporary Feminist Research from Theory to Practice* by Patricia Leavy and Anne Harris offers an engaging and inclusive perspective to feminist research. What makes this book unique is the balance between theory, method, and activism. The authors take you on a journey of feminist research from past implications to present day inferences in qualitative, quantitative and community based research. They expand upon theory, method and what happens after research is completed, bringing it full circle. Each chapter is filled with in depth, clear writing that engages the reader as well as various resources, discussion questions, and activities at the end of each chapter.

### **Keywords**

Contemporary Feminist Research, Feminist Research, Feminism

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## **An Engaging and Inclusive Approach to Contemporary Feminist Research from Theory to Practice: A Review**

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*Contemporary Feminist Research from Theory to Practice* by Patricia Leavy and Anne Harris offers an engaging and inclusive perspective to feminist research. What makes this book unique is the balance between theory, method, and activism. The authors take you on a journey of feminist research from past implications to present-day inferences in qualitative, quantitative, and community-based research. They expand upon theory, method, and what happens after research is completed, bringing it full circle. Each chapter is filled with in depth, clear writing that engages the reader as well as various resources, discussion questions, and activities at the end of each chapter. **Keywords:** Contemporary Feminist Research, Feminist Research, Feminism

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*Contemporary Feminist Research from Theory to Practice* written by Patricia Leavy and Anne Harris (2019) was intended to bring forth a fresh and comprehensive overview of feminist research for the modern world. Its interactive and engaging content make it an excellent book for anyone interested in feminist research and feminism overall. The book covers theory, method, and practice from a diverse perspective for not only qualitative research but also quantitative and community-based research as well. It respects the past implications of feminist research and paves the way for innovative ideas, highlighting how times have changed and with it, feminism and research as well.

It is comprised of three parts. The first part consists of feminist theoretical frameworks, analyzed from a historical and inclusive perspective. The second is comprised of feminist approaches to conducting research for qualitative, quantitative, and community-based research. It also includes sections on ethics and inferences for studies using nonliving data such as media analysis and program evaluation. Lastly, the third section covers being a feminist researcher—meaning what happens after the research is done. It includes writing and publishing, propositions for public scholarship, and influences of social media and technology.

Furthermore, this book offers a plethora of resources. The reader will find a glossary of key terms, bubbles highlighting key points and definitions, various tables and figures to expand on topics, case examples of feminist research, sample letters to research participants, discussion questions and activities at the end of each chapter, as well as additional resources for books, articles, and online components at the end of each chapter. Furthermore, an appendix of feminist scholars organized by discipline or area of study is included.

Patricia Leavy and Anne Harris are both deeply unwavering to the inclusion of feminist research. Patricia Leavy is an independent sociologist, novelist, and public speaker. She has over 20 publications and has won numerous awards. She is the former Chair of Sociology and Criminology and Founding Director of Gender Studies at Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts. Anne Harris has several publications and is on the editorial board of numerous journals and book series. She is Associate Professor and Vice Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow in the School of Education and the Design and Creative Practice ECP at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia.

To give some context of who I am, similar to the authors of the book under review, I too share a deep attentiveness in feminist implications for academia and beyond. As a self-proclaimed feminist and marriage and family therapist trained in a postmodern program, feminist theory was something that intrigued me from the beginning of my graduate studies. Currently, I am a PhD Candidate working on my dissertation utilizing a qualitative method. Being that one of the central values in feminist theories is to incorporate female perspectives in every part of research and practice, this book offered a refreshing and inclusive approach to various methods of doing this. It was exhilarating to see how the authors not only highlighted theory and method but also introduced the component of integrating current events and calls for activism. As a female, researcher, and human being, I found it inspiring.

This book can be of interest to undergraduate students, graduate students, and professors who wish to expand their knowledge of this topic with a fresh, diverse perspective. It invites the reader to come on a full-circle, in depth journey from historical implications to theory, method, and suggestions for post-research action in the modern-day climate. Patricia Leavy and Anne Harris strike a harmonious balance between philosophy and activism—all the while keeping the reader absorbed with discussion questions, activities, and valuable additional information on resources.

### Reference

Leavy, P., & Harris, A. (2019). *Contemporary feminist research from theory to practice*. New York, NY: Guilford.

### Author Note

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