

# ***Gender, Race, and Science***

Instructor: Gui Sanches de Oliveira

Course level: introductory (FYS?) or upper level

## **Course description:**

Science is often portrayed in popular culture as a well-defined set of procedures (“the scientific method”) that yields objective knowledge about the world, knowledge that’s neutral with regard to political and socio-cultural values and is produced the same way independently of who the scientists are. This course examines how this view of science is challenged by feminist, anti-racist, and decolonial perspectives in philosophy. Besides developing a more nuanced understanding of how science works in general, students will also acquire tools for critical thinking about knowledge claims relating specifically to gender and race.

## **Student Evaluation:**

- Discussion Questions (3-5 per reading): 15%
- Humility Journal: 20%
- Midterm and final papers: 20+30%
- Peer review: 15%

## **Schedule overview:**

### Weeks 1-3: Introduction to (Philosophy of) Science

- selections by Rudolf Carnap, Karl Popper, Thomas Kuhn
- Kathryn Pyne Addelson (1983) “The Man of Professional Wisdom”

### Weeks 4-8: Scientific research on gender, sex and race & philosophical critiques

- selection from R. Herrnstein and C. Murray (1994) *The Bell Curve*, and response in S. J. Gould’s (1994) “Curveball”
- Helen Longino and Ruth Doell (1983) “Body, Bias, and Behaviour: A Comparative Analysis of Reasoning in Two Areas of Biological Science”
- Ginger Hoffman (2012) “What, If Anything, Can Neuroscience Tell Us About Gender Differences?”

### Weeks 9-12: Intersectionality and Decolonial Philosophy of Science

- Elena Ruíz (2017) “Framing Intersectionality”
- Olena Hankivsky (2012) “Women’s health, men’s health, and gender and health: Implications of intersectionality”
- Sandra Harding and Breny Mendoza (2021) “Latin American Decolonial Feminist Philosophy of Knowledge Production”
- Kyle Whyte (2021) “Sciences of Consent: Indigenous Knowledge, Governance Value, and Responsibility”

### Week 13 to end: Reframing Science, Knowledge, and Ignorance

- Linda Martín Alcoff (2007) “Epistemologies of Ignorance: Three Types”
- Kristen Intemann (2011) “Diversity and Dissent in Science: Does Democracy Always Serve Feminist Aims?”
- Nancy Arden McHugh (2011) “More Than Skin Deep: Situated Communities and Agent Orange in the Aluoi Valley, Vietnam”