Greenham revisited: researching myself and my sisters


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Abstract

Book synopsis: This book has two central aims. First, to demonstrate the importance of qualitative research through an examination of the type of data that it is capable of producing. Second, to do so using first-hand research accounts of ethnographic work. Toward these ends, the contributors cover a variety of topics: drug dealing; football hooliganism; entrepreneurial crime; the culture of policing; policing and the miners' strike; protest at Greenham Common; the politics of organizational change and race and sexuality in the field-work process. In reflecting upon personal experiences of field-work, together with the research strategies employed, the authors illustrate their arguments in both a detailed and accessible manner. The themes they discuss include the ethics and politics of field-work; reflexivity and data production; feminist field-work; the publication and production of studies, and an examination of the contrasting cultures of academia and what is normally termed the 'field', where knowledges are authenticated according to different rules and power relations. As a result, Interpreting the Field, will have wide appeal for those who wish to understand the dynamics, advantages, and problems associated with ethnographic work: for example, undergraduates and post-graduates undertaking their own research. It will also be of interest to methodologists and those working in the areas of crime, deviance, and organizational studies, as well as general readers of social science literature.

Metadata

Item Type: Book Section
School: Birkbeck Schools and Departments > School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy > Psychosocial Studies
Research Centre: Mapping Maternal Subjectivities, Identities and Ethics (MAMSIE), Gender and Sexuality, Birkbeck (BIGS), Social Research, Birkbeck Institute for (BISR)
Depositing User: Administrator
Date Deposited: 17 Oct 2014 10:05
Last Modified: 12 Dec 2016 14:33
URI: http://eprints.bbk.ac.uk/id/eprint/10752

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Pat Greenham. My name is Louise R, and this is my story of what happened some years ago when I left school with, to say the least, very poor A-level results. My father was furious, having paid for a very expensive private education which had seen me miss the required grades for university by a very considerable margin. In truth I only had myself to blame having spent most of the spring and early summer with my boyfriend. The options ahead looked bleak, with the possibility of re-sitting my A-levels during the next summer or simply getting a lowly job. (more...)