

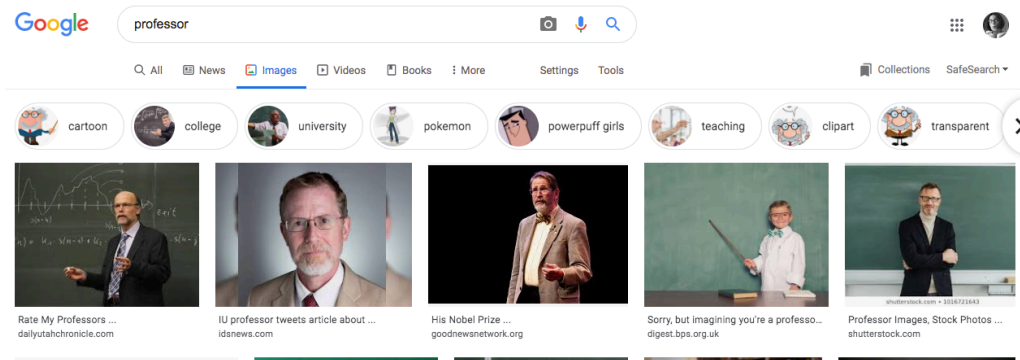
“More than a series of topics, Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies offers a way of seeing the world differently” (11).

THE PROMISE OF FEMINISM AND THE FIELD OF WGS

Friday, January 24, 2020
Dr. Pabón

1

THIS IS THE IMAGE GOOGLE OFFERED...



2

CRITICAL INTRODUCTION TO THE FIELD

“Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies (WGSS) is an interdisciplinary field that challenges the androcentric production of knowledge. **Androcentrism** is the privileging of male- and masculine-centered ways of understanding the world”(10).

“Feminist scholars argue that the common assumption that knowledge is produced by rational, impartial (male) scientists often obscures the ways that scientists create knowledge through gendered, raced, classed, and sexualized cultural perspectives” (11).



3

#THISISWHATAPROFESSORLOOKSLIKE

Christine Montecillo Leider @cmleider
I'm proud to be an educator because I have the privilege of engaging and learning together with students.



10:49 PM - Mar 19, 2018 - Twitter for Android

Juana Maria Rodriguez @juarodriguez
Happy to play! This one is from a few years ago but one of my favorite pics. #ThisIsWhatAProfessorLooksLike (at the Folsom Street Fair)



3:10 PM - Jun 23, 2020 - Twitter for iPhone

niko Reed
I posted to Twitter for recent... at the importance of... I pushed me out of my usual... tree to film an interview for a... #thisiswhataprofessorlookslike matters



10:51 AM - Oct 20, 2018 - Twitter Web Client

Joshua Mison-Webster @joshmison412 · Nov 12, 2019
Quote of the year: "I asked a female professor and asked "How do you talk and dress in class?" And I said "John like this" and he's like "even with the hat?" And I said "Yess" and then started talking about Herman and Derrida... #ThisIsWhatAProfessorLooksLike



11 13 56 558

Karen Tabb Dina, PhD @ProfessorTD

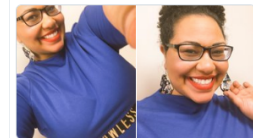
@NIDDKgov NMRI meeting with distinguished speaker professor @ymhuet in @IowaResearch @uiowa today discussing #WomenInTheAcademy #WomenInMedicine #thisiswhataprofessorlookslike #academicmom it takes a village!



Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, PhD @DrKYSR
There is no perfect professor, molds are meant to be broken... all our students need is for us to love what we do, and to love them. Be their inspiration, #elevate, #liberate, #decolonized #thisiswhataprofessorlookslike #ScienceRising #scientistswhosellie #diversityinSTEM



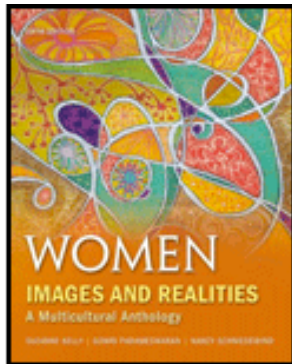
Sami Schalk @DrSamiSchalk
Wearing my Formation earrings and Flawless waistbelt today to teach @Beyonce's #Lemonade. 🍋🍋🍋 Last lecture before we shift to focusing on revising their final papers! #ProfessorRealness #PedagogicalFashion #ThisIsWhatAProfessorLooksLike #Beyhive



11:40 AM · Nov 20, 2018 from Wisconsin, USA - Twitter for iPhone

4

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOM220 AT SUNY NEW PALTZ



- 1974 (intervention in knowledge production with subject matter)
- *Women, Images, and Realities*: An examination of the myths surrounding women's role in American society and the realities of women's lives, with a focus on both common experiences and cultural variation. Attention is given to issues raised by contemporary feminism.
- *Introduction to WGSS (2017)*: An introduction to the field of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies with particular focus on foundational feminist thought, issue-based platforms, and social movement activism
- Core elements: consciousness-raising, team-teaching, interdisciplinarity

Hewett, Heather, Karl Bryant, and Meg Devlin O'Sullivan. 2016. "Unlearning Introductions: Problematising Pedagogies of Inclusion, Diversity, and Experience in the Women's and Gender Studies Intro Course." *Atlantis: Critical Studies in Gender, Culture and Social Justice*: "Belaboured Introductions: Inspired Reflections on the Introductory Course in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies." 37.2 (2): 22–33.

5

THEORIZING LIVED EXPERIENCES

- ❖ the personal is political
- ❖ "Socially-lived theorizing means creating feminist theories and knowledge from the actual day-to-day experiences of groups of people who have traditionally been excluded from the production of academic knowledge" (13).

www.otago.ac.nz/classics/otago055219 PDF

FIVE THINGS NOT TO DO IN AN ESSAY

1st Person Singular Some say **not** to use the word **I** in an **essay**. Others say it is fine. If you do use it, it is best to use **I** only in an introduction (and to a lesser extent, the conclusion), rather than in the body of the **essay**. But use it sparingly; otherwise you can come across as too self-important.

6

THEORIZING “FROM BELOW” AND REFLEXIVITY



“Feminist theorists and activists argue for theorizing beginning from the experiences of the marginalized because people with less power and resources often experience the effects of oppressive social systems in ways that members of dominant groups do not. **From the “bottom” of a social system, participants have knowledge of the power holders of that system as well as their own experiences, while the reverse is rarely true. Therefore, their experiences allow for a more complete knowledge of the workings of systems of power**” (13).

“Acknowledging that all knowledge is constructed by individuals inhabiting particular social locations, feminist theorists argue that **reflexivity**—understanding how one’s social position influences the ways that they understand the world—is of utmost necessity when creating theory and knowledge” (14).

7



ANGELA Y. DAVIS (B. 1944 ALABAMA)

known internationally for her ongoing work to combat all forms of oppression in the U.S. and abroad. Over the years she has been active as a student, teacher, writer, scholar, and activist/organizer.

In 1969 she was removed from her teaching position in the Philosophy Department at UCLA as a result of her social activism in the Communist Party, USA.

In 1970 she was placed on the **FBI’s Ten Most Wanted List** on **false charges**, and was the subject of an intense police search that drove her underground and culminated in one of the most famous trials in recent U.S. history. During her sixteen-month incarceration, a massive international “Free Angela Davis” campaign was organized, leading to her acquittal in 1972.

Former California Governor Ronald Reagan once vowed that Angela Davis would never again teach in the University of California system. Today she is **Distinguished Professor Emerita** in the History of Consciousness and Feminist Studies Departments at the University of California, Santa Cruz. In 1994, she received the distinguished honor of an appointment to the University of California Presidential Chair in African American and Feminist Studies.

8



Angela Davis at the historic Women's March on January 21st, 2017

9

KEYWORDS FROM ANGELA DAVIS ON THE PROMISE OF FEMINISM:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Racism | Intersectional | Freedom |
| Heteropatriarchy | Islamophobia | Justice |
| Collective | Anti-Semitism | Militant |
| Indigenous Land | Misogyny | |
| Black Lives Matter | Capitalist Exploitation | |
| Settler Colonialism | Resistance | |
| Climate Change | Prison Industrial Complex | |
| Accessibility | Intimate Partner Violence | |
| Social Justice | Human Rights | |

10

Feminism insists on methods of thought and action that urge us to think about things together that appear to be separate, and to disaggregate things that appear to naturally belong together.

~Angela Davis, *Freedom is a Constant Struggle* (2016: 104)