

Modelling Beauty of the Female Body; Case Study: Women in Rasht

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Abstract

The research attempts to describe the beauty of the female body as a discursive order, and to interpret the discourses present in this field as well as the hegemonic mechanisms of representing the female subject within discourse. In this regard, with a qualitative approach and in the framework of the discourse analysis method, this study discussed the analytical extension of the female body beauty discourses. Data were collected using semi-structure interview technique among 30 women who were selected through purposeful sampling. The findings of the research led to the interpretation of the body as a subject in three levels of exercise, medicine and diet discourses. The concepts of building and femininity of the body under the guise of sport discourse, standardization and beauty eroticism were formulated in the medical discourse and the concepts of discipline and body shame followed by diet discourse. The interpretation of these three discursive levels showed that patriarchy has the hegemonic aspect as the discourse in the highest level of discursive hegemony and directs the mentality of women in the direction of body management. This discourse with the conception of the ideal woman seeks to negate other forms of femininity and essentially builds the beauty of the feminine body in the form of a male hegemonic look into the feminine body.

Keywords

Discourse, Beauty, Social construction, Women.

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Sociological Analysis of Strategies for Dealing with the Issues of Women's Veil (Hijab) During the Nationalization of the Oil Industry

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Abstract

This article analyzes the role of "hijab" in the orientation of active political and social forces in the movement of nationalizing the oil industry in the late twentieth decade (1941-1951). The community in the twentieth century, and especially the evolutions of the late decade, is influenced by two categories of international and national trends: The first is the "colonial turn", and the emergence of a new world order after World War II, as well as the Islamic revival as a result of the decline of national monarchies in Islamic countries. The second is the revival of the repressed social and political forces after Reza Khan's ouster, and the revision of the political and social strategies of the modern nationalist forces to overcome the crisis of legitimacy resulted from Reza Khan's authoritarian nationalism. The article will indicate how the issues of women have evolved amid the controversy over oil and elections in the evolutions of the last decade. This will explain three strategies for the issue of hijab among political and social forces. The strategies are political ignorance of hijab, the strategy of social ineffectiveness of hijab, and the strategy of obligating hijab. In this article, the sources and positions of the National Front of Iran, the Tudeh Party of Iran, the Islamic Mojahedin Society and the Jameiat Fadaiyan-e-Islam have been referred as the first-hand historical and oral history sources.

Keywords

Veil (Hijab), Nationalization of the Oil Industry, Ignorance Strategy, Social Ineffectiveness Strategy, Obligating Strategy, Women's Suffrage, Jameiat Fadaiyan-e-Islam.

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Female Over-qualification and Development of Meaningfulness in Employees of Iranian Public Organizations

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Abstract

Over-qualification has become a major theme of research after 2008 economic crisis, because it brings about major consequences at social, organizational, and personal levels. There are major differences in the frequency of overqualification, its dimensions, and consequences between different genders and also in different cultural and social contexts. The issue of overqualification among female employees is very much understudied, particularly in the eastern societies. The purpose of the present paper is to fill to some extent this gap by choosing overqualified women employed in the Iranian public sector as its study group. We study the organizational elements that mitigate the perception of overqualification and its negative consequences using Glaser's grounded theory approach. The obtained model revealed the pivotal role of meaningfulness in mitigating the perception of concept and its negative consequences and a major factor in developing person-job in the study group. In this model, meaningfulness is defined at two levels, namely, job meaningfulness and meaningfulness in the work environment and is further specified in terms of the following five variables: job appreciation, freedom, continuous goal setting, developed relationships, and personal integrity. Focusing on job meaningfulness, we have explained and generalized the results of various variables in the overqualification research literature. The results of the present research address the substantial research gap in the overqualification research on female overqualification and enables Iranian organizations to improve the working conditions of overqualified women, despite the economical, market-related, and organizational limitations.

Keywords

Female Overqualification, underemployment, person-job fit, job meaningfulness.

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Investigating the Process of Accepting the Crisis Situation in Rural Areas with an Emphasis on the Gender Role of Women

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Abstract

In the process of accepting the crisis situation, people can experience a more pleasant feeling and play a more prominent role in creating family, work and social settings. This research was conducted with the aim of examining the process of accepting the crisis situation in rural areas with an emphasis on the gender impact of women. The statistical population of the study included rural women who remained in their village after the earthquake in Kermanshah and attempted to cope with the post-earthquake conditions. From this community, samples were selected purposefully to saturation (12 rural women). In this research, the phenomenological method was used to analyze the data. In this way, with the help of non-structured interviews, we collected information related to sample individuals. The process of accepting the crisis situation in rural women is represented in six phases following main themes: facing the threat (before the earthquake), facing the crisis (after the earthquake), trying to reconstruct the life, the stage of settling in conditions, the link with the down and life-threatening and power-up stages. This survey illustrates the process women took in the countryside to accept the crisis situation. The process requires a special effort by women from the beginning to the end according to their feminine characteristics.

Keywords

acceptance process, crisis situation, rural women, earthquake.

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Hangouts and the Social Production of Space: A Phenomenological Study of Everyday Life in Isfahan Women's Hangouts

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Abstract

The presence of women in the city and attending informal gatherings is part of their daily lives. The main purpose of this study is to describe women's experience of the relationships they produce and reproduce as social actors in feminine urban hangouts. Influenced by Henri Lefebvre's theory of space production, the premise of this study is that space and place were not merely a material product but a product of social relations. The main purpose of the present study is to understand women's lived experiences and spatial perceptions of feminine hangouts and their role in reproducing social structure. In order to achieve these goals, relying on phenomenology, interviews and observation were considered as data collection techniques. In this regard, four types of women's hangouts were selected through targeted sampling and also 27 women from Isfahan were interviewed. The present study showed the process in which the hangouts such as alleyways and women's religious meetings act as two spaces through which women reproduce the traditional relations of society. In fact, these two spaces have the "reproduction and continuity of traditional spatial practice" that leads to the "ideological reproduction of collective space". In contrast, the two venues, the café and the poetry and music circles, serve as hangouts in which a new form of everyday life is produced that is not based on the reproduction of patriarchal values or the continuation of traditional community values. Such hangouts can be termed the "semiotic production of modern social space", which in some cases, such as literary and artistic circles, leads to "intellectual space production and cultural resistance". In combination with other factors, it provides a context for wider cultural and social change.

Keywords

Space, Social Production, Feminine Hangouts, Phenomenology, Henri Lefebvre.

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Effectiveness of Psychological Capital Training and Behavioral Activation Therapy on the Hope of Isfahan Gril Students in Dormitory

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to examine and compare the effectiveness of psychological capital training and behavioral activation therapy on hope among female students in dormitories of Isfahan University in the second semester of the academic year 2019-2020. The research design was pre-test and post-test with control group. The Hope Questionnaire (Schneider Et al 1991) was used to measure hope. The method of sampling was voluntary. First the pre-test was conducted on 45 volunteers. They were then randomly assigned to three groups and, two groups were randomly assigned to experimental group 1 and 2 and the other group considered as control group. Then, the two experimental groups received behavioral activation therapy and psychological capital training, respectively; but the control group not received intervention. After the intervention sessions, post-test was administered for all three groups (38 persons in total). The results of analysis of covariance showed significant difference between the post-test hope scores of the groups ($P=0.008$). Paired comparisons showed that both psychological capital training and behavioral activation therapy significantly have increased hope as compared with the control group ($P = 0.003$ and $P = 0.019$ respectively), but the two intervention groups did not differ significantly in hope scores. The findings suggest that both psychological capital training and behavioral activation therapy can be used for increasing the hope in dormitory students.

Keywords

hope, Psychological Capital Training, Behavioral Activation Therapy, female Students.

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Institutional Barriers to Women's Political Participation in Baluchistan Region

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Abstract

Achieving political development requires the political participation of social groups in society, particularly women's political participation. In any society the fulfillment of proper participation of women in policy making is hindered by specific obstacles. Accordingly, in the present study, attempts have been made to examine the barriers of political participation of women in the Baluchistan region by means of institutionalization and qualitative techniques; qualitative interviews with elites in Baluchistan provided themes for researchers to specify condition of political participation of women among the Baluch. Findings in the present study state that barriers of political participation of women can be considered from two aspects. First, the way official institution looks at women, second, the culture of Baluchistan people. The results suggest that the main obstacles are informal or intangible institutions, such as fathers or patriarchal culture, and some religious beliefs, which, on the one hand, are the causes of women's poor self-esteem in political activities. On the other hand, legal and formal institutions appear to reflect the less formal institutions that have undergone some kind of institutional process. Nevertheless, participatory institutions such as Islamic councils of the city and village have been able to effectively reduce the influence of informal institutions on gradual political participation of Baloch women.

Keywords

Political participation, Baloch women, formal and informal institutions, patriarchy, Baluchistan region.

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