

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
PH.D. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN GENDER
FEBRUARY 6-10, 2023**

You are required to answer THREE (3) QUESTIONS (ONE QUESTION FROM EACH OF PARTS A, B & C). Each answer should be 10-12 pages (12-point font and double-spaced) in length. The complete exam should not total more than 36 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point font), not including references. THE COMMITTEE WILL NOT READ PAST THE 36TH PAGE.

Part A

1. Feminist epistemologies centered on standpoint theories and ideas of situated knowledges rose to prominence around the same time as intersectional theorizing. Turning to the parts of intersectional theorizing that focuses on knowledge production, compare and contrast how to approach empirical research from each perspective. What are the similarities and what are the differences? In your answer draw from the key theorists that developed intersectional theorizing and standpoint theories and notions of situated knowledges.
2. Choose two theoretical traditions within feminist thought that arose in response to the perception that feminist thought was produced by and for white women. Explain how these two traditions responded to this perception. Describe and compare the strengths and weaknesses of each theoretical tradition as articulated in the literature, and according to your own analysis.

Part B

1. Put the literature on the social construction of gender (may include Judith Butler) and conversation with the literature on occupational segregation to develop an explanation of why gender segregation and the pay gap have proven such sticky challenges. In your essay, use theories of the social construction of gender to make sense of the empirical findings about segregation and the pay gap, being sure to address changes over the past decades as demonstrated in the empirical literature.
2. Some scholars studying the Global North have described recent times as characterized by a crisis in the domestic sphere, where it is increasingly difficult to meet household members' needs for care and domestic chores. Analyze at least three factors that have contributed to this crisis, leveraging empirical evidence from the "Family Relations and Social Reproduction" section of the reading list. Then use the same section of the reading list to describe and discuss one outcome related to this crisis, being sure to account for the outcome's implications for social inequalities.

Part C

1. Can state power be used for feminist ends? Draw from the literature on the state to answer this question.
2. Select a section of the list that you think provides, or at least attempts to provide liberatory potential (or if you don't think there is a section with liberatory potential or aspiration, select the section that you think comes closest). This can come from either the first (theory) or second (empirical) parts of the list. Provide an overview of the themes and contributions of the section, then explain the liberatory potential you see, and how it may succeed or fail. Select at least 2 readings from the theory part of the list (not in the section you focused on) and use them to help explain the genealogy of the thought in the section you focussed on and how that contributes to or limits the liberatory potential.