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The Powerful Scholar of Culture: Post-Structural Implications, Self-Reflexivity and (En)Gendered Subjectivities

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Oral Presentation O8.3

THE POWERFUL SCHOLAR OF CULTURE: POST-STRUCTURAL IMPLICATIONS, SELF-REFLEXIVITY AND (EN)GENDERED SUBJECTIVITIES

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In evaluating the rigidity between objectivity and subjectivity in the social sciences, the problem of scholars' power position in representing societies' and individuals' identity dominates the debate. Using post-structural theory, this research analyzes Western feminist and self-reflexive methodology, concentrating on the tensions, inequalities, and contradictory narcissism that may surface in the attempt to textually conceptualize, critique, and communicate culture. In deconstructing Western academia's power sphere, I endorse a political slant in the academic, calling for scrutiny of "truth," an understanding of hegemonic undertones, and a further examination of native and subaltern voices and perspectives. As scholars attempt to holistically accommodate these viewpoints, post-structural theory assists in prioritizing the need to recognize, dissect, and assess scholars' own subjectivities and its (biased) effects on social science research.