

Sex, Gender, and Language Spring 2022

Assignment: Annotated Bibliography

Due Dates (11:59pm on specified date):

March 23: Submit your topic for approval through Brightspace

April 18: Optional Early Deadline for Feedback

May 2: Deadline for Submission

Overview

An annotated bibliography is a selection of works relevant to your research, which you think you are likely to cite in a paper. Each work is listed with full bibliographic information, a summary of its arguments, any relevant quotes or data (with page numbers so you can easily find them later), and your response to it.

For this assignment, you will pick a topic related to sex/gender and language and do some basic library research. You will read and write-up **five** sources relevant to your chosen topic. All sources should be peer-reviewed works: academic books, chapters of edited books, or research journal articles.

Procedure

- 1. Pick a topic and have it approved.** What constitutes a topic related to sex/gender and language is quite broad. You can choose to further explore a topic we're covering in class, or you can deliberately pick one that we are not covering. Consider choosing a topic that you might want to write a paper about in a future class or for a thesis, because you'll be getting a good head start. While generating a topic, be sure to run your search terms through a relevant database (J-STOR, EBSCO, Google Scholar, etc) to make sure you have enough sources available.
- 2. Find your sources.** Once you've found one relevant/useful paper, follow its trail forwards and back. Who does this paper cite? Who cites this paper? (In Google Scholar, click the Cited By [number] link below the article title in your results.) Wikipedia and most websites are not appropriate sources, though they may start you off on your search. This is a good moment to use your skimming skills - you may need to look at a number of papers to find ones that are useful to you, no need to waste a lot of time reading them all in-depth before you know if they're useful.
- 3. Read your sources.** One good way to do this is to read the paper twice. The first time, be a friendly reader. What is the author's claim? How do they support it? What are the

strengths of their argument? What other evidence have you found in your data/previous readings that tie in to/support this argument from another angle? Figure out what the author is trying to say. The second time, be a critical reader. Where does this argument fall short? What are its holes and contradictions? What counterevidence have you found in your data/previous reading? Try to argue with the author as you go and note your objections. (I strongly recommend reading this very short primer on ‘Reading With and Against the Grain’ at www.cpp.edu/~ramp/program-materials/reading-with-and-against.shtml.) You will find many of your sources challenging. Take the time to look things up, go back and re-read, and discuss things you don’t understand with your peers and/or instructors.

4. Write it up.

- a. Include an introduction (150-200 words) where you state your question/topic and summarize the general findings from your research.
- b. Each bibliography entry should be about 1 page.
 - i. Start each entry with a full citation. (I don’t care what citation format you use as long as you’re consistent. As a default, I use [APA Style](#)).
 - ii. Give a short summary of the author’s claims and arguments. What are the main points? What methods are used? What is the logic of analysis? What are the results (if applicable)? What are the conclusions?
 - iii. Give your evaluation of the argument, based on your critical read. What are its strengths? Weaknesses? How does it tie in with/comment on/contradict the other readings you’ve done?
 - iv. Note any key quotations or data points (charts/graphs/tables) you might want to use if you write a future paper on this topic, with page numbers so you can easily find them later. (It’s ok if including this causes you to exceed the 1-page limit).

A Note on Bibliography Managers

Automatic bibliographic managers can be very useful for a project such as this. They keep track of your sources and can automatically create your references for you in the proper format. This is not required for the assignment, but it would be a great opportunity to start using one and get experience with such software if you haven’t before. I recommend [Zotero](#), which allows you to automatically import bibliographic data from your browser, link citations directly to pdfs or web pages, and add tags and notes. If you’d like help/guidance on this, feel free to reach out.