

Ph.D. Examination for Sara Puotinen

Institute for Women's Studies

Friday, Jan. 31, 9am

This is a take-home, open-book examination. Your answers should be presented in an essay format (typed, double-spaced, standard font).

You need to answer three questions in total: One from Part I and two from Part II. Give each question roughly equal weight. You may allow up to 7-9 pages per answer, but should not exceed this page limit. Avoid using a single author more than once unless you decide that discussing a particular author is crucial for two questions. Then make sure you focus on very different aspects of their work. You should return the completed exam via email to Lenea Epstein (lepste2@emory.edu) and hard copy on Monday Feb 3 by 4pm.

Part 1: Feminist Theory (answer one question)

1. Consider feminist theories as constructed texts. Are there more appropriate rhetorics for feminist theories? How are (or should) feminist theoretical/critical writing be connected to its implied values, goals, and audiences? Please answer with a discussion of three texts from your Reading List.
2. How has feminist subjectivity been complicated by different discourses such as postmodernism and psychoanalysis? What types of subjectivity do these discourses offer? How dwell do these types of subjectivity deal with the issue of agency? How well do they deal with desire, emotions, or unconscious drives? Compare and contrast several authors from your reading list.