COLUMBIA GORGE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ethnographic Research Guide

An **Ethnography** "seeks a nuanced understanding of the lifeworld of a community—its social relations, its rhythms, its cultural norms, its patterns of power and decision-making, its ways of being, and so on—in order to comprehend the many relations between multiple actors and the material world they occupy and how such relations are constituted and continuously unfold. The researcher goes beyond surface descriptions (what is seen and heard), and seeks to gain a deeper understanding of why it is happening by being part of the relations and practices being studied."

Rogers, Alisdair, Noel Castree, and Rob Kitchin. "ethnography (https://www-oxfordreference-com.libraryproxy.tulsacc.edu/view/10.1093/acref/9780199599868.001.0001/acref-9780199599868-e-543)." A Dictionary of Human Geography. *Oxford University Press,* 2013. Oxford Reference.

Choosing Your Subculture

In WR121, your assignment is to write an analytical, informative, and thought-provoking profile of a place. This will require you to research your place, provide an interesting observation of its history, components, and ecology, and explain its significance to the community.

When it comes to exploring the history of your place, it may help you to start thinking of **different communities** who are tied to the place. For example, consider different **nationalities**, **ethnicities**, **city/state residents**, **neighborhoods**, or **schools**.

The **kinds of people** who work in or otherwise occupy the space, as well as their **cultural productions, political, social, religious, cultural, or local issues** may help you obtain a more holistic view of your place.

Other points of interest may include **organizations** like clubs or churches, **events** like conferences, conventions, ceremonies, or sports, or even **activities** like cooking, gardening, climbing, or geocaching.
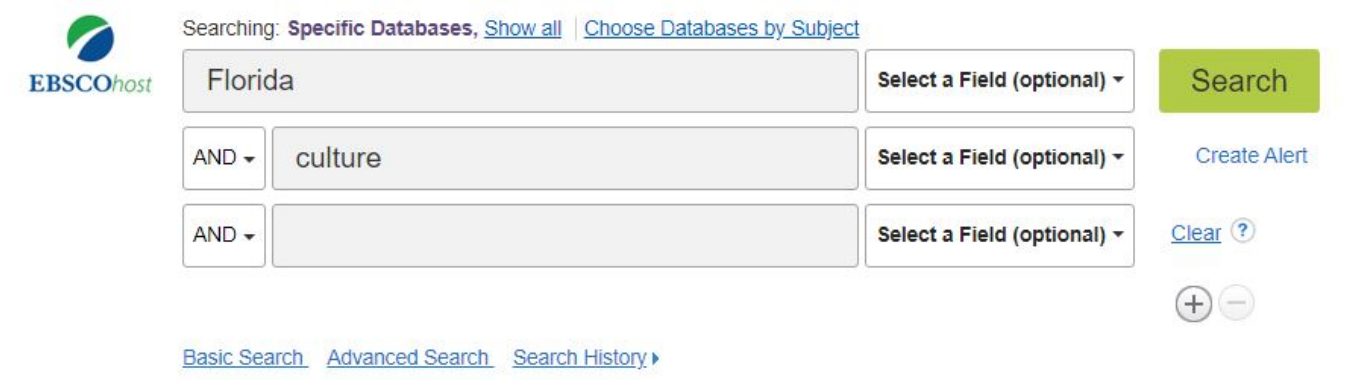
Starting Your Research

The online library at CGCC can help you get started with your research. You can find books, ebooks, videos, articles, and more. Begin searching on the homepage: https://cgcc.edu/library. (/library)

Don't forget you need to register for a library account (/get-library-card) to use our online databases and place holds for items in our physical collection!

Using Databases

- Once you have access to our research databases (/research-databases), select one with a description that matches your topic. Databases in the **General Subject** tab cover a variety of topics, so they are a great starting point!

  - Useful databases for ethnographic research include **Points of View, Humanities Abstracts, Films on Demand, U.S. History in Context, Newspaper Source and Infotrac Newsstand**

- Databases work best when you add one search term per box:

Try using terms like **ethnology, culture**, or **customs**. (Please note the above search for **Florida AND culture** provides over 3,000 results from this database alone. You can narrow this down with more specific terms and keywords. For example, adding "**Zora Neale Hurston**" to the third box includes six results that investigate the state's ethnographic culture through the perspective of the African American historian and author who grew up there.

- Try adding your subculture to your search

  - For example, **Eatonville** is the first Black community in Florida. Today, this area and its historical sites are enveloped by Orlando.

- If you aren't getting the right results from your subculture, try adding quotation marks around the keyword or phrase

  - For example, "**Zora Neale Hurston**" will only include results with the author's full name.

- Use an asterisk (*) to find variations of the same root word.

  - For example, **ethnograph*** will include results for **ethnography**, **ethnographies**, **ethnographic**, etc.

Researching the History of your Place

Writing an ethnographic profile will require you to learn more about the issues connected to the place you choose. Here are some tips for identifying historical and social issues that undergird your studies:

Consider the colonial and Indigenous history of your place:

- You can't find a corner of the American continent that does not hold ancient history, Indigenous valued, and pre-colonial place names and stories. Every place we occupy once served as the homeland for other people, who often didn't leave that place willingly.

  - Ask yourself: Whose land is my place on?

    - Visit native-land.ca (native-land.ca) to map Indigenous languages, treaties, and territories associated with your place. (Your findings will make great keywords when you access our library databases!)

. Consider other social issues connected to your place.

- Research isn't always representative of the groups that you are hoping to serve for a number of reasons — whether that is a bias of the researcher, collection methods, or hesitation on the part of the audiences themselves. Collecting diverse perspectives can help you gain a more holistic and inclusive understanding of your place.

  - Ask yourself: What economic inequality, gentrification, development/loss of habitat, issues with public land use policies, and historical record inaccuracies can I identify? Whose perspectives are being represented in the resources I'm finding?

    - Consider using global databases to incorporate broader perspectives. For example,

- J-STAGE (https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/-char/en) is a Japan-based database that circulates research in science, technology, humanities and social sciences.

- Black Freedom Struggle in the United States (https://blackfreedom.proquest.com/) is a collection that is focused on Black Freedom. It features primary source documents related to critical people and events in African American history.

- The World Factbook (https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/) provides information about history, people, government, economy, energy, geography, environment, communications, transportation, military, terrorism, and transnational issues.

- Independent Voices (https://www.jstor.org/site/reveal-digital/independent-voices/) is a collection of alternative press newspapers, magazines and journals produced by diverse creators including feminists, dissident GIs, campus radicals, Indigenous peoples, antiwar activists, Black Power advocates, Hispanics, LGBTQIA+ activists, the extreme right-wing press.

- In all your searches, be sure to include your subculture in your list of keywords. (For example, the search **indigenous AND Florida AND culture** will help prevent your search results from prioritizing only white narratives.

Conducting and Using Personal Interviews

Conducting Personal Interviews (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WTSLbWeOIjfSbee5WlYn8pVMChCtuqC_NWo-p7E2yUw/edit?usp=sharing)

Using Personal Interviews in Your Essay (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1euKWUOacwdyDmoNIThYHc-SPuK3_uLzR4Vu4kbYSgDE/edit?usp=sharing)

Evaluating Source Quality

Perspective is an important element of research design, conduct, and reporting. Social issues impact many people and represent longstanding problems or disagreements that are difficult to resolve. Strong beliefs and viewpoints is a natural outcome of public discourse. These issues are important research topics because they help us understand there are many ways to think about problems.

For individual researchers, this means asking yourself:

Whose perspective do my current resources represent and whose voices are missing?

- For example, a government website about a state park may be credible, but still gloss over the colonial history of your research topic.

. Determine the perspectives you are choosing to adopt for your assignments and declare them.

. Combine a wide variety of primary (firsthand accounts of a topic that include interviews, legal document texts, speeches, photographs and original research) and secondary (one step removed resources that contain a layer of interpretation) to allow consideration of multiple relevant perspectives.

For more help finding and evaluating resources, check out our Finding Information (https://www.cgcc.edu/libraryresources) Research Guide!

The Dalles Campus

400 East Scenic Drive

The Dalles, OR 97058

Click address for directions/map. (https://maps.google.com/?
q=400%20East%20Scenic%20Drive%0D%0AThe%20Dalles%2C%20OR%2097058%0D%0AClick%20address%
(541) 506-6000 (tel:5415066000)

Hood River Center

1730 College Way

Hood River, OR 97031-7502

Click address for directions/map. (https://maps.google.com/?q=1730%20College%20Way%0D%0AHood%20F7502%0D%0AClick%20address%20for%20directions%2Fmap.)

(541) 506-6000 (tel:5415066000)

Teaching and Learning Center

General Research Guide

Mark as done

The Columbia Gorge Community College Library provides access to a wide variety of physical and digital materials. Complete this lesson to learn what resources we have and how to find, evaluate, and cite information.

Accessing the Library

1. To get started, register for a library account.

2. When your account is created, go to the library login page on CGCC's website.

3. In the **Library Card Number of Username field**, type: CGCC-------, and put your 7-digit student ID number without the hyphen in the blank. (Please note this is case sensitive and CGCC must be in all caps).

4. In the **PIN Number or Password** field, enter the last four digits of your phone number.

5. Click **Log in**.

Note: If this doesn't work, contact the library to reset your PIN or troubleshoot as necessary.

Logging In

Log in to Your Account
Please enter the following information:

Library Card Number or Username

Please include leading zeros.
Example: 0026626051

PIN Number or Password

If this is your first time logging in, please enter the last 4 digits of your phone number. Example: 0926
Forgot your password?

☐ Stay logged in?   **Log in**

CGCC_ _ _ _ _ _ _
[7-digit student ID without the hyphen]

Last four digits of your phone number

Starting Your Research	Resources Available at CGCC	How to Search a Database	Evaluating Potential Resources

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Getting Started
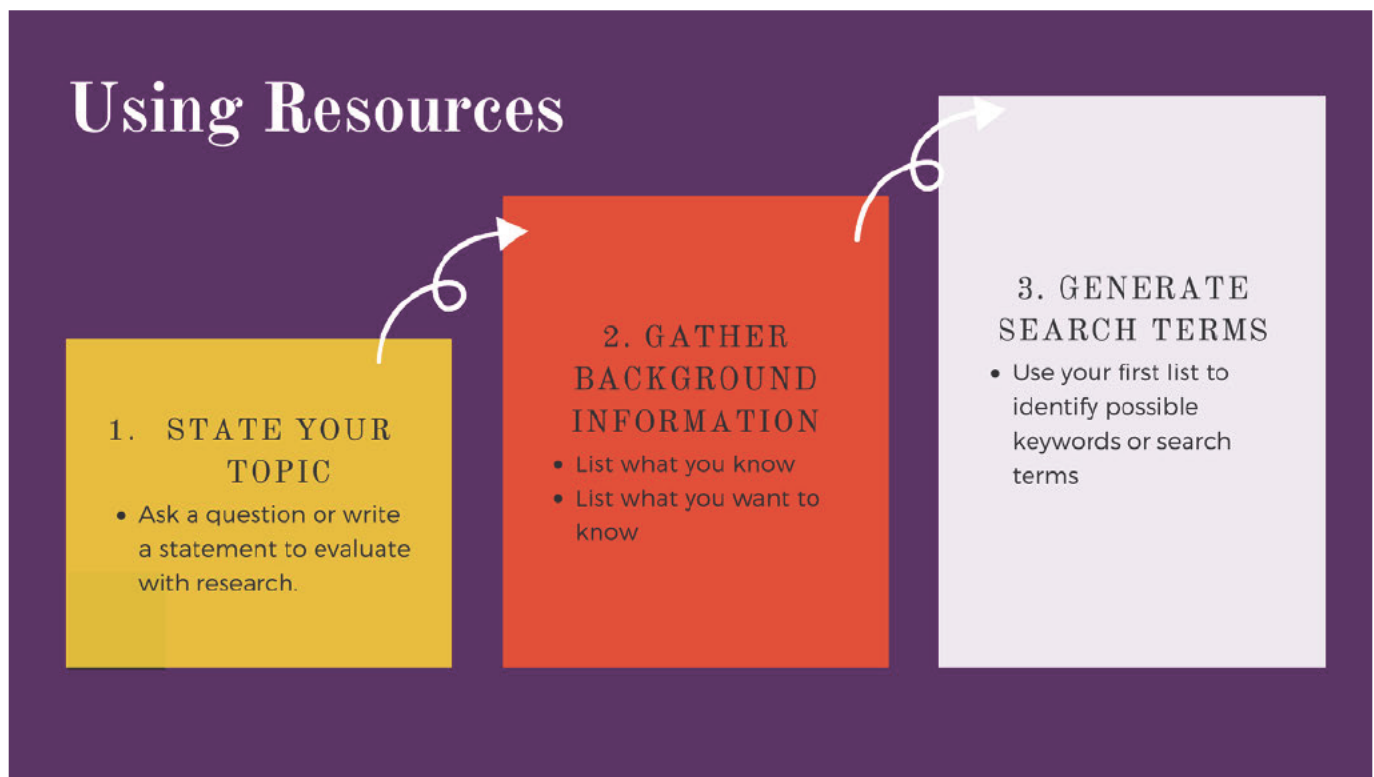
Research To-Do List

1. Before you start researching, you need to determine what it is that you'd like to learn. State your topic either as a question (i.e. How does music influence mood?) you have to answer or as a statement (i.e. music influences mood) you need to evaluate.
2. Use general internet searchers or the encyclopedia to find introductory information. Then make two lists: one of what you already know and one of what you need to find out in order to resolve your research question or evaluate your statement.
3. Keep a list of keywords.
    1. Start with common keywords such as **music**, **mood**, or **therapy**
    2. Add specific theories or concepts like **music theory** or **attention restoration theory**

3. Add proper nouns to include specific events and people of interest, like **Mozart**
4. Combine keywords with other qualifiers like **classical music therapy**

| How to Search a Database | Resources Available at CGCC | Evaluating Potential Resources | Citing Your Sources |

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Resources Avaliable at CGCC

Books, CDs, DVDs
1. Search the CGCC library catalog to see what books, DVDs and CDs are available for checkout
2. If you can't find what you're looking for, use WorldCat to request interlibrary loans from collections beyond CGCC
3. Search eBook Central for downloadable books.

Articles

- Use our database list to locate articles. Start with our general information databases:
  - **Academic Search Complete**-Full text articles from journals, magazines and newspapers covering a broad range of subjects. (Use the link to add Boolean Operators and additional keywords to the search for gender.)
  - **Gale Power Search**-Full text articles from journals, periodicals, and reference sources on a wide range of topics.
- The other databases on the list can be used for discipline-specific research
  - For example, the **Psychology Collection** contains full text articles from popular magazines that focus on psychological research.

| Getting Started | How to Search a Database | Evaluating Potential Resources | Citing Your Sources |

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Evaluating Potential Resources

Once you've found a resource, consider these five specific areas before you reference the work in your paper.

Evaluate content in five areas:

AUTHOR	CURRENCY	PUBLISHER	CREDIBILITY	OBJECTIVITY
• Who wrote the content? • What expertise does the author have? • What are the author's qualifications? (e.g. education, employment, past writings)	• How old is the publication? • Does the date fit your assignment requirements? • Website: Do the links work? Are they current?	• Who is the publisher? • Are they reputable? • Who sponsored the research? • Website: What does the domain tell you? • Is contact information avaliable?	• Does the author cite their sources? • Are there spelling or grammatical errors? • Is the author's research method valid? • Is the source intended for a scholarly audience?	• What is the author's purpose? • What is the information based on? • Are there opinions? • Does it contain bias, prejudice, deception or manipulation? • Is it possibly a joke or satirical?

Check out this video to practice walking through the evaluation process on an internet resource.

Source Evaluation and Credibility

Getting Started   How to Search a Database   Citing Your Sources   Need Help?

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The Columbia Gorge Community College Library provides access to a wide variety of physical and digital materials. Complete this lesson to learn what resources we have and how to find, evaluate, and cite information.

Citing Your Sources

Once you've found an appropriate resource, you need to make sure you cite it properly.

Why is this important?

When you use someone else's work, you need to give them credit for it. You do this by directing your readers to the original source. Otherwise, it is plagiarism.

Plagiarism

using someone else's work and passing it off as your own, whether accidental or on purpose.

For more information, check out this video from CLIP on why you need to cite your sources:

Why Cite Your Sources

How to Cite Your Sources

There are many ways to create citations. If your source comes from a database, the citation is usually provided for you. To access it, you:

1. Click on the article, and choose **Cite** from the menu on the left.

2. Scroll through the list of formats to find the citation style specified in your assignment.

3. Copy and paste the citation into your references section of your paper. Make sure you adjust the formatting to match the style guides linked below.

No citation available?

Databases--as well as carefully evaluated information you find on the Internet--might not have the citations or citation styles you need. This is okay; it just means you have to create your own. To do this, use the guides below for common academic citation styles.

Citation Style Guides

- APA Style
  - APA Formatting and Style Guide from OWL: a comprehensive guide to APA (6th ed. 2010)
- MLA Style
  - MLA Formatting and Style Guide from OWL: a comprehensive guide to MLA (7th ed. 2009)

Citation Tools

Tools like Citation Builder and Knight Cite can also be used to help you create your citations. If you use these tools, make sure you verify the generated citations are consistent with the style guidelines.

Regardless of how you create your citations, make sure you are aware of your instructor's preferences in each course.

| Resources Avaliable at CGCC | How to Search a Database | Evaluating Potential Resources | Need help? |

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Need help?

- Email library@cgcc.edu for help with library services during campus hours.
- Answerland is a 24-hour library helpline of Oregon librarians who can help answer all kinds of questions via chat, email, and text.
- Beginning October 10, Digital Access Librarian Tori Stanek will be available for online help requests and research appointments. These can be scheduled on the tutoring page.

| Getting Started | How to Search a Database | Resources Available at CGCC | Citing Your Sources |

You have completed 8% of the lesson

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Global Gender Issues Libguide

Mark as done

Columbia Gorge Community College provides access to a wide variety of women and gender studies materials from various disciplines. Our content includes physical and digital resources to keep you updated on critical and trending social issues.

Getting Started

Before you start your search, compile a list of keywords.

- Use common keywords such as **gender**, **gender expression**, or **gender identity**

- Search by particular social issue or movement (e.g. **Women's Rights Movement** or **feminism**)

- Combine common keywords with a topical word (e.g. **gender inequality**)

- If you are looking for a specific event or person, use their name. For example, you can search for **Tammy Duckworth** in any database to find information specific to the Congresswoman.

- Putting your search term within quotes (e.g. **"womanist movement"**) may produce more relevant content.

- Adding the truncation symbol (*) will include all words that share the starred word's root. (e.g. **fem*** will include all results that include female, feminist, feminine...etc.)

| How to Search a Database | Global Gender Issue Sources at CGCC-Physical Materials |

| Global Gender Issue Sources at CGCC-Online Materials | Need help? |

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Teaching and Learning Center

Global Gender Issues Libguide

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Columbia Gorge Community College provides access to a wide variety of women and gender studies materials from various disciplines. Our content includes physical and digital resources to keep you updated on critical and trending social issues.

How to Search a Database

Pick an appropriate area from our list of database subscriptions. The following screenshots are taken from **Academic Search Complete,** which is a great starting point for general information about your topic.

| Publications | Subject Terms | Cited References | Images | More |

Searching: **Specific Databases,** Show all | Choose Databases by Subject

alice walker

2. Add keywords

AND ▾   womanist movement

AND
OR
NOT

1. Select 'Advanced Search'

Basic Search   Advanced Search   Search History

1. Once you select your database, click on **Advanced Search**

2. Add keywords to the search fields

3. Identify areas where you want terms to appear (optional)

3. Use the **Select a Field (optional)** dropdown to determine your search area (Leave this blank if you want to search all areas):

What the Search Areas Mean

TX	All Text	Performs a keyword search for the keyword in the full text as well as the citation record.
AU	Author	Performs a keyword search for any authors of an article.
TI	Title	Searches keywords in a record's English and non-English title field.
SU	Subject Terms	Performs a keyword search of the subject headings listed in the records.
SO	Source	Performs a keyword search for the journal name of the article.
AB	Abstract	Performs a keyword search of the abstract summaries.
IS	ISSN	Performs an exact search for a publication's International Standard Serial Number.
IB	ISBN	Performs an exact search for an article's identification number in the ISBN and EISBN fields.

4. Select Boolean Operators

4. Use the dropdown menu to the left of your keyword searches to add Boolean Operators.
5. Depending on your selection, this step will give you more or fewer results:

6. Click **Search** to begin browsing content.

7. Use the additional filters on the left of your screen to further refine your results.

Getting Started

Global Gender Issue Sources at CGCC-Physical Materials

Global Gender Issue Sources at CGCC-Online Materials

Need help?

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Helpful Website Links for Library Services ►

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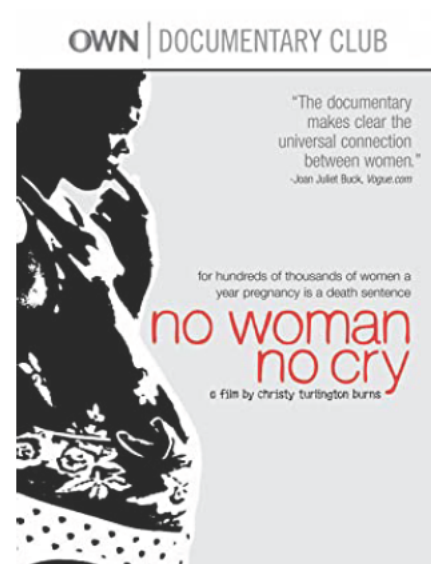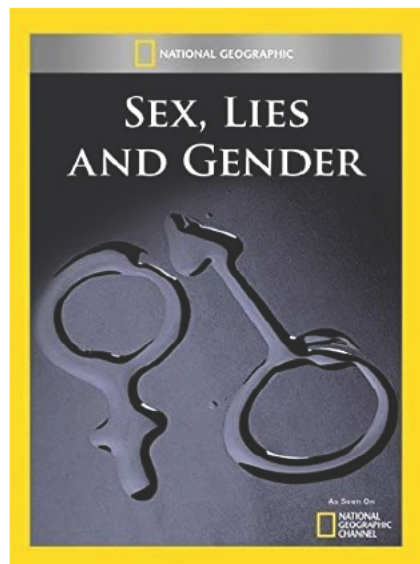## Women and Gender Resources at CGCC-Physical Resources
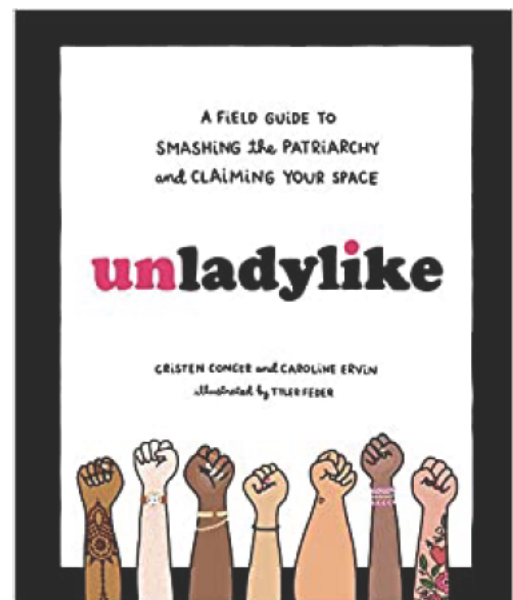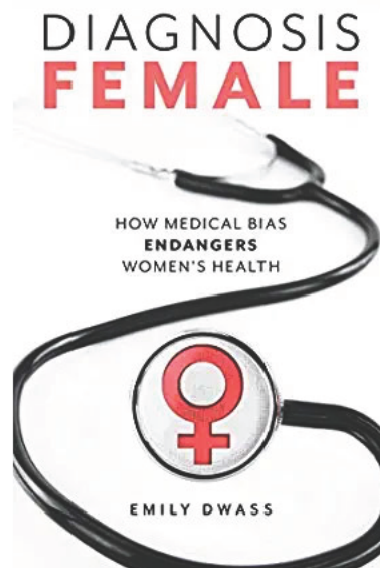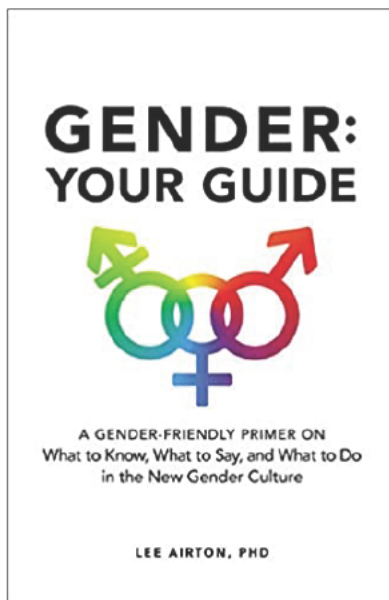
Books

1. [Gender: Your Guide. A gender-friendly primer on what to know, what to say, and what to do in the new gender culture](#) **Lee Airton**

2. [Male Daughters, Female Husbands: Gender and sex in an African Society,](#) **Amadiume**

3. [Putting on Appearances: Gender and advertising, Diane Barthel-Bouchier](#)

4. [Same Difference: How gender myths are hurting our relationships, our children, and our jobs,](#) **Rosalind Barnett and Caryl Rivers**

5. [Women Across Cultures: a global perspective,](#) **Shawn Meghan Burn**

6. [Unladylike: a field guide to smashing the patriarchy and claiming your space,](#) **Cristen Conger**

7. [Transgender rights](#), Paisley Currah, Richard M. Juang, and Shannon Price Minter

8. [Diagnosis Female: How medical bias endangers women's health](#), Emily Dwass

9. [Beyond magenta : transgender teens speak out](#)- [Susan](#) Kuklin

10. [Untrue: Why nearly everything we believe about women, lust, and infidelity is wrong and how the new science can set us free](#), Wednesday Martin

11. [Tomorrow will be Different: Love, loss, and the fight for trans equality,](#) Sarah McBride

12. [Transgender journeys](#), Virginia Mollenkott

13. [Becoming Nicole: the transformation of an American family,](#) Amy Ellis Nutt

14. [The Mother of All Questions,](#) Rebecca Solnit

15. [America through transgender eyes](#), J.E. Sumerau

16. [The Less Noble Sex: Scientific, religious and philosophical conceptions of women's nature](#), Nancy Tuana

17. [Periods Gone Public: Taking a stand for menstrual equity](#), Jennifer Weiss-Wolf

DVDs

1. [Boy meets girl](#)

2. [Sex, Lies, and Gender](#)

3. [No Woman, No Cry](#)

| Getting Started | How to Search a Database | Global Gender Issue Sources at CGCC-Online Materials | Need help? |

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