

Nothing About Us, Without Us

Reinscribing Black Feminism in Sociology

Black feminism is:

- care and support for each other
- complex in its practices
- liberatory for all
- a healing praxis for Black women & academia



As graduate students, the authors discuss survival strategies for academia that encompass the past, present and future. They employ Black feminist praxis by engaging Black feminist sociology (BFS) in their methods, at their institutions, and within their personal relationships.

Engage with Black women's intellect to create opportunities and space within sociology.

BFS uses methods (like archival analysis, participatory action research or PAR, and ethnographic methods) that allow one to listen intently and dynamically honor each other. These methods challenge dominant white epistemologies while encouraging mindful communication with community members so our research benefits, rather than harms, communities.

Reflect on the past to contextualize our present.

With research methods like archival analysis and ethnography, we can better understand the historical situations which continue to disenfranchise and devalue Black women. From Ida B. Wells-Barnett to Deborah King and Patricia Hill Collins we continue to uplift the Black intelligentsia. We use their histories and our own to strengthen feminisms inside and outside academia.



Reject objectivity and welcome the Black subjective.

Sociology is a competitive discipline, so Black feminist sociologists must care for each other and the Black communities we study. In doing this, BFS works to inspire others while investing in oneself.

"[By] leaning into the legacy of Black feminists, we center ourselves and the Black women we carry with us as knowledge producers. Such recentering shifts the discipline from merely 'valuing our knowledge' to recognizing it as **indispensable to the canon**" (p. 106).

Citation: