

INTRODUCTION

This issue of the *Review of Women's Studies* highlights valuing people's personal accounts as a legitimate way of knowing. The research methods employed by the articles reveal their participants' "ways of making sense of the world, of their conceptualizations, meanings and representations of it" (Iosifides & Sporton, 2009).

Celinne Charmaigne Guevara's study examines the living conditions of 10 non-heteronorm conforming older adults and their economic opportunities when seen in relation to their experiences both in public spaces and at home. Her participants, self-identified LGB people aged 60 and older, shared experiences of discrimination that continue to impact their health, well-being, and financial security. These, coupled with declining health and mobility due to aging, can lead to increased vulnerability.

A critical assessment of the effects of gender mainstreaming initiatives in an institute of higher education (IHE) based on key informant interviews of administrators, focus group discussions, and in-depth interviews of students is the subject of Leal Rodriguez' article. Her research reveals the gaps in national gender mainstreaming efforts and actual implementation in the IHE, which actually has no clear gender policy. This has resulted in "a campus culture where men hold a position of privilege...[and] women and members of the LGBT community are targets of microaggression, sexual harassment, gender-biased language, and gender stereotyping."

Carolina Nuyda's study on bereaved mothers and Linda Lumayag's nonfiction narrative on her mother's life highlight the diverse experiences of mothering and motherhood. Nuyda's work include drawings, anecdotes,

Iosifides, T., & Sporton, D. (2009). Biographical methods in migration research. *Migration Letters*, 6(2): 101-108.

and personal accounts that provide deeper insight into maternal grief. The biography of Lumayag's mother shows the multiple burdens that mothers, especially those who are economically disenfranchised, are made to bear and, eventually, overcome.

Teena Saulo's suite of photographs were taken while on her ethnographic fieldwork. She captures "women from different indigenous and cultural backgrounds [and how they] share common traditional assigned roles as mothers, wives, and daughters within their respective families, as well as [being] bearers and transmitters of culture."

Here are people's experiences and stories. Here is how they negotiate and navigate different opportunities and constraints as they make sense of and make their way through the world.

Marie Aubrey J. Villaceran