Janice M. Irvine

Mapping the Walk of Shame: Putting Affect into Theory and Methods

4:00 p.m., 18 May 2016, Monument Building

The “walk of shame” is a term in the U.S. that refers to a woman’s walk home after a night of hookup sex. In this talk, I discuss my research on the walk of shame, which found the persistence, but just as importantly, the instability of dominant gendered sexual norms and in the power of shame to police them. In this study, I expanded the concept of sexual scripts and the cognitive mapping method by adding an emotional dimension to both. I will discuss conceptual and methodological challenges posed by sociology’s affective turn, and explore possibilities for incorporating an affective dimension into social research.