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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Title of Proposal:

“Gendered Embodiment: Representations from Antiquity to Present”

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Abstract

From antiquity to present the ideal body shape has shifted from one socially acceptable image to another. Historical changes in the ideal body shape can be recognized through representations of women's bodies in visual arts, literature, and mass media; these representations are indicative of women's persistent investment in meeting the requirements established by their particular sociohistorical era. In this ethnography documentary, the rationale for using a mixed-methods approach is grounded in 1) triangulation of qualitative methods, 2) a commitment to thoroughness, 3) an integration of the personal and the social, and 4) an attempt to apply feminist principles in research. Two primary investigative components of this study include ethnography documentary and content analysis. Ethnography documentary will provide a means to explore individual experiences of embodiment within cultural contexts by examining historical representations of women's bodies, narrative accounts of eating attitudes and body-related experiences, and representations of bodies in art and literature. Feminist content analysis will allow a thorough investigation of body representation in archival research, textual and visual sources, autoethnographies, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions.