Research Skills for M.A. Students 1.7, Religion and Society

Sample Topic: Divorce

Religion and Society

- Includes Ethics, Sociology, Psychology, Ethnic Studies, Gender Studies
- Engages theories: Critical Race Theory, Deconstruction, Feminist Epistemology, Postcolonialism, Queer...
- Employs methods: Qualitative*, Quantitative, Mixed
  - *Qualitative Methods include: Case Studies, Participant Observation, Interviewing, Grounded Theory...

Encyclopedias

- **Ethics**
  - *Encyclopedia of Ethics*, 2001 [Ref. BJ63 .E45; also online through Credo Reference]
  - *Dictionary of Ethics, Theology and Society*, 1996 [Ref. BJ63 .D45]
  - *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy*, 2009 [Ref. GE42 E533]
  - *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*, 2005 [Ref BL31 .E465; also online]
- **Sociology**
  - *Encyclopedia of Religion and Society*, 1998 [Ref.BL60 .E53; and online]
- **Psychology**
  - *Gale Encyclopedia of Mental Health*, 2008 [Ref. RC437 G36]
  - *Mental Measurements Yearbooks* [Ref. BF431 .M46]
- **Ethnic Studies**
  - *Class in America*, 2007 [Ref. HN90 .S6 C564]
  - *Encyclopedia of African American History*
- **Gender Studies**
- **Education and Children**
  - *Praeger Handbook of Religion and Education in the United States*, 2009 [Ref. LC111 .P78]
  - *Encyclopedia of Children and Childhood: In History and Society*, 2004 [Ref HQ767.84 .E53; also online]

Key Journals

- **Ethics**
  - *Journal of Religious Ethics*
  - *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*
  - *Environmental Ethics*
  - *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*
- **Sociology**
  - *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*
  - *Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion*
  - *Review of Religious Research*
  - *Sociology of Religion*
  - *Social Compass: International Review of Sociology of Religion*
  - *Sage online journals*
- **Psychology**
  - *Pastoral Psychology*
- **Gender Studies**
  - *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*

Some key theorists: Bourdieu, Du Bois, Fanon, Foucault, Freud, Fowler, Kohut, Weber, Winnicott

Searching the Catalog
• **Ethics**: Christian Ethics, Social Ethics
• **Sociology**: Christian Sociology, Postcolonialism, Power (Social Sciences)
• **Psychology**: Object Relations (Psycholanalysis), Psychic Trauma, Systemic Therapy (Family Therapy)
• **Ethnic Studies**: African Americans, Asian Americans, Ethnicity, Ethnology United States, Hispanic Americans, Minorities
• **Gender Studies**: Feminist Theory, Gender Identity, Homosexuality, Queer Theory
• **Education and Children**: Children, Christian Education, Moral Development, Moral Education, Religious Education

**Periodical Databases**

- PsycInfo
- SocIndex
- Anthropology Plus
- Womens Studies International
- Gender Watch
- Ethnic Newswatch
- ERIC
- Education Research Complete

**Special Topics**

- **Human Rights**
  - Country Reports on Human Rights Practices (US Dept of State)
  - International Religious Freedom Report (US Dept of State)
  - Center for Gender and Refugee Studies
  - Human Rights Watch
  - LGBT Religious Archives Network
- **International Relations**
  - Faith, Ethics and Public Life
- **Statistics and etc.**
  - Government Documents: GPO Access
  - Census Bureau
  - Statistic Abstract of the U.S. (alternative site)
  - Bureau of Justice Statistics
  - Bureau of Labor Statistics
- **Religion Statistics**
  - ARDA
  - Adherents.com
  - American Religious Identification Survey
  - 2010 U.S. Religious Census [BL2525 .A15] [sample page]

**Searching the Internet**

- **Google** (use Advanced, and employ limiters)
- Classified indexes to web sites
  - Wabash Center Guide
  - Drew University Library guides by subject
- Evaluating web sites
- Citing web sites

**See also**: Online Guide to Religion and Society and to RLSOC725: History of Western Christian Ethics