

Winter 2018

FEMINISM & SCIENCE

FMST 30 – Instructor: Karen Barad

In this era of "post-facts," "post-truth", "post-reality," is it possible to think in a nuanced way about the role of power in the construction of scientific knowledge while at the same time asserting a notion of objectivity that pushes back against epistemological relativism?



The terms “post-fact”, “post-truth”, and “post-reality” are now being used to label the new era we have entered. We are already seeing the erasure of climate data from servers and websites, and purveyors of the truth, including climate scientists, journalists, and academics are being put on warning. At the same time that it is of utmost importance that facts, truth, and reality be asserted to counter the normalization of lies and fake news used to obscure the truth and manipulate the public, there is a large body of scholarship showing the non-innocent and often times harmful use of these terms in ways that collude with the forces of power, including colonialism, racism, militarism, etc. Is it possible to find a way to recognize the workings of power in the construction of scientific knowledge while asserting a robust notion of objectivity?

Satisfies the PE-T General Education requirement.