



Social Sciences and Communication Sciences

Shiva Alinaghian

Rank: 1st Winner in the Young Section

Degree: Ph.D

Research Title: Mothering: Intersectionality of Gender and Other Social Systems: An Autoethnography

Kind of Research Work: Doctoral Dissertation



About Researcher

Shiva Alinaghian was born in 1986 in Isfahan. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Isfahan, her master's degree from Allameh Tabatabai University, and her doctorate in the field of cultural anthropology from the University of Tehran. Alinaghian, who earned the first rank among doctoral graduates, presented her dissertation entitled 'Mothering: Intersectionality of Gender and Other Social Systems: An Autoethnography' in 2019. A book entitled "A Pale Blue Line" from her dissertation will be published soon by Farhang-e Javid Publications. Dr. Alinaghian is a researcher in the field of gender, mothering, ethnography, and narratology and has published more than eight scientific research. She has presented the results of her research at several prestigious domestic and foreign conferences.

Abstract

Although mothering is widely believed to be a biological and natural stage of women's lives, feminism tells us that not all women have the same experience of mothering. They perceive and act upon it, depending on different cultural contexts. In this thesis, which includes my reflexive narrative of maternal experience, I attempted to challenge its involvement with dominant ideologies of mothering by narrating the cultural aspects of my own maternal experiences. In this autoethnographic study, researcher sought to discover the way that society shaped my identity as a mother or in other words, taught me to be a mother. However, I came to believe that there is no natural and instinctive truth about being a mother, but that social and cultural contexts, as well as the existing knowledge, are shaping the reality of mothering. I related this personal story, which challenged my situation alongside others in a social context, to the maternal experience of "Tayebeh", a Ghorbat woman from a socially marginalized neighborhood. In this regard, I attempted to link our story, which included two small local narratives, to the main body of society by writing a motivational and testimonial text due to its complexities. The story of each of us is full of considerations related to the intersection of gender, ethnicity, social class, language, and other domination systems that determine our privileges, inequalities, and proximity to power.

