

## **Revolution in Epistemology? Feminist Challenges to Epistemic Authority in the Aftermath of 1968**

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The paper discusses the relationship between social movements and critical knowledge production in the aftermath of 1968. With reference to feminist consciousness raising and the women's health movement, the focus is on the question in which ways feminist epistemologies and methodologies have altered the social sciences and in which ways they may further do so. Taking up an early critique by an epistemic authority of post-World War II sociology, Robert K. Merton, the persistent lines of argumentation rejecting feminist and other critical epistemologies is illustrated. The paper concludes that some of the radical theoretical legacies of 1968 may find their realisation outside academia in new epistemic formations. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: [journal@transformativestudies.org](mailto:journal@transformativestudies.org) Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2009 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

**KEYWORDS:** 1968, Feminist Epistemologies, Feminist Standpoint Theory, Consciousness Raising, Social Movements.

### **1968 AND THE “EPISTEMIC TURN”**

1968 is a symbolic date for the beginning of a severe critique of science in which science is increasingly regarded as ideological force legitimat-

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