

Choice May 2015; doi:10.5860/CHOICE.186546

Taking risks: feminist activism and research in the Americas, ed. by Julie Shayne. SUNY Press, 2014. 335p index ISBN 9781438452456 cloth, \$95.00

Shayne's edited volume sheds light on the real everyday and institutional challenges to doing feminist and activist research in the Americas. The contributors share a common passion for social scientific research as political praxis, making no claims to the possibility of scientific objectivity and always seeking to document injustices and produce knowledge aimed at enacting social change. However, as the book's title suggests, doing research motivated by political activism "is not always personally or politically advantageous." One of the most provocative essays is Erica Lorraine Williams' chapter describing the black diasporic anthropologist experiences with the material realities of "Brazil as a racial-sexual paradise." Feminist tensions also extend to how researchers engage women as research subjects in a way that is collaborative rather than hierarchical, which Roberta Villalón affirms is crucial for activist research, especially when dealing with immigrant survivors of violence. From this perspective, research must also have applied qualities that can possibly contribute to the ongoing political work of women-centered organizations. Moreover, despite barriers to professional advancement in US academia that "taking risks" may pose for some researchers, doing the hard work of politically engaged scholarship remains crucial for feminist theory and praxis. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.

--K. Y. Perry, Brown University

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