



BOLSENA, ITALY

# Feminist Scholars' Summer Writing Retreat

**FACILITATED BY JACQUIE GAYBOR AND  
CONSTANCE DUPUIS WITH WENDY  
HARCOURT**

**17 - 23 AUGUST 2019  
CONVENTO DI SANTA MARIA DEL GIGLIO**

# AN INVITATION...

The Italian based international community group Punti di Vista has invited feminist scholar activists to join their work at the beautiful space of the Convento in Bolsena Italy on the shores of Lago di Bolsena, province of Viterbo. Punti di Vista offers a quiet and inspiring place for those wanting to explore together alternatives to mainstream learning, to gain energy and find a community of like-minded people. Please look at their website <http://www.puntidivista.land/> to see some of the activities which relate closely to feminist activism and environmentalism. Wendy and Constance have spent some wonderful times at Bolsena, dreaming, working and creating. Jacquie too is looking for such a place. We would like to invite you to join us in taking up this opportunity to create a new feminist learning space in Bolsena with a summer feminist scholar writing retreat from 17 - 23 August 2019 (arriving 17 morning and leaving 23 at lunch time).

## **Writing retreat on feminist methodologies**

We see the retreat as an opportunity to discuss together our multiple methodological, theoretical and epistemological dilemmas as feminists, that we take into account during our research; whether we are engaged in writing a PhDs, articles, MA essays or advocacy documents. Led by us, as three ISS based scholars, we plan to explore issues such as: how to shape research questions; how to understand our positionality, how to share our research results. All these choices have an impact in how we produce knowledge. We imagine such a conversation could be the starting point for an edited book on feminist methodologies, which will capture our collaborative reflections on the choices and challenges of conducting feminist research.

## **Creating a feminist writing space in Bolsena**

We are also, more broadly, excited that we have the opportunity to gather at the Convento in order to build potential intellectual projects on the margins of the university. We see the feminist scholar writing retreat as something in itself, but also a possibility to create longer term engagements in Bolsena.

In tune with the ethic of the Convento, this will be a collective space for us to write, think, dreaming together with of ample time to do our own thing. Some experienced creative writers will be joining us to help us in the journey.

### **How to join**

Our invitation is being sent to feminist circles at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) and the Well-being, Ecology, Gender and cOmmunity – Innovation Training Network (WEGO-ITN) – you are welcome to bring a partner or friend who you think is interested. Up to 24 people can stay at the Convento with shared bathrooms and either individual or shared rooms. The cost will be 25 Euro per night. Food we will organise collectively. Do budget around 25 Euro a day minimally for food and wine.

### **Timetable**

August 17: Arrival

August 18–22: Feminist methodologies (between breakfast and lunch)  
Creative writing space (afternoons)

August 23: Departure

Please do let us know if you are interested by 7 May 2019! And don't hesitate to contact us for any further information.

Jacque, Constance and Wendy

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