

Sharlene Hesse-Biber
Research/Areas of Specialization

Areas of Specialization: Qualitative Methodology, Race/Class/Gender, Women and Health

Research: Professor Hesse-Biber's early research was on rural-urban migration in Sweden and she then spent several years working in the areas of population, ecology, and demography. During the 1980s her research and teaching interests shifted to "women and work." She is co-founder of the Women's Studies Program and is currently interested in the area of women and health. Since 1984 she has been conducting a longitudinal study of eating disorders among women. Her most recent book is *Am I Thin Enough Yet?* (Oxford University Press 1996). She is currently conducting research on self-esteem and body image issues among white and black female adolescents in the Boston area. She has co-developed a software program called Hyper-research which will greatly facilitate the analysis of qualitative data.

Current Projects: She is also director and founder of the National Association for Women in Catholic Higher Education (NAWCHE) and director of Women's Studies.

Hesse-Biber's most recent co-authored book, *Working Women in America: Split Dreams* (Oxford University Press, 2005) explores the persistent issues women face in combining their work and family and provides strategies for companies and their employees in bridging the work-family divide. Her forthcoming book, *The Cult of Thinness* (Oxford, 2005) provides an in-depth look at American women's obsession with their bodies and the societal forces that propel them to engage in widespread social, political and economic rituals to obtain a slender figure. She has published widely in the field of research methodology. Professor Hesse-Biber is coeditor of several new volumes, *Approaches to Qualitative Research* (Oxford, 2004), *Feminist Perspectives on Social Research* (Oxford, 2004), *Feminist Approaches to Theory and Methodology* (Oxford, 2004) and has just completed two co-authored publications, *The Practice of Qualitative Research* (Sage, 2005) and *Emergent Methods in Social Research* (Sage, 2005). She and her colleagues at ResearchWare.com have developed a qualitative software program, HyperRESEARCH, as well as a new exciting transcribing tool, HyperTranscribe.