Identifying Objects of Analysis

Critical Race Feminisms

As you prepare to write your papers, you will need to first identify a general topic area, then get specific with the types of objects you will study and tools you will use. Every research paper will need to identify four elements: (1) particular objects of analysis that will provide the evidence for your broader claims; (2) a broader theoretical discourse you will use to situate the claims about the objects; (3) a method for analysis of the objects derived from an academic discipline or study practice; (4) the geographic and historical scope of the project (time and place).

Today we will look at how Mohanty has assembled these elements in “Under Western Eyes”:

1. What are the objects of Mohanty’s analysis? What archive of texts or other materials does she suggest need critical discussion? What items constitute the evidence she uses to make her broader claims? In prior courses, you may have learned that these are the “primary sources” of the study. List the items here
2. What is the main claim of the essay? What kinds of sources (“secondary sources”) does Mohanty use to develop this claim and the method for arriving at it? What other theoretical texts is she in conversation with? Does her argument in the essay align with these other authors, build on them, or subject them to critique?
3. What is the historical and geographic scope of the objects she studies?