1. Normative theory: evaluating the moral dimension of world politics! About justice and democracy in a
universal sense! Since women own a very small share of the world’s wealth and are frequently discriminated
against in the articulation of human rights and through cultural practices, theories of justice are an important
issue in feminist theory.

2. Historical sociology: examining the ways in which societies develop through history! Trying to understand
how certain states have developed, looking at both internal and external factors! IR feminists would agree that
state formation and the development of states must be examined for evidence of patriarchal structures and the
effects that they may have had on foreign-policy and security-seeking behaviors. Like historical sociologists, IR
feminists challenge liberals’ assertion that the state is a neutral arbiter.

3. Critical theory: played a central role in motivating the third debate Comes out of Marxism! Many IR feminists
find compatible with their orientations. Feminists claim that gender structures are socially constructed,
historically variable, and upheld through power relations that legitimize them. Like critical theorists, most
feminists would claim an emancipatory interest in seeking to overcome these structures of domination agreeing
that knowledge reflects certain interests of the society (especially the elite men).

4. Postmodernism: More willing to abandon the Enlightenment project therefore they criticize the
foundationalism of critical theory! Both IR feminists and postmodern IR share their unwillingness to give up the
emancipatory project of critical theory! Like critical theory, claims that knowledge is produced in certain
people’s interests. Believes that the positivists separation between knowledge and values, knowledge and reality,
and knowledge and power must be questioned. IR feminists also problematize the defining dichotomies of the
fields that are reinforced through an association with the masculine/feminine gender dichotomy. They question
how they serve to naturalize other forms of superordination in world politics.

✓ An important task of feminist theory is to make strange what has previously appeared familiar, or to
challenge us to question what has hitherto appeared natural.

✓ IR feminists are beginning to develop their own research programs – extending the boundaries of the
discipline, asking different questions in new ways, and listening to unfamiliar voices from the
margins, shedding new light on traditional topics.