- Begins with immediate bodily experience
- Advances a subjectivist interpretation of reality
- Rejects conceptually driven knowledge
- Embraces knowing socially constructed world from within (Smith, D 1974)

**Class and Gender**

- Ethnographic study of working class women in Britain
- Feminist researcher
- Working class background
- Concerned with relationship between experience and interpretation
- Being = Knowing (Ontology = epistemology)
- Women at centre of production of knowledge

Bev Skeggs (1997) *Formations of Class and Gender: Becoming Respectable*

**Problems with Standpoint Theory**

→ Relies too heavily on the existence of women as a group who share common EXPERIENCE (Scott, J.W. 1992)
→ Black feminist epistemology — ‘Outsider WITHIN’ challenges dominant ideas about knowledge production and theory. (Hill-Collins 1990)
→ Feminist postmodern engagements with science and methodology challenge aims to capture REALITY (Nicholson ed, 1990)

*Is it really possible to talk about women’s privileged standpoint?*

*Can there really be a feminist standpoint?*

*Does one have to be a woman to have a feminist standpoint?*

*Is it enough just to be a woman to achieve a privileged vision in regard to social relations?*