

**Natalie Balthrop**

**Feminist Perspectives of Socially Responsible Design:  
A Case Study of Sustainable Health Enterprises**

**Thesis Abstract**

This thesis will examine the relationship between women and socially responsible design through a case study of Sustainable Health Enterprises (SHE). Its principle aim is to investigate how women, design, economics and development interact on a global scale, and to explore the emergence of design solutions that are innovative in their attempt to mitigate these various components. By tracing the history of socially responsible design, this thesis aims to uncover how the field addresses women's needs. Prominent gender and design scholars are used as a guide to critically consider such needs to expand the scholarship of socially responsible design by adding feminist perspectives. This thesis suggests that SHE exposes patriarchal structures of the field by addressing an issue that is distinctly feminine – the need for sanitary pads.