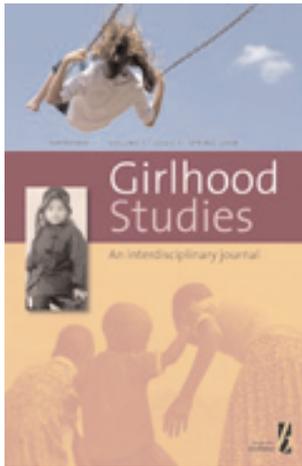


GIRLHOOD STUDIES

An Interdisciplinary Journal

Special Issue: The Inaugural International Girls Studies Association Conference

Guest edited by Victoria Cann, Sarah Godfrey, and Helen Warner



The inaugural International Girls Studies Association (IGSA) conference was held at the University of East Anglia, UK, in April 2016. The conference brought together over a hundred scholars from around the world for three days of presentations, discussion, and networking. Panels included those that focused on historical accounts of girls' experiences through to those that explored questions about social media and the contemporary cultural landscape of girl cultures. A range of global perspectives was discussed; disciplines represented included psychology, education, development studies, sociology, cultural studies, media studies, history, and creative practice.

This special issue of *Girlhood Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* is a celebration of this landmark event that helped to consolidate girls' studies as an essential and vibrant field of academic inquiry. The contributors to this special issue have been invited to submit for peer review articles based on their presentations at this inaugural conference. These have been selected as representative of the scope of the papers that were presented. Emergent and established scholars offer a range of theoretical and methodological engagement with girlhood studies and evidence the global, historical, and disciplinary diversity of the field as well as offering some impression of the vitality and importance of academic discussions and research into girls and girl cultures.

Taking in an array of geographical, cultural, and historical perspectives, our contributors engage with questions about gender, race, class, bodies, cultures, spaces, and places. In the spirit of the conference, we see this special issue as a recognition of how far the field of girls' studies has come. We hope that it will provoke crucial conversations and debates about girls' cultures and girlhood on a global level as it celebrates the diversity and creativity of girls' cultures while making visible the systemic inequities that continue to perpetuate the risks to girls and maintain the precarious position of girls in the world.

Submissions to this special issue are by invitation only.

Dr Victoria Cann is a lecturer in the Humanities in the Interdisciplinary Institute for the Humanities at the University of East Anglia. Her research is located in the field of youth gender studies and she has published on topics ranging from girl culture to youth masculinities. She is now finishing her first monograph, *Girls Like This: Boys Like That* which is an empirical investigation into the reproduction of gender in youth taste cultures. Victoria, having co-founded community-group Day of the Girl Norwich, is passionate about promoting girls' rights and raising feminist consciousness in the community. She is one of the founding members of the International Girls Studies Association where she has sat as a steering committee member since 2011. Email: v.cann@uea.ac.uk

Dr Sarah Godfrey is a senior lecturer in the School of Art, Media and American Studies at the University of East Anglia. Her research interests focus broadly on questions of gender and culture, particularly in film and television. She is currently completing her first monograph, *Masculinities in British Cinema, 1990–2010* and is the co-editor (with Melanie Williams and Martin Fradley) of *Shane Meadows: Critical Essays* (2013). She has published on a range of topics including tween culture, new lad culture and the father-daughter relationship in post 9/11 film and television. Working alongside Victoria, Sarah is a co-founder of Day of the Girl Norwich and is dedicated to promoting girls' rights and voices in the community and in academia. She sits on the International Girl Studies Association committee. Email: s.godfrey@uea.ac.uk

Dr Helen Warner is a lecturer in Cultural Politics, Communications and Media Studies at the University of East Anglia. Her research interests include gender, production culture, fashion, costume, and celebrity culture. She is the author of *Fashion on TV* (2013) and editor, with Heather Savigny, of *The Politics of Being a Woman* (2014) and has published articles on craft, gender, celebrity, and fashion in *Media, Culture and Society*, *Journal of Popular Narrative Television*, *Feminist Media Histories*, and *Film, Fashion and Consumption*. Email: helen.warner@uea.ac.uk

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