



# GIRLHOOD STUDIES

## An Interdisciplinary Journal

Call for Papers

### Girls and Representations of Rape Culture

Guest Edited by Roxanne Harde

Although a contested term, rape culture generally denotes a society or environment whose prevailing social attitudes have the effect of normalizing or trivializing sexual assault and abuse. While this description seems straightforward, people nonetheless have difficulty in recognizing what rape culture is, what it is not, or where and how it operates. It is not, for example, only about rape, nor is it about criminalizing alternative or non-normative sexual practices. It is not about disempowering women and girls and criminalizing men. Recognizing rape culture means understanding that it informs sexual and social life and understanding that unless we change the way we think, act, and speak about females and about sexuality, nothing will change. But that sea-change may come about through the power of girls' agency and their ability to be political actors and reshape the societies in which they live.

This special issue of *Girlhood Studies* aims to offer a forum for examinations of girls and rape culture, with a particular emphasis on literary and visual representations. To that end, I invite articles that use a range of methodological approaches to analyze how girls and young women react to and against, are represented as part of, and are affected by rape culture. *Girlhood Studies* considers the terms girls and young women to be inclusive of all self-identifying girls and young women including non-binary, femme, two spirit, and gender non-conforming young people.

Articles may include textual studies, empirical research, case studies, artistic representations, or may be about theoretical or conceptual frameworks. In addition to conventional articles and visual essays, we will consider alternative contributions and material produced by girls and young women.

#### Contributors are invited to explore such topics as:

- Representations of slut-shaming as a phenomenon of rape culture in Young Adult (YA) literature including Indigenous literature
- Representations of rape culture and adolescent girls in fiction for adults (and/or YA fiction)
- Representations of girl-led activism against rape and rape culture
- Explorations of the politics of rape culture, including the judicial system and/or educational policy and how they affect girls
- How representations of girls in fiction and the media contribute to rape culture
- Representations of women's and girls' complicities with, or reifications of, rape culture in fiction or film
- Representations of the role of religion/s in rape culture as it affects girls
- Backlash against or rejection of the premise of rape culture, including the way in which organizations like the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) have denied that rape culture exists
- The intersections of gender, ethnicity, and/or race in rape culture and its representations
- Cultural production and the plethora of YA novels on rape culture: Who is writing them? Who is buying them? Who is reading them?
- Analyses linked to race, class, disability, and heteronormativity in relation to representations of rape culture in fiction and film

## Guest Editor:

This special issue will be guest edited by Roxanne Harde. Please direct enquiries to her at [rharde@ualberta.ca](mailto:rharde@ualberta.ca)

Roxanne Harde is Professor of English at the University of Alberta's Augustana Faculty, where she also serves as Associate Dean, Research. A Fulbright Scholar, Roxanne researches and teaches American literature and culture, focusing on children's literature, popular culture, women's writing, and Indigenous literature. Her most recent book, *The Embodied Child*, coedited with Lydia Kokkola, came out in 2017. She has published articles in many journals, including *The Lion and the Unicorn* (2011, 2019), *Girlhood Studies* (2017), *Women's Writing* (2008), *Jeunesse* (2009, 2020), and *IRCL* (2011), and chapters in more than twenty collections of essays. An award-winning teacher, Roxanne has presented teaching workshops in Canada and Europe, and has published several pedagogical essays.

## Abstract and Article Submission

Please direct inquiries and submit abstracts to Roxanne harde at [rharde@ualberta.ca](mailto:rharde@ualberta.ca)

Abstracts are due by **January 15, 2020**.  
Full manuscripts are due on **July 15, 2020**.

Authors should provide a cover page giving brief biographical details (up to 100 words), institutional affiliation(s) and full contact information, including an email address and an ORCID number.

Articles may be no longer than 6,500 words including the abstract (up to 150 words), keywords (6 to 8 in alphabetical order), notes, captions and tables, acknowledgements (if any), biographical details (taken from the cover page), and references. Images in a text count for 200 words each. *Girlhood Studies*, following Berghahn's preferred house style, uses a modified Chicago Style.

Please refer to the Style Guide:

[http://journals.berghahnbooks.com/\\_uploads/ghs/girlhood-studies\\_style\\_guide.pdf](http://journals.berghahnbooks.com/_uploads/ghs/girlhood-studies_style_guide.pdf)

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