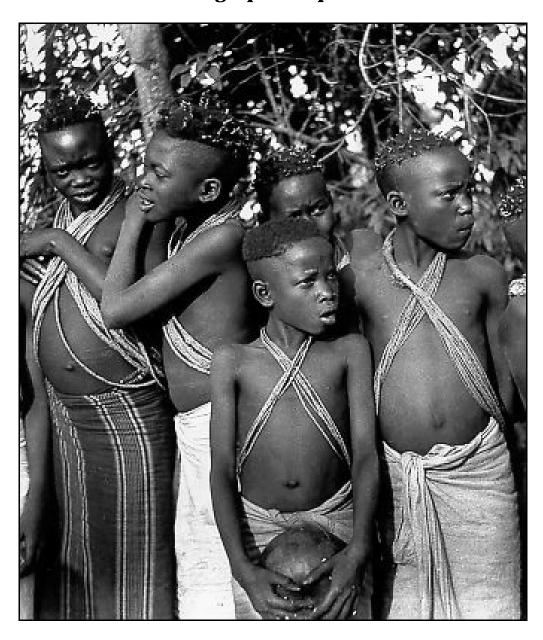
Girlhood Studies

A Bibliographic Exploration



Diederik F. Janssen, MD, BA June 2005. Last updated February 2006

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Illustration: Initiation into womanhood: Lobedu girls wearing grass bandoliers in the vyali plain initiation school. Copyright © 2001 Iziko Museums of Cape Town. Photo taken from Eileen and Jack Krige's 1943 The Realm of a Rain Queen. The photo was part of a 1996 GaModjadji exhibition and discussion with local people.

Compiler's Note

Over the past decades we have been witnessing a growing interest in the areas of developing, developmental, and emerging femininities. A number of monographs have specifically explored the field of (mostly late modern Occidental) girlhoods in the past year (Bettis & Adams, Eds., 2005; Mitchell & Reid-Walsh, Eds., 2005; Harris, Ed., 2004; cf. Aapola, Gonick & Harris, 2005). This bibliography has been made to explore the feasibility of a "Girlhood Studies" or "girl-child" approach as an emergent "field" of cultural, legal, anthropological, and sociological inquiry. Prospect of this exploration is the proposal of a new peer-reviewed journal that meets the growing legitimacy for such a concept, and that accommodates the interplay, and diversity, of research on girl-related matters.

I find that Claudia Mitchell et al. at a 1998 conference mused about a "Journal of Girlhood Studies: A Platform of Action", asking, "How might we all contribute and subscribe to this "symbolic" journal, where the editorial board would be made up of scholars from Childhood, Popular Culture, International Development and Literary Studies and many other areas - and which would, of course, include girls?" (quoted in a guest Editorial by Mitchell & Blaeser, 2000).

A concurrent project and bibliography [1] addressing "Boyhood Studies" has been generic for the present effort. A resulting 1,300+ item bibliography is freely available from the author, and from http://www.boyhoodstudies.com. I would say that girlhood studies has been a legitimate anchor/ window for feminist scholars at least since Marion de Ras and Mieke Lunenberg's 1993 *Girls, girlhood and girls' studies in transition.* From a territorialist perspective, this clearly predates a notion of "boyhood studies" (Pattman, Frosh & Phoenix, 1998; Sørensen, 1999) [2]. In any case they fit in nicely with "age studies" which Gullette (2000) dates, also, to 1993.

"Girlhood Studies" is an emerging international research area. The current status quo of "girlhood studies" as a field of inquiry allows the image of a nexus, niche, or intersection projected from "established" panoramic frames of endeavour such as "feminist studies", feminist pedagogy, queer pedagogy, and "gender studies" in general. Thus, toward the end of the previous century (pre)adolescent femininities have been elaborated within various interventionalist and normative paradigms (anti-"abuse", anti-"sexism", anti-"harassment",

¹ Janssen, D. F. (2005) *Boyhood Studies: A Bibliographic Exploration*. Nijmegen, June 2005. 1st edition. PDF. Updated routinely

² Referenced in ibid.

anti-"violence", anti-"underachievement") as well as within panacademic paradigms of embodiment, identity and self image, locality and positionality, power and participation, emancipation and actualization.

Researchers have begun examining how girl'hoods' are modelled, reproduced, reinvented, managed, negotiated, regulated, and articulated in terms of racialization, authenticity, multiplicity, hierarchies and hegemonies, transgression, and ritual. Ethnographers have issued the political interplay and performative tensions between private, public, and transcendental images, and performances, of girlhood.

Contributing to this variegated yet widely dispersed academic coverage of girls' lives would be a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal devoted to providing an interdisciplinary forum for the critical discussion of issues involving girls and girlhoods and for disseminating current reflections on girls' lives to a broad audience that includes scholars, practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and students. The Journal should bring together input from various angles from medicolegal praxis, ethnographic inquiry, and philosophical reflection to policy making and curriculum design.

I would stress in this Journal the importance of reflective, critical and international contributions to invite and orchestrate as broad a scope and dialogue as possible. Also, I would stress the thematic latitude of the matter: girls and schooling; girls within feminism; working with girls, girl-parenting, the psychoanalytic legacy; iconography; subcultures, locales, hangouts, and 'hoods; heterosexual, homosexual, lesbian, queer, tomboy, bad, heteronormative, homophobic, sexually abused, and 'sexualized' girls; girl circumcision; girls and/in cinema, media, performance arts, sports, and literature; folklore, ritual, and 'laws of the playground'; postsentimental, postpastoral, postindustrial, postnormative, and cyber-girlhoods.

The Journal would accommodate critical girl-related research from a large transdisciplinary, transmethodic, transthematic, and international range of perspectives, including sociology, contemporary ethnography and ethnology, history and historiography, culture studies, literature studies, media studies, ethno/auto/biography and memoir studies, (cyber-) pedagogy, clinical and community health care, developmental sexology, developmental psychology, folklore, (ethno-) psychoanalysis, and philosophy of education.

This bibliography was compiled on the basis of efforts in the context of an ongoing reviewing project "Growing Up Sexually" [3], more specifically the third Volume of the project's "Corpus" (Janssen, 2005, 2nd ed.) and its listserv [4] running for over two years, and recently aggregated as a fourth Volume of the Corpus. This has meant A LOT of copypasting. Some references were had using bibliographic software applied to compiler's

³ Website: http://www.growingupsexually.tk

⁴ Full archive: http://lists.topica.com/lists/growingupsexually/read

reference database. Naturally I have not busied myself with formal uniformalization of the references of any kind, I leave this to the user.

In this bibliography I have been moderate on psychoanalytic contributions. This is actually an entire world of references on its own. I have focussed on contemporary social scientific materials. The bibliography also holds back on non-Western data, which is comprehensively referenced in Janssen (2003, I, II, 2005, all web-available). Also absent is biomedically centred material. This bibliography has benefited from previous bibliographic efforts (e.g., *ibid.*), and sections of Michael Flood's royal *Men's Bibliography: A comprehensive bibliography of writing on men, masculinities, gender, and sexualities.* I haste to add that exhaustiveness was not among the issues. We think that the bibliography, with over 900 entries, does provide a raison d'être for a *Journal* launch.

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