

## Special Issue – Beyond Bedroom Culture: Representations of the Girlhood Experience in the Public Sphere, from 1955-1974

Angela McRobbie (1991) discussed the concept of 'bedroom culture' in her feminist analyses of girlhood. The teenage girl's bedroom was seen as a space for creativity and the articulation of identity. McRobbie criticised the subcultural research of the Birmingham Centre for Cultural Studies for its focus on young men and its dismissal of female teenage experiences. She suggested that the academics at the Centre saw girls as either being limited by parental control or else by their own desire to engage with, rather than resist, mass media culture such as pop music and fashion and to participate in the growing climate of consumerism.

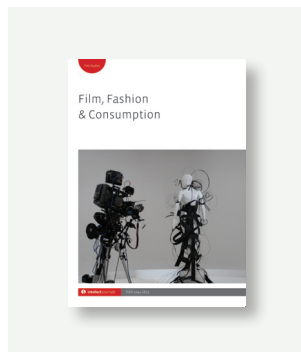
Contemporary studies of girlhood, however, reveal that girls display creative responses to contemporary media in virtual public spheres such as the internet and social media. Sian Lincoln (2012), for instance, developed the concept of 'the bedroom' into particular zones where different activities took place. There is now a growing academic interest in girls' particular responses to social media within contemporary culture.

However, this female creativity and expression of identity could be found in earlier eras when girls entered the public sphere. This issue examines the experiences and the imagined lived experiences of girls, from 1955–74, through their encounters with the public, rather than the domestic, sphere. It looks at their representation in film, on television and in the media.

In keeping with the remit of the journal, this CFP is interested in papers that examine female fashion and consumption, or particular representations of girls on film and on television that articulate perceived female experience in this era.

Potential topics may be (but are not limited to) any of the following:

- **Fashion and Style:** how did girls develop their style in the regions for instance, compared with London and larger conurbations?
- **Style leaders and their impact on young girls:** this could be regional, local or national/global (e.g. Mary Quant, Twiggy, Barbara Hulanicki, Cathy McGowan, Jane Birkin, Jean Shrimpton).
- **Resistance to style:** girls in subcultures (interviews, archives, recollections on social media, DIY culture, fashion, representations on film for example) including:
  - Teddy Girls
  - Soul Girls
  - Mods
  - Dancing and 'going out'
  - Rockers
  - Sports Subcultures –
  - Rude (Girls) eg: surfing, lifestyle
  - Rockabilly and action sports,
  - Skinheads football, cricket
- **Participation in subcultures and transgressive behaviour:** drug taking, alcohol consumption, all night partying, fighting, pre-marital sex, the pill, abortion, enforced adoptions, early marriage or representations of these.
- **Relationships with parents and peers**




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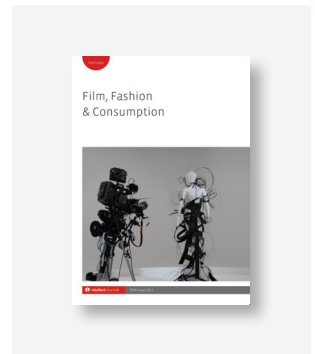
- **Race, ethnicity and subcultures:** what was the girlhood experience within new immigrant communities with the influx of Jamaican, Asian and Eastern European peoples? How and why did these girls create their own style?
- **Creation:** creating products connected with subcultures, for instance, jewellery, hair styles, fashion design, producing music, zines.
- **Fandoms:**
  - Comics, film, magazines and television fandoms
  - Radio fandom (pirate radio, Radio 1)
  - Local scenes and artists
  - Music Fandoms, including rock and roll, ska and reggae, soul, R&B, Glamrock, 'Prog rock'

Send abstracts of 500 words to [k.l.milestone@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:k.l.milestone@mmu.ac.uk) and [joanormrod@gmail.com](mailto:joanormrod@gmail.com) by **December 31st 2021**. You may also email us with a proposal.

#### Readings:

Lincoln, S. (2012). *Youth Culture and Private Space*. Palgrave Macmillan.

McRobbie, A. (1991). "Jackie" Magazine: Romantic Individualism and the Teenage Girl. In A. McRobbie (Ed.), *Feminism and Youth Culture: From 'Jackie' to 'Just Seventeen'* (pp. 81–134). Palgrave London.




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