Becoming Girl
Collective Biography and the Production of Girlhood

_Becoming Girl_ interrogates the everyday of girlhood through the collaborative feminist methodology of collective biography. Located within the emergent interdisciplinary field of girlhood studies, this scholarly collection demonstrates how memories can be used to investigate the ways in which girlhood is culturally, historically, and socially constructed. Narrative vignettes of memory are produced and collaboratively investigated to explore relations of power, longing, and belonging, and to critically examine the ways in which girlhood is constituted. These are snapshot moments that, when analyzed, expose the social, embodied, and affective processes of “becoming girl,” making them visible in new ways. Incorporating the concepts of Gilles Deleuze, Judith Butler, and Michel Foucault, the authors investigate the relations between popular culture, sexuality, difference, literacy, family photographs, and trauma. Bringing together international and interdisciplinary girlhood scholars, this volume provides an innovative, inclusive, and collaborative method for understanding the relationship between the individual and the collective.

Author Information

Marnina Gonick

Marnina Gonick is Canada Research Chair in Gender at Mount Saint Vincent University. She is the author of Between Femininities: Identity, Ambivalence and the Education of Girls (2003) and co-author of Young Femininity: Girlhood, Power and Social Change (2004).

Susanne Gannon

Susanne Gannon is Associate Professor of Education at the University of Western Sydney, Australia. She is co-author of Place Pedagogy Change (2011) and Doing Collective Biography (2006).

Reviews

_Becoming Girl_ reorients and reimagines what it means to research the girl in girlhood studies through an innovative theoretical engagement with the collective biography method. This is a powerful collection that opens up the methodological imagination of what (else) feminist qualitative inquiry can do. Read this collection and become entangled with your own girling memories.— Emma Renold, Cardiff University, author of _Girls, Boys and Junior Sexualities_ (2005); _Children, Sexuality and the Sexualisation of Culture_ (2014); and co-author of _Stolen Becomings: Girls, Desire, and Sexuality_ (forthcoming)._Becoming Girl_offers the first comprehensive account of the usefulness of collective biography for feminist research and its particular importance for girlhood studies. Across this set of insightful essays, collective biography emerges as a method with new potential for understanding what girlhood means to women and to girls, as an individual and collective experience and as a historical and contemporary representation.— _Catherine Driscoll, University of Sydney, author of_ The Australian Country Girl: History, Image, Experience (2014); _Teen Film: A Critical Introduction_ (2011); _Moderist Cultural Studies_ (2010); and _Girls: Feminine Adolescence in Popular Culture and Cultural Theory_ (2002).

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256 pages
6 x 9 inches
August 2014
ISBN: 9780889615137

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