



McGill Institute  
for Gender, Sexuality,  
and Feminist Studies

Institut Genre,  
sexualité  
et féminisme

**The McGill Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies  
presents a seminar by:**

**Elizabeth Bullen**

Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia  
IGSF Visiting Scholar

**Love and other Catastrophes:**

**Girls, erotic capital and the young adult novel as pedagogy**

The postfeminist generation of adolescent girls is growing up in a society in which the commodification of female sexuality is continually intensifying; so, too, are public and parental anxieties about the sexualization of girls. Between the competing, often contradictory messages that girls receive from their parents and peers, their teachers and the media, little attention has been paid to the pedagogical role of fiction in educating them about their sexuality. Given the pronounced increase in the popularity of sexually explicit and eroticized fiction for girls over the past decade, this is a significant oversight. This paper, representing preliminary research towards a proposed Australian Research Council project, applies Catherine Hakim's concept of erotic capital to three Canadian young adult novels for girls. Its aim is to test whether the elements of erotic capital – according to Hakim (2010), an asset additional to economic, cultural and social capital – can be used to deconstruct the lessons these novels teach about how girls should negotiate their developing sexuality.

**Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 3:00 PM**

**Place: IGSF Seminar Room  
3487 Peel, 2nd floor**

*Registration is encouraged:*  
**514-398-3911 or [info.igsf@mcgill.ca](mailto:info.igsf@mcgill.ca)**



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