



Girls' and Young Women's Lives in the Time of Covid-19

To take the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on girls and young women into account, we are making space in the next issue of *Girlhood Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 13 (3), to be submitted to our publishers at the end of September 2020, for contributions responding to this special call. Since time is very short, we invite 300-word proposals by 30 May 2020. We will respond to all proposals by 05 June. Those whose proposals are selected will have until 10 July to submit the full article.

As with Zika, Ebola, and HIV and AIDS and other pandemics in recent history, girls and young women are particularly vulnerable socially if not medically. Some observers have referred to the current Covid-19 crisis as a “tale of two pandemics” in reference to both to the obvious health issues and the pervasive gender inequalities that have become exacerbated.

We see the negative impact that physical distancing and social isolation is having on already vulnerable girls and young women experiencing sex- and gender-based violence (SGBV). All over the world they are facing increasing levels of precariousness as a direct result of the health measures being taken to curb the global transmission of COVID-19. The increasing lack of privacy in the home furthers the practice of cultural forms of patriarchy significant to SGBV.

Local and international NGOs, government ministries, and researchers are developing emergency SGBV responses during this time of physical distancing, but we must tread carefully and thoughtfully in our response to what has become the new normal. Working to combat SGBV could, at least potentially, do more harm than good as we work to uncover the experiences of girls and young women in social isolation and lockdown situations. The high rates of intimate partner violence and child abuse behind closed doors means that face-to-face as well as remote technology-driven and text-based investigative programming carried out by NGOs are proving to be problematic.

Another critical component in a time of physical distancing, lockdowns, and social isolation is that vulnerable girls and young women are unable to access support services (like girls' clubs, gender clubs, hotlines, and supportive programming) that might otherwise be in place.

But there is also the situation of post-Covid-19.

- What will the world look like and what are the implications for girls and young women?
- What have we learned from previous pandemics that might be useful as we consider a post-Covid-19 world?
- Are there new ethical issues that should be taken into consideration?

There is concern on the part of many International NGOs working on girls' education and on broader issues of gender equity that many of the gains over the last few years will be lost. Clearly, the dramatic economic downturn globally will affect financial support for many of the programs in place. There is also the worry that less progressive agendas will have a deleterious impact on programs supporting girls and young women.

We invite articles, visual essays, or reports on any of the above issues or others that you consider relevant. In recognition of the difficulty of doing traditional fieldwork at this time, we invite contributors to be creative in approaching this work.

Proposal and Article Submission

Proposals (300 words) are due by 30 May 2020. Inquiries and proposals should be sent to claudia.mitchell@mcgill.ca

Full manuscripts are due by 10 July 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.

Articles may be no longer than 6,500 words including the abstract (up to 125 words), keywords (6 to 8 in alphabetical order), notes, captions and tables, acknowledgements (if any), biographical details (taken from the cover page and not exceeding 100 words), 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 on the website:

http://journals.berghahnbooks.com/_uploads/ghs/girlhood-studies_style_guide.pdf

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