GENDER CONSTRUCTION THROUGH ADOLESCENT Sexting

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THESIS:

Sexting is a behavior that is a result of male and female adolescents trying to adopt masculine and feminine characteristics, which are created by our cultural definitions of gender.
What is “Sexting”?  

• “Sex” + “Texting” = Sexting  
  - Sending & Receiving (Comartin, Kernsmith, & Kernsmith, 2013)  
  - Focus on adolescents (ages 12–17)  

• Harmful effects  
  - Cyberbullying etc. (Dir, Coskunpinar, Steiner, & Cyders, 2013)  
  - Child pornography (Hasinoff, 2013)  

• Frequency (Angelides, 2013; Dir et. al., 2013; Temple et. al., 2012)
SOCIALIZED INTO A GENDERED SOCIETY

- **Women:** appearance & relationships
- **Men:** accomplishment & entertainment
- **Women as passive – men as active** (Wood, 2013)
  - Boys request & initiate (Walter, Sanci, & Temple-Smith, 2012)
  - Girls experience pressure to respond
Girls Feeling Pressure

- Faced with tough decision
  - Sexual double standard (Walker et al., 2012)
  - Virgin/whore paradox (Wood, 2013)

- Cultural pressures to please male peers, yet uphold idea of “good girl.”
**Boys Feeling Pressure**

- **From girls** *(Sex and tech, 2008)*

- **From other males**
  - Be masculine
  - Be sexual
  - E.g., pornography *(Hasinoff, 2013)*
**BIOLOGICAL ARGUMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biological</th>
<th>Gender Roles</th>
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<td>Biological factors have greater influence on adolescents' sexting decisions</td>
<td>Culturally constructed gender roles have a greater influence (Wood, 2013)</td>
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<td>The adolescent brain</td>
<td>“Sexting is not a gender-neutral activity, but is in fact influenced by gender dynamics” (Walker et al., 2012, p. 700)</td>
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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Parent-child communication  (Teens and Sexting, 2012)

- Gender education
REFERENCES


REF ERENCES CONTINUED


