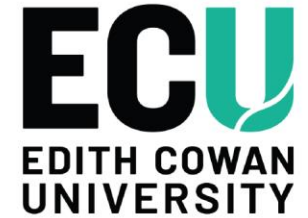


Youth, Pornography & Contextual Prevention Forum



FROM DEVICES TO RELATIONSHIPS: PREVENTION IN ACTION

Supporting educators, practitioners and communities to respond thoughtfully to the realities young people navigate online.

The **Daniel Morcombe Foundation** is proud to co-host this National Forum with **Edith Cowan University**

25 JUNE – BRISBANE AIRPORT CONFERENCE CENTRE - BRISBANE

It is our honour to invite
Refiti Tovi, a Traditional
Custodian of the Turrbal
people, to deliver the
Welcome to Country



Artwork by **Professor Helen Milroy**
The first Indigenous Australian to become a medical doctor

Introduction



**Bruce Morcombe OAM and
Denise Morcombe OAM**

Daniel Morcombe Foundation
Founders



Beth McNamara

National Education Manager
Daniel Morcombe Foundation



Dr Giselle Woodley

Lecturer in Arts and Media
Edith Cowan University

Participant Wellbeing & Support

Some discussions throughout the forum may feel challenging or emotionally activating.

Please take care of yourself and access the supports available throughout the day if needed.

ONLINE

- Glenys Gibson - **Therapist Mobile: 0493 445 493**
- Links to meditations and support resources

IN PERSON

- Wellbeing Room: Narita Room
- Glenys Gibson - **Therapist Mobile: 0493 445 493**

Additional Support Services

- **Stop Australia** – 1800 385 578 | Rainbow Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence Helpline | 24/7
- **1800RESPECT** – 1800 737 732 | National sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling service
- **Bravehearts Information & Support Line** – 1800 272 831 | Support and information relating to child sexual abuse

Join the Conversation with Slido



Go to www.slido.com



Enter code: **#1116545**



Ask questions live

Keynote Speaker - United Kingdom

Dr Sophie King-Hill

Associate Professor in the Health Services Management Centre at the School of Social Policy and Society, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Sophie specialises in sexual behaviours and assessment in children and young people, sexual health, sibling sexual behaviour and abuse, masculinity, relationships and sex education and the importance of youth voice. Much of her work is cross-sector, cross-disciplinary and centred around participatory and co-design approaches with young people.



The Pornography Paradox

Dr Sophie King-Hill



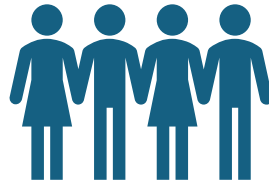
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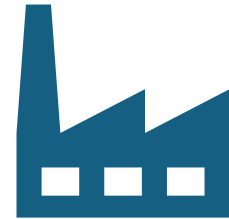
Who I am and what I do...



Associate Professor at
UoB



Policy Fellow: UK
government



Background in the third
sector.

My Research...

Evaluation of the Brook
Traffic Light Tool

Developed CSE Secondary
Prevention Frameworks
and Tools for ECPAT for the
private sector.
Online/Offline YP/Adults

Feasibility Study Local
Authority UK.
Links between DA and
HSB.

LFF IYP Process
evaluation: Young people
who accessed CSAM
online

NSPCC: Feasibility study
on working with YP with
problematic sexual
behaviours

Home Office / ESRC /
NOTA Sibling sexual abuse
mapping tool pilot study

Euniwell European grant –
Researcher and
practitioner wellbeing
when studying sensitive
topics

Voice of Boys in sexual
harassment - We're in this
together project

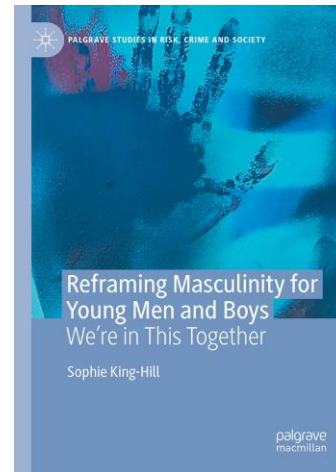
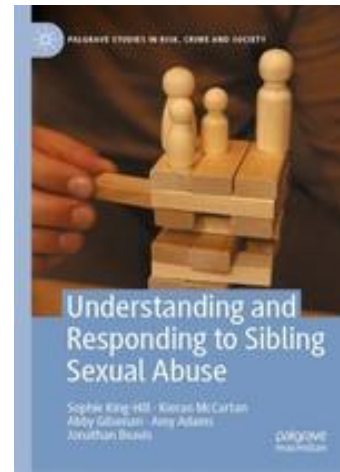
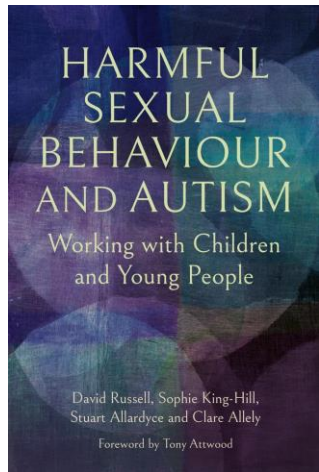
The importance of
listening to youth voice -
Graffiti Project

Period Poverty and Sexual
Health: Sierra Leone and
Illinois

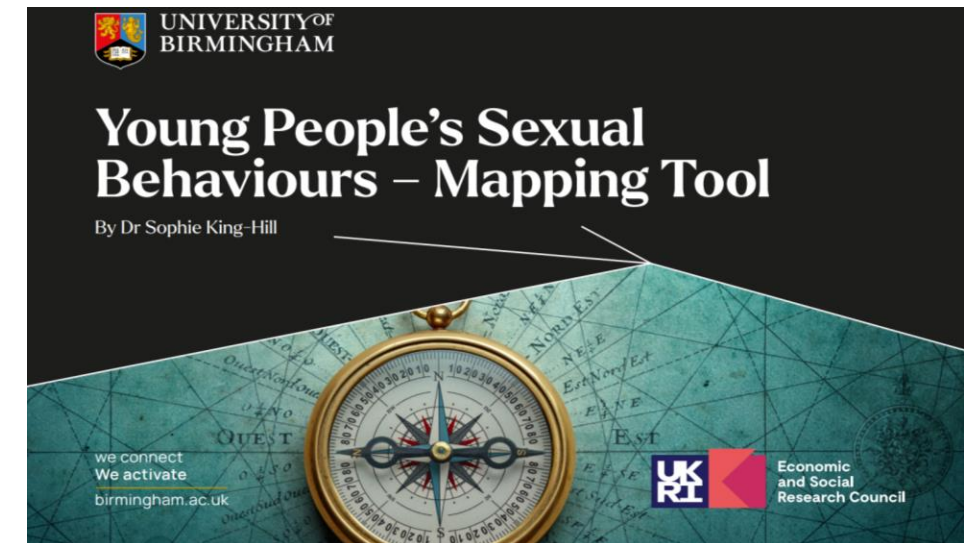
Incel project

Sexual behaviours in
children and young people
aged 13-18 years old

RSE Co-design resource



Books and Resources



What is pornography?

Dictionary: books, magazines, and films that are designed to cause sexual excitement by showing or describing sexual acts.

The word: comprised of two Greek words, 'porneia' and 'graphe.'

Porneia = sexual immorality or promiscuity of any kind.

Graphe = writings.

Therefore = writings of sexual immorality

Porn = Not universal and has wide meanings, acts and mediums



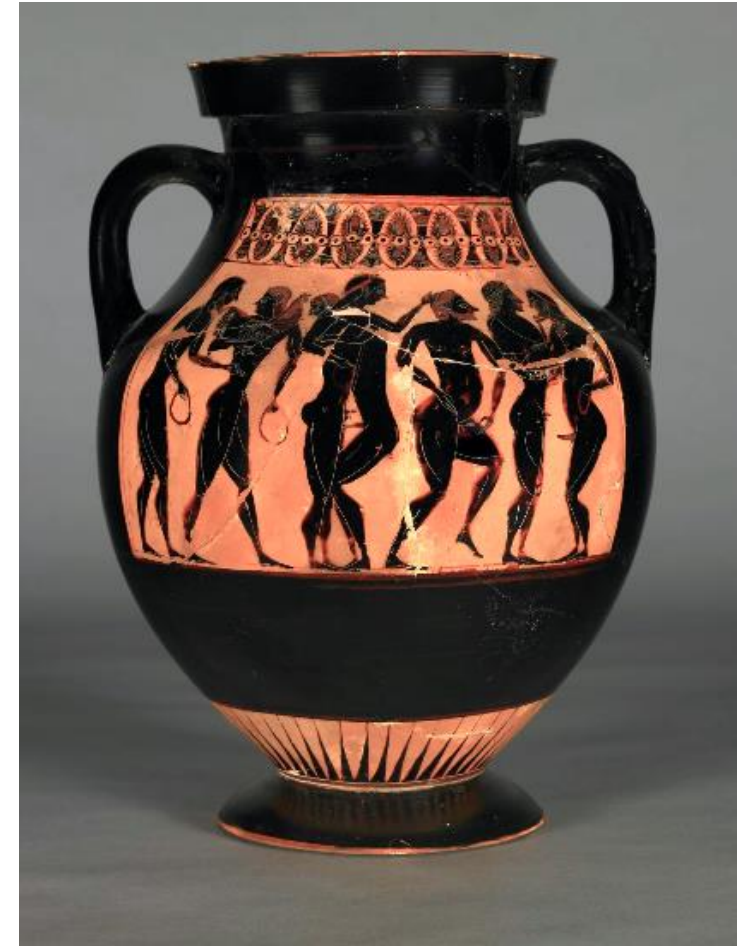
The Pornography Paradox

- Pornography is pervasive, yet it remains largely silenced, stigmatised.
- Widely consumed but it is absent from meaningful education or open discussion.
- Highly accessible and used, yet rarely openly discussed
- Associated with pleasure and curiosity, but also shame and stigma
- Influential in shaping expectations, but mostly excluded from formal consent and relationship education
- It creates pleasure and also shame simultaneously.
- Porn is everywhere – but no one talks about it



History of Pornography: Not a new phenomenon

- Difficult to pin down due to differing contexts.
- Pornography became a powerful vehicle for social and political protest.
- Exploring daring ideas that were condemned by both church and state, including sexual freedom for women as well as for men.
- In Britain in 1837, there were more than 50 pornographic shops on Booksellers' Row in London.
- Pornographic films were available from the 1920s and had a massive upsurge in the 1960s.
- The development of video cassettes in the 1980s and DVDs in the 1990s enabled the wide distribution of pornographic films and could be viewed in private.
- Pornographic images and films became even more widely available with the emergence of the Internet in the 1990s.



The increase in pornography access

- 130 million daily visits to one major site (2023)
- 42 billion annual visits (across recent years)
- 2.1 billion people globally access online pornography
- 1 million people online every minute watching pornography
- 97–100+ billion USD global industry
- Porn accounts for 13–27% of internet traffic (estimates vary)
- 70–80% of access is via mobile
- In the UK 70% of young people report seeing porn before 18 (2025) , 27% by age 11; some as young as 6
- A large proportion of exposure to young people is unintentional



**Like It
Or Not
I'm Here
To Stay**



Porn is Not Going Away

SOX

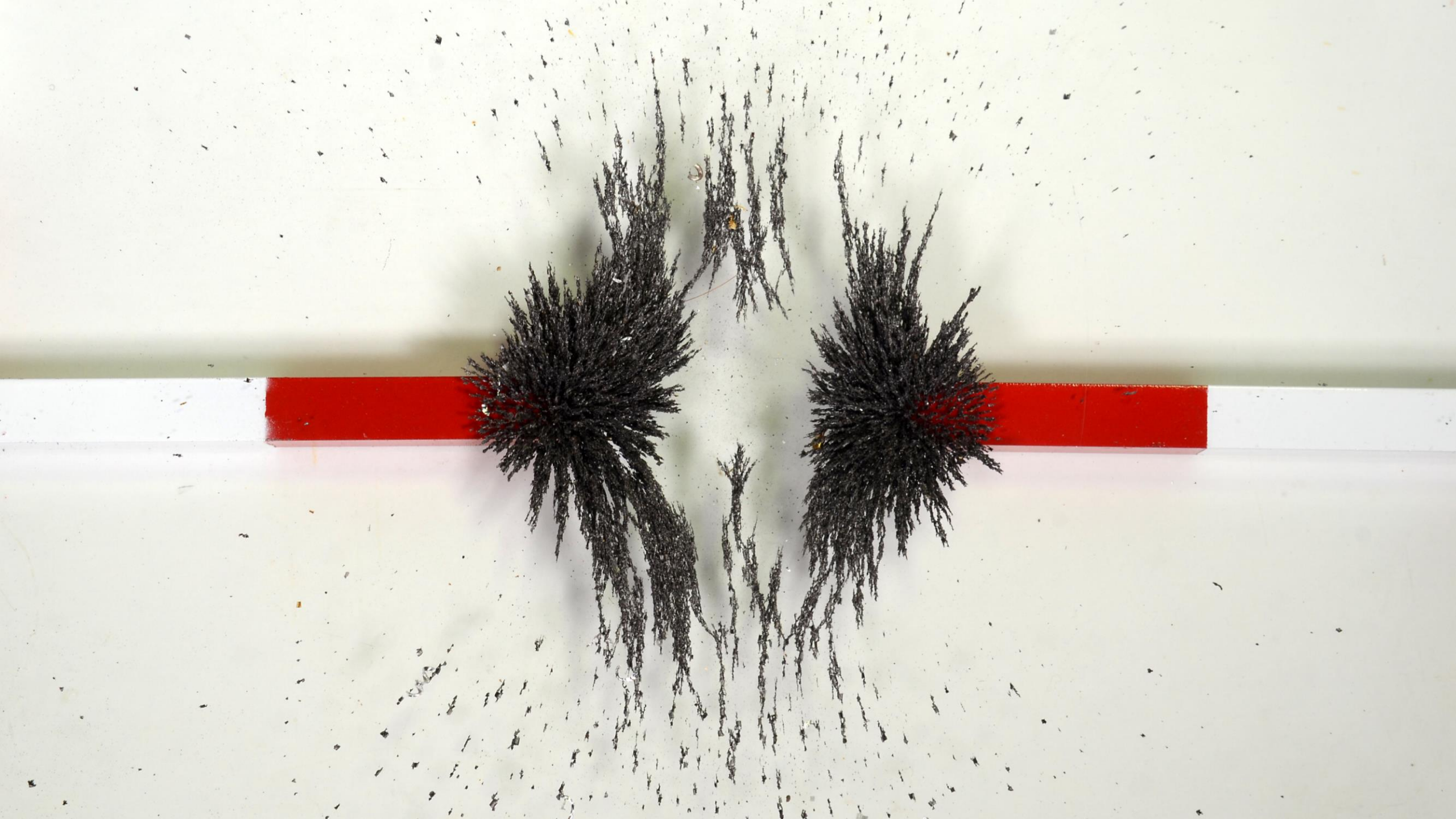






SHAME





Why is there a concern about young people?

- **Mutual exclusivity of sex and young people**
- **Deficit thinking**
- **Fear of social change**
- **Protection narratives**
- **Simplification of complex issues**
- **Loss of control in the digital age**
- **Young people as symbolic risk**





Pornography... Why the issue?

Religious beliefs

Sex viewed as appropriate only within marriage → porn seen as sinful

Social norms & decency

Explicit material considered offensive and a threat to moral order

Objectification concerns

Seen as reducing people to bodies or sexual objects

Gender inequality

Critiqued for reinforcing harmful stereotypes and power imbalances

Fear of social harm

Linked to concerns about damaging relationships and family values



Women & Sexual Pleasure: Paradoxical viewpoints



Critical View (Objectification / Harm)	Alternative View (Agency / Empowerment)
Porn reduces women to sexual objects	Porn can depict sexual agency and empowerment
Women's pleasure is portrayed through a male-centred lens	Some content centres women's desire and autonomy
Unrealistic portrayals of women's bodies and responses	Can open space for diverse expressions of pleasure
Reinforces harmful stereotypes and expectations	Can challenge norms and expand representations
Porn is exploitative and harmful	Porn can be a site of expression, autonomy and choice

Desensitisation...

- Professionals also desensitised – what is normal now?
- Are we becoming immune to identifying CSA and violence – we are normalising the behaviours?
- Glamourisation of sexual violence – other person responding with pleasure
- Porn can be addictive – crave more and escalate – obscure categories – dopamine fix
- CSA imagery makes it way to porn streaming sites
- No contraception/STIs
- Escalation of violence
- Gendered heteronormative roles.



What Is Harm?

Simple vs complex perspectives

Simplistic view

- Porn = harm
- Exposure leads to damage
- Young people are passive

Complex Reality

- Harm is not automatic
- Harm depends on:
 - Context
 - Content
 - Age & development
 - Interpretation
 - What they are viewing
 - How much they are accessing it

Examples of harm

- Distorted views of consent & relationships
- Reinforcement of gender inequality
- Pressure, shame or confusion
- Desensitisation to aggression or exploitation
- Impact on expectations and behaviour

However:

Research tells us that, in the main, this is not down to porn alone but a complex number of social factors

Why Moral Panic Doesn't Work

Porn ≠ sole cause of harm

Shame shuts down discussion

Oversimplifies complex social issue



Case Study: Research on young men and boys...

- Grievance
- Hegemonic, precarious masculinity
- The conflict between the internal and external self
- Hopelessness and worthlessness



What Is Driving These Outcomes?

- **Precarious masculinity:** pressure to perform strength, dominance
- **Internal vs external conflict:** boys suppress vulnerability to fit expectations
- **Blame & lack of voice:** boys feel unheard and positioned as the problem
- **Lack of support spaces:** limited safe discussion of sex, identity, emotions
- **Mental health strain:** failure to meet ideals = hopelessness, worthlessness
- Lack of dialogue around boys and consent

These themes are rooted in social norms, masculinity, and lack of support, not one single factor.



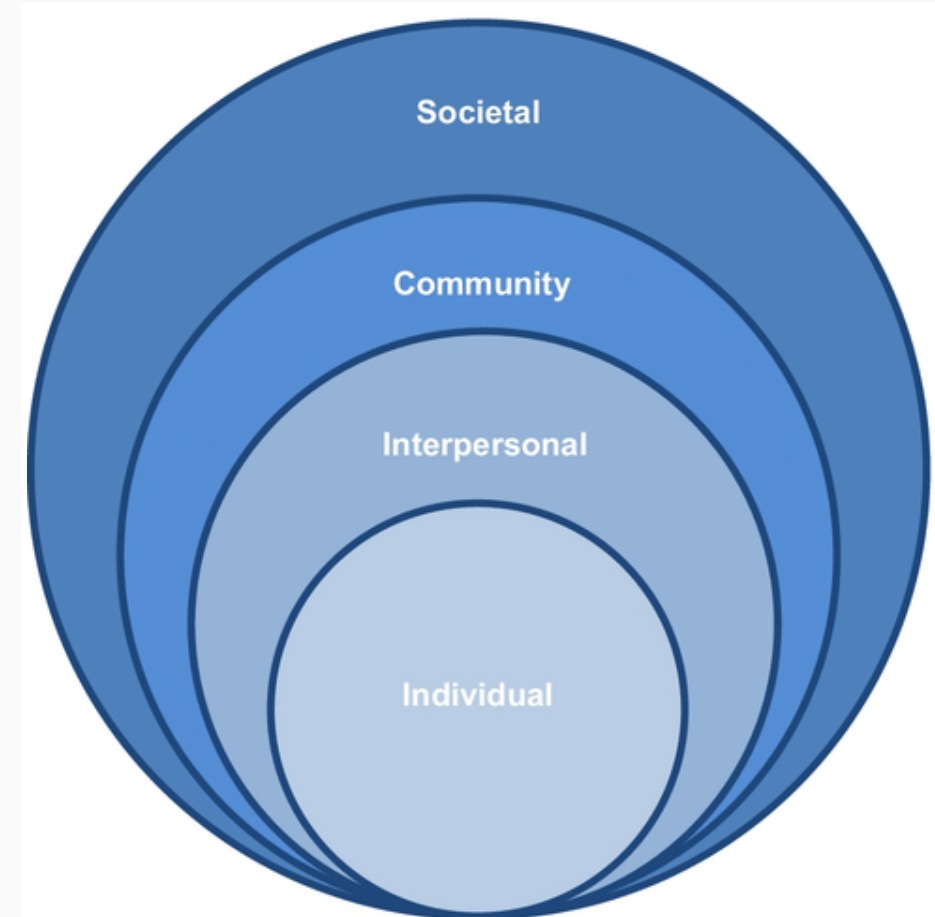
[illegible]

- **Porn can be one factor in a complex context**
- **Interacts with peer culture, media and gender norms**
- **Pornography can amplify existing issues; it does not create them alone.**

The Socio-Ecological Model: A Holistic Framework

- **Individual:** Development, mental health and personal experiences shaping how young people engage with pornography, including feelings of curiosity, pleasure and shame, and often holding contradictory understandings.
- **Interpersonal:** Family and peer influences shaping exposure to porn and norms around it, including communication about consent and tensions between shared practices and stigma.
- **Community:** Schools, education and youth services shaping how pornography is addressed, including spaces where young people navigate mixed messages, support and judgement.
- **Societal:** Media, culture and law shaping access to porn and wider sexual norms, often producing contradictions around acceptability, gender expectations, and moral discourse.

- McCartan and King-Hill (2025), Russel, McCartan and King-Hill, (2026)



The Changing Landscape: Digital Pornography

- Pervasive and algorithm driven
- Encountered intentionally and unintentionally
- Embedded in peer and digital culture
- Often fills gaps in sex education



Harmful Pornography: Case Study (step-siblings)

Normalisation of boundary violations

Sexualised family roles (e.g. step-sibling themes) can blur social and relational boundaries, particularly for younger audiences

Trivialisation of harm

Complex and serious issues (e.g. intra-familial abuse) are reframed as fantasy or entertainment

Impact on attitudes and expectations

May contribute to desensitisation and confusion about appropriate relationships, consent and power dynamics

The dangers of demonising of pornography

- **Oversimplifies a complex issue**
Treating all pornography as harmful ignores differences in content, context and individual experiences
- **Shuts down open discussion**
Moral panic can prevent honest conversations about sex, consent, pleasure and media literacy
- **Misses opportunities for harm reduction**
Focus on condemnation rather than education can limit development of critical understanding and safer engagement



Pleasure, Shame & Contradiction

Simultaneous curiosity,
pleasure and guilt & shame

Lack of safe spaces to discuss

Secrecy increases confusion

Shame limits critical reflection

What Helps

Open, non-judgemental
discussion

Digital & media literacy

Focus on consent,
communication, intimacy

Treat young people as agents,
not just risks

Young People's Voices

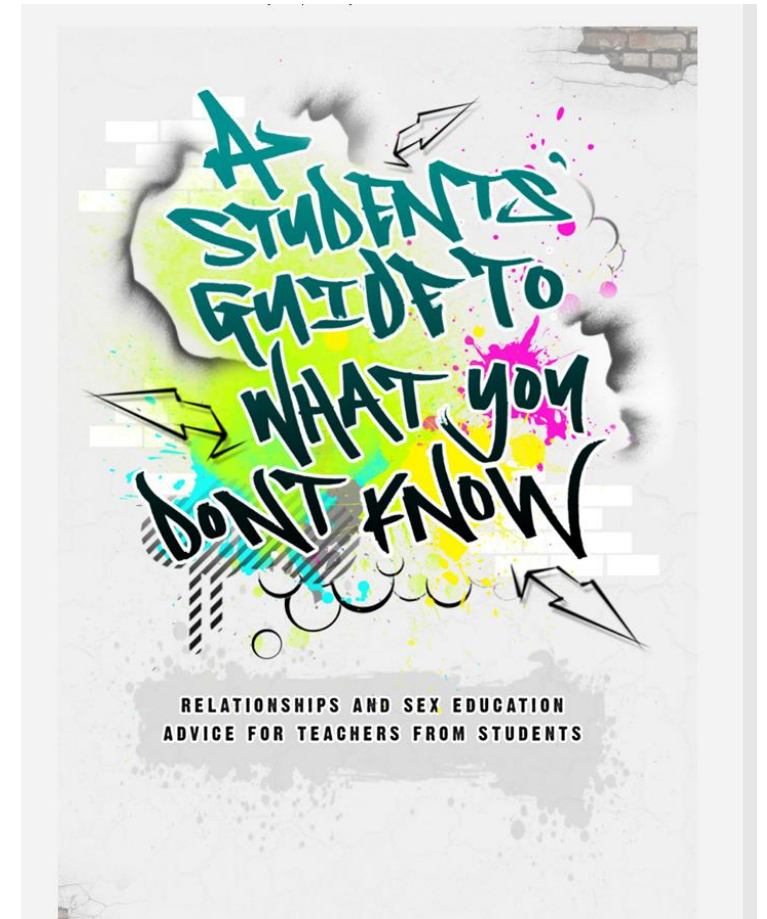
Young people consistently tell us we are teaching them things that they already know.

Let young people guide us with what they need

Young people are the experts in the world that they live in today

Young people live their lives seamlessly online and offline

We need to start listening



Create safe
spaces and
opportunities
for critical
thinking



Reframing our approach to pornography and young people

Frames shape interpretation

Reframing changes perspective

Pornography and young people as a frame

Negative framing has consequences:

Reframing promotes conscious thinking



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For today,
remember...

This is an emotive and complex issue

People have strong views and strong reactions

Often framed through fear and blame

But...

Young people are already navigating this

The conversation is happening, with or without us

We are all here because we want to protect and safeguard young people.

Why This Conversation Matters

- This is not going away
- Silence creates risk, shame, and misinformation
- Avoiding it or being combative does not protect young people

We need to:

- Sit with discomfort and have a pragmatic approach
- Be guided by research
- Listen to young people
- Have honest, open and evidence led conversations

My Resources Hub

birmingham.ac.uk/research/projects/reducing-harm

- The Young People's Sexual Behaviours Mapping Tool
- Siblings Sexual Behaviour Mapping Tool
- The Well-being toolkit
- A Student's Guide to What You Don't Know
- We're in this together: Reframing masculinity for young men and boys
- From Shame to Celebration: Period poverty and sexual health in Sierra Leone



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The Young People's Sexual Behaviours Mapping Tool (YPSB-MT) is a comprehensive, evidence-informed resource designed to support professionals in responding to concerns about sexual behaviours in young people aged 13-18.

[Find out more about the tool →](#)

Siblings Sexual Behaviour Mapping Tool

A professional mapping resource for frontline social workers to bolster practitioner confidence and planning, and in turn the quality of support available to children and families affected by siblings sexual behaviour.

[Visit the mapping resource →](#)



The Well-being toolkit

Films and social media threads containing potentially distressing material often begin with a trigger warning. However, the use of such warnings in research and teaching contexts is controversial.

This toolkit introduces a number of measures which can improve the well-being of academic staff and students who are confronted with sensitive issues.

[View the Toolkit →](#)

A Student's Guide to What You Don't Know

A participatory and co-design project that captured the voices of young people - to inform and steer adults in the design of sex and relationships sessions.

[View the students guide →](#)



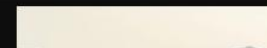
We're in this together: Reframing masculinity for young men and boys

Across homes, education and youth settings and diverse communities, many boys today are grappling with how masculinity is defined and expressed.

This resource is for anyone who supports boys and young men and boys. It offers insight into the daily challenges young men and boys may face and why, and provides practical ways to support their emotional development and sense of identity.

[View the resource →](#)

From Shame to Celebration:



Thank you for listening

TikTok @DrSophiekinghill

Insta @Drsophiekinghill

Linkedin





Morning Tea

COMING UP: Panel One: Impact of, and Perspectives on Pornography

Content Advisory

This panel may include discussion of:

- **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)**
- **Sexual and Gender-based violence**
- **Coercive control**
- **Online harms and abuse**

Some audience members may find these topics distressing or emotionally activating. Please take care of yourself and access support or step out at any time to the quiet room if needed.

We encourage respectful, thoughtful engagement throughout the discussion.

Impact of, and Perspectives on Pornography



Chaired by:

Prof Dale Tolliday

Senior Clinical
Advisor at The
Sydney Children's
Hospitals Network



Speaker:

Maree Crabbe

Director
It's Time We Talked



Speaker:

Dr Sarah Napier

Research Manager
Australian Institute of
Criminology



Speaker:

Elle Thielke

PhD Candidate
Edith Cowan
University



Speaker:

Dr Robyn Vertongen

Senior Lecturer and
Clinical Psychologist
Massey University

Participation Activity – In Person Table Discussion (30 mins)

**Instructions and stimulus reading extracts
are on your table**

Challenges (10 mins)

- Discuss and record key challenges.

Opportunities & Solutions (10 mins)

- Discuss and record opportunities and solutions and next steps.

Your ideas will be displayed around the room for ongoing input and discussion.

Keep the conversation going!

Add further thoughts on Post-it notes throughout the day.

Online participants please use the Padlet links provided by email or in the chat to contribute to the conversation.



Lunch

COMING UP: Panel Two: Education and Prevention Approaches

Education & Prevention Approaches



Chaired by:

Dr Sian Tomkinson

Research Officer
Edith Cowan
University



Speaker:

Leon Huxtable

Schools & Community
Educator
Sexual Health Victoria



Speaker:

Renee West

Leader, Curriculum
Initiatives K-12,
NSW Department
of Education



Speaker:

Dr Giselle Woodley

Lecturer/ Research
Fellow
Edith Cowan
University



Speaker:

Marc Zen

PhD Candidate
Curtin University



Audience Q & A

① The Slido app must be installed on every computer you're presenting from

slido

A glass teapot and cups of tea with fruit slices. The background is a blurred image of a glass teapot and two cups of tea. The teapot is on the left, and the cups are on the right. The tea is a deep red color. There are slices of citrus fruit, possibly blood orange, floating in the tea. The overall atmosphere is warm and inviting.

Afternoon Tea

COMING UP: Panel Three: Regulation, Technology and Safeguards

Regulation, Technology & Safeguards



Chaired by:

Prof Nicola Henry

Professor
RMIT University



Speaker:

A/Prof Claire Henry

Associate Professor
In Screen
Flinders University



Speaker:

Ashley Katz

Manager at the Office
Of the eSafety
Commissioner eSafety



Speaker:

A/Prof Megan Lim

Deputy Program Director,
Disease Elimination;
Head, Young People's
Health Burnet Institute



Audience Q & A

① The Slido app must be installed on every computer you're presenting from

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Youth, Pornography & Contextual Prevention Forum



CLOSING REFLECTIONS

Taking time to reflect helps us learn, grow and lead with purpose.



Beth McNamara

National Education Manager
Danie Morcombe Foundation



Dr Giselle Woodley

Lecturer in Arts and Media
Edith Cowan University

Thank you

Bright Futures Community of Practice

www.bright-futures.com.au

or

connect with us on
LinkedIn **DMF Bright Futures**

ECU: Dr Giselle Woodley

Contact on: g.woodley@ecu.edu.au