YPORN?
Intimate Conversations with Young People.
We are particularly interested in:

– Why young people access porn; and whether there is actually a difference in this access based on gender.

– How young people define porn; feelings and perceptions.

– At what point they rate explicitness; parameters and possible intersections between sexualized imagery and pornography.
“I wasn’t sure if it was ‘normal’ to watch it”  
(Martellozzo et al., 2016)

“It’s just a normal part of life”
“Basically... porn is everywhere”

“ Viewing sexualised and/or violent imagery can affect children and young people’s attitudes and behaviours, which may subsequently affect their attitudes towards sexual relationships and behaviours within them.”

(Horvath, Alys, Massey, Pina, Scally, and Adler 2013)
...young people are neither simply naïve, passive consumers of everything that is put in front of them, rather that they are adept and ‘use a critical range of skills and perspectives when interpreting sexual content.

(Buckingham & Bragg 2004:238)
“permit individuals to effect by their own means or with the help of others a certain number of operations on their own bodies and souls, thoughts, conducts and a way of being so as to transform themselves in order to attain a certain state of happiness”
On Sex Education at School…

• “Sex is for babies only”

• “School scares ya”

• “You get taught how to put a condom on, but then they don’t say what to do with it!”
SEX
EDUCATION
The last ten years has seen an increase in research which examines the impacts, often the dangers, of a hypersexualised culture in which women are objectified, objectify one another, and are encouraged to objectify themselves (Attwood, 2009; Durham, 2009, Gill, 2003; Levin & Kilbourne, 2009; McNair, 2002; McRobbie, 2004).
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The rise of ‘porno chic’ or ‘pornification’ (Gill 2012) can be seen in the rise of contemporary preoccupations with sexual values, identities and practices. There has clearly been a shift in public attitudes towards a more permissive acceptance of sexualized images, for example, the celebration of a porn aesthetic in music videos and advertising.
Peter Wanless, NSPCC chief executive, said: “A generation of children are in danger of being stripped of their childhoods at a young age by stumbling across extreme and violent porn online. Frighteningly, some children are growing up believing that they should emulate the behaviour they see in porn, which can have a damaging effect on their relationships”.
Accounts of sexualisation can be explained from a number of perspectives, but all of them concur over the idea that there has been a significant change, and these times are characterised by an ‘unprecedented degree of sexual revelation and exhibitionism in which public nakedness, voyeurism and sexualized looking are permitted, indeed encouraged, as never before’ (McNair, 2002, p.ix). Disagreements occur more frequently, over ways in which this should be interpreted. Broadly speaking definitions fall into three categories; the ‘public morals position’, the democratizing sex position’ and ‘feminist position’ (Gill, 2012).