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Girls Gone Skank: The Monstrous Body of the 'Sexualized' Girl

This paper examines concerns about young people's relationships with sexualized media, expressed forcefully in policy documents, press reporting and popular literature in many cultures. It explores the ways that new figures of the sexualized child-consumer reconfigure notions of male and female sexuality, based around a fascination with the porn performer as an image, rather than a person or laborer. It argues that in particular the figure of the sexualized girl is part of a broader range of horrified responses to 'Generation 2.0', evident in public debates about social networking, virtual worlds, pro-ana sites, 'online suicide cults' and 'sexting'; and represents a horror of bodies and desires which do not appear to correlate with dominant views of age-appropriate behaviour.