

POSING & POSTING INTO BEING A GIRL?



Girls' Online Self-Portraits

Who: Fifteen Taiwanese girls age 13-18

What: Self-portraits posted on popular social networking site www.Wretch.cc/album

How: Online interviews through IM; ethnographic observation of girls' *Wretch* space

Theme: representation, production, consumption, networking, and boundary play.

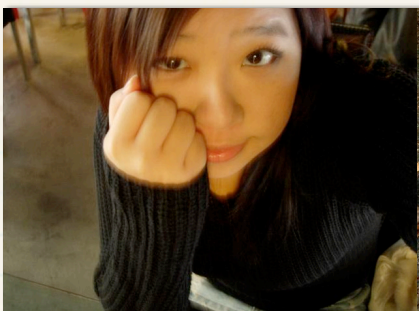
Keywords: agency, 'girl power', self-subjectification, performativity, self-representation.

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- Why do girls put self-portraits online?
- What does it mean to be a 'beautiful chick' online?

RQs:

1. How teenage girls do (gender) identity work through self-portraiture?
2. What are the macro, meso, and micro forces, how girls negotiate them, and how does the online self-portraiture work limit or extend the possibilities of being and becoming a girl?



Every self-portrait has a life, a feeling.....that reminds me of my self and thought at that time.

— Cecilia, 16



[My tongue] just spontaneously sticks out...and [touching my head] is a habitual motion!!

— Bing, 14

Of 2000 Teen's Self-portraits

25% Cool: 83% boys

30% Childlike: 70% girls

37% Mixed: 55% girls

8% Sexy: 55% girls