Sexting à l’adolescence : des frontières de l’intimité du couple à l’extimité à risque

Engl. transl.: Sexting in adolescence: from the boundaries of couple intimacy to at risk “extimity”

# Keywords

* adolescence
* cyberviolence
* intimacy
* sexting

# Details

## Year

2020

## Issued

2019

## Language

French

## Start Page

## End Page

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## Type

Journal article

## Journal

Enfances Familles Générations

## Publisher

Centre Urbanisation Culture Société (UCS) de l'INRS

## Topics

## Sample

Two studies were conducted on Belgian adolescents, the first study was with 1321 adolescents (45% boys and mean age of 15.1 years) and the second study was with 340 adolescents (65% boys and mean age of 15.6 years)

# Abstract

In adolescence, romantic relationships play a significant role and provide
a space where adolescents deepen the development of their emotional, social and cognitive skills,
which they had already developed with their family and their friends. In the digital age, intimacy
in teenagers’ relationships is tested, built and questioned in a social space that is part of both the
real world and the virtual space. Sexting, a new modality for regulating intimacy under the prism
of “extimity” in an environment dominated by digital technologies, raises questions about the
real and perceived risks faced by young people and about the boundaries of intimacy.
Our studies aim to better define the contexts and motivations for sexting practices,
abusive uses related to cyber violence as well as the representations and risks perceived by
adolescents and the prospects and needs for prevention according to young people. As part of an exploration of adolescent sexuality, sexting serves “extimity” in the pursuit of developmental tasks. However, it is likely to give rise to major abuses and allow the virtual reproduction of sexist and dehumanizing attitudes and violence. The prevention needs suggested by both girls and boys reflect, among other things, the need for a framework
containing these practices.

# Outcome

"18.7% in study 1 and 26% in study 2 report that they have already sent or posted sexy messages, photos or videos of themselves. Boys are more likely than girls to have practised sexting at least once and more specifically to have posted this type of content online. More than 60% of adolescent boys and girls intended this content for a love partner. 17.1% of participants reported that they had already been victims of at least one form of sexual and/or sexist cyber violence, namely the unwanted dissemination of sexual messages or images or threats to do so
and insulting messages or rumours of a sexual nature. As part of an exploration of adolescent sexuality, sexting serves “extimity” in the pursuit of developmental tasks. However, it is likely to give rise to major abuses and allow the virtual reproduction of sexist and dehumanizing attitudes and violence. The prevention needs suggested by both girls and boys reflect, among other things, the need for a framework containing these practices." (Glowacz Goblet, 2020, pp. 21-22)