

Edited by Tiffany R. Isselhardt

A Girl Can Do

Recognizing and Representing Girlhood

WOMEN'S STUDIES

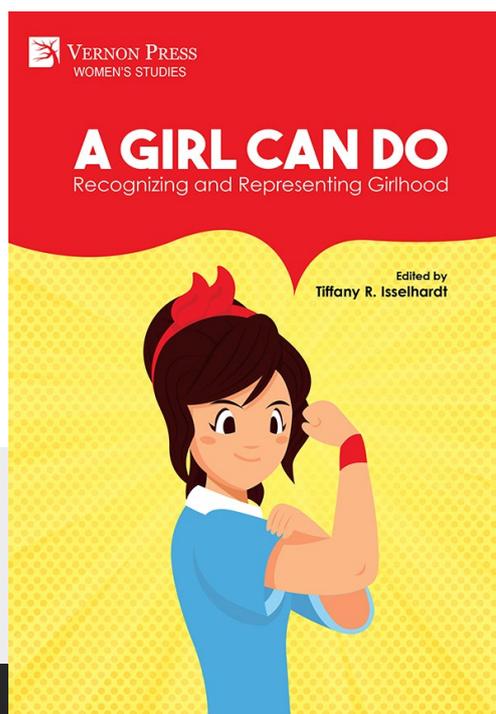
Summary

How do scholars research and interpret marginalized populations, especially those that are seldom recognized as marginalized or whose sources are believed to be rare?

Combining intersectional feminism and public history methodologies, 'A Girl Can Do: Recognizing and Representing Girlhood' reflects on how girlhood is found, researched, and interpreted in museums, archives, and historic sites. Defining "girl" as "self-identifying females under the age of 21," 'A Girl Can Do' lays the groundwork for understanding girlhood, its constructs, and its marginalization while providing faculty, students, and working professionals with ten case studies on researching and working with girlhood.

Contributors include archaeologists, archivists, curators, educators, and historians who demonstrate how adding a girl studies lens fosters greater inclusivity and diversity in our work. Whether studying spatial techniques of marginalization in colonial Peru, the daybooks as records of girlhood in late-nineteenth century Sweden, or collaborating with self-identifying fangirls to produce a pop-up exhibition, the contributors demonstrate the variety of sources and methods that can be used to interpret this oft-overlooked population. Throughout, 'A Girl Can Do' petitions

for collaborative and creative thinking in how we can reframe and reinterpret our sources – both traditional and overlooked – to shed new light on how girls have contributed to, and provide frames of reference for, human history and culture.



About the editor

Tiffany R. Isselhardt holds a Master of Public History from Appalachian State University and is the co-author of 'Exploring American Girlhood in 50 Historic Treasures' (Rowman & Littlefield, 2021). She currently serves as Development and Exhibitions Manager at the Kentucky Museum at Western Kentucky University as well as Program Developer for Girl Museum. Her research focuses on uncovering the hidden history of girls to advocate for gender equality, and how museums can better interpret and provide programming inclusive of girls' unique history and culture. She has presented on girlhood at several conferences, including the International Girl Studies Association and the National Council on Public History, and enjoys working at the intersections of history, material culture, and girl studies.

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