

Individual Project Proposal

Selfie Culture

Background

Selfie (noun): A photographic self-portrait; especially one taken with a smartphone or webcam and shared via social media.

Oxford English Dictionary (2013).

The 2013 inclusion of "selfie" in the online edition of the Oxford English Dictionary signaled just how commonplace the phenomenon had become. Whilst self-portraiture is hardly new, the rise of smart phone technology and social media has resulted in changing practices of self representation. Many in the media argue that the selfie phenomenon belongs to a self-absorbed generation of young people. However, research is increasingly showing that selfies are far more than acts of vanity and point to the significance of selfies for personal relationships, body image and identity, politics and activism, celebrity culture and beyond.

Brief

Young people's experiences of and feelings about taking, sharing and/or viewing selfies is a much under-researched area, particularly in relation to the following topics, some of which may present ideas for the beginning of your individual research projects:

- Selfie activism
- Body image and selfies
- Relationship selfies: friendships, families and couples
- Politicians and selfies
- Celebrity selfies and personal branding

Key Resource

Agenda: A Young People's Guide to Making Positive Relationships Matter,
www.agenda.wales

This is an online toolkit with links to organisations and websites that will assist you in collecting information on your chosen area.

Contact:

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Director of the Gender and Sexualities Research Group
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Additional resources

Think pieces to spark ideas

Are Selfies Selfish?, by Alexandra Garretton

<https://soundcloud.com/ben-manilla-productions/are-selfies-selfish>

The meanings of the selfie, by James Franco

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/29/arts/the-meanings-of-the-selfie.html?_r=0

Art at Arm's Length: A History of the Selfie, by Jerry Saltz

<http://www.vulture.com/2014/01/history-of-the-selfie.html>

The Scholarship on Selfies, by Laura Pappano

https://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/02/education/edlife/the-scholarship-in-selfies.html?_r=1

Examples of selfie activism

The women having a laugh in Turkey, by BBC Trending

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs-trending-28548179>

Female scientists post 'distractingly sexy' photos, by BBC Trending

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs-trending-33099289>

(Note: the photos are not graphic in the slightest)

Example of a selfie survey

<http://www.makingselfiesmakingself.com/general-survey.html>

Example of selfie student project

The Selfie Epidemic [Kwantlen University Student Video]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRo1j1yjtA8>

Websites/webpages

The Selfie Researchers Network

Selfieresearchers.com

An international group of academics studying the social and cultural implications of the selfie.

Making Selfies / Making Self

makingselfiesmakingself.com

Research on selfies and digital cultures

Crystal Abidin, The University of Western Australia

Academia edu profile: <https://uwa.academia.edu/CrystalAbidin>

"Vote for my selfie: Politician selfies as charismatic leadership" [Lecture video]

https://mmutube.mmu.ac.uk/media/Crystal+Abidin/1_jcl48owa

Kath Albury, University of New South Wales, Australia

Academia edu profile: <https://unsw.academia.edu/KathAlbury>

'Selfies, sexting and sneaky hats: findings on young people's attitudes towards digital imaging and sharing of digital images of the body' [Lecture video]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbDS09UT4m4>

Stefanie Duguay, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Academia edu: <https://qut.academia.edu/StefanieDuguay>

'Comparing Platform Mediators Across Ruby Rose's Instagram and Vine Presence' [Online talk]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xwo3Hb7G50U>

Professor Jill Walker Rettberg, University of Bergen, Norway

Seeing Ourselves Through Technology: How We Use Selfies, Blogs and Wearable Devices to See and Shape Ourselves [Free e-book]

<http://jilltxt.net/books/>

Jessica Ringrose, UCL Institute of Education, UK

Academia edu profile: <https://ucl.academia.edu/JessicaRingrose>

Teen girls, sexual double standards and 'sexting': gendered value in digital image exchange, by Jessica Ringrose, Laura Harvey, Rosalind Gill and Sonia Livingstone

<http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/63960/>

Lianna Pisani, Ryerson University, Canada

Academia edu profile: <https://ryerson.academia.edu/LiannaPisani>

Performative embodiment and the selfie: defining the political feminist selfie [Online talk]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DBaKMxHlrY>

Theresa M. Senft, New York University, USA

Academia edu profile: <https://nyu.academia.edu/TheresaSenft>

Nancy Baym, Microsoft Research New England, USA

Website: <http://nancybaym.com>

What does the selfie say? A Special Section of the International Journal of Communication [Academic Journal], edited by Theresa M. Senft and Nancy K. Baym

<http://nancybaym.com/IJOCSelfies.htm>

Katie Warfield, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Canada

Academia edu profile: <https://kwantlen.academia.edu/katiwarfield>

'Why I love Selfies and Why you should too (damn it)' [Lecture video]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOVIJwy3nVo>