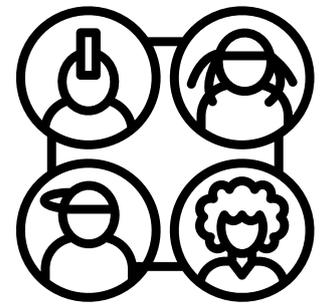




# McRobbie and Garber (1976): Girls and Subcultures



## Overview:

McRobbie and Garber's study explored how girls participate in youth subcultures, arguing that much of the existing research on subcultures at the time focused primarily on boys, neglecting the role of girls.

## Methodology:

McRobbie and Garber used qualitative research methods, including secondary data analysis of media representations, as well as drawing on existing sociological studies of youth subcultures. They also considered the influence of popular culture (e.g., magazines and music) on girls' experiences and identities.

## Key Findings:

### Girls' Relative Invisibility:

Girls were often overlooked in studies of youth subcultures, partly because researchers focused on public spaces like streets or clubs, where boys were more visible. Girls were more likely to socialize in private spaces like homes.

### Bedroom Culture:

McRobbie and Garber highlighted the concept of "bedroom culture", where girls' social lives revolved around private, domestic settings. In these spaces, they engaged with media, shared interests like music and magazines, and developed friendships.

### Focus on Romance and Appearance:

Girls' involvement in subcultures often centered around themes of romance, relationships, and personal appearance. These activities were heavily influenced by consumer culture and reinforced traditional gender roles.

### Less Visible Rebellion:

Girls' subcultural participation was often subtler and less confrontational than boys', as they were constrained by stricter parental controls and societal expectations around female behavior.

### Links to Other Youth Subcultures:

### Intersection with Feminism:

Their work connects to feminist theories that critique how traditional gender roles shape girls' behavior and opportunities.

### Comparison with Male-Dominated Subcultures:

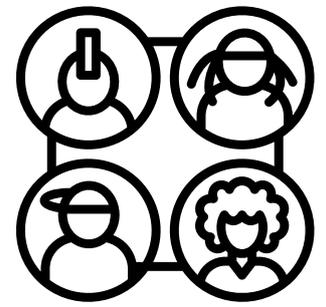
Unlike boys in subcultures like punks or mods, girls' rebellion often focused on personal relationships rather than public acts of defiance.

Modern Examples: Today, girls' participation in online communities (e.g., fandoms or social media influencers) can be seen as an evolution of "bedroom culture."





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Why do you think girls were less visible in traditional studies of youth subcultures?

What is "bedroom culture," and how does it differ from boys' subcultural activities?

How did consumer culture influence girls' participation in subcultures?

How might the concept of bedroom culture explain the involvement of girls in contemporary digital communities and subcultures?

