Preface

'Learning Bodies' addresses the gap in attention to the body in youth studies. Whilst a significant range of work in youth studies has explored gender, class, race and ethnicity, and sexualities—all of which have bodily dimensions—the body is generally studied indirectly, rather than being the central focus. This edited collection draws together a scholarly range of international, interdisciplinary work on youth, with a specific focus on the body. The authors engage with conceptual, empirical and pedagogical possibilities which interrupt perspectives which view young people's bodies primarily as 'problems' to be managed, or as sites of risk or deviance. They demonstrate that a focus on the body enables exploration of additional dimensions in understanding the experiences of young people. They variously situate their discussion across a range of sites in Australia, North America, Britain, Canada, Asia and Africa, drawing from a range of disciplines including sociology, education and cultural studies. This collection aims to show—theoretically, empirically and pedagogically—the implications that emerge from a reframed approach to understanding children and youth through a focus on the body and embodiment.



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