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**“You don't want to be fun in the wrong way”:
Young Women's Sexuality within the Discourse of Fun.**

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This paper addresses questions about fun and sexuality, asking what it means to be a “fun person”, and how particular subjectivities (white, middle class and heterosexual) come to be formed in search of such an identity. The paper draws on empirical research (interviews and focus groups) with young student women in the context of “nights out”; going to venues such as nightclubs as part of a group. This research examines the ways in which discourses of “fun” are articulated within contemporary formations of gender and sexual identity, and how sex and sexual identities are discursively framed as “fun” in young women’s understandings of themselves in their peer groups. It examines how the category of sexualised “fun” is invoked to articulate and perform gender identities in the context of contemporary popular understandings of gender equality and sexual identity. I argue that a heterosexual identity is implicit in mainstream understandings and practices of the discourse of fun, which creates particular pressures and ambiguities for young women. They are required to negotiate conflicting discourses around fun, femininity and sexuality, in particular the tensions around responsibility, both for their own and others’ behaviour, and a hedonistic feeling of freedom.

I am a final year PhD student in Women's Studies looking at "The subject of fun: Young student women, fun, freedom and feminism".