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Developmental differences in attitudes towards women's roles in Australian society: Critical periods for "feminist" socialisation

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Abstract

Gender role attitudes of adolescent girls have not been widely studied, nor have the mechanisms by which attitudes towards women's roles develop. The present study focussed on adolescent girls' gender role attitudes. Specifically it focussed on developmental differences in gender role attitudes of adolescent girls (n=642). The results indicated that Year 9 girls had significantly more positive attitudes towards feminism than Year 11 girls. These findings have important implications for girls' career development. Results suggest that there is a critical period between Years 9 and 11 which accounts for girls' increased conservatism towards feminism. The integral involvement of socialisation processes is necessarily implicated in this critical period.

[Link to full text paper pdf \(53KB\)](#)

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