THE GIRLS OWN PROJECT
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Title of completed research project
The girls own project - transforming girls’ education through drama

Title of publication
Educatings Rita and her sisters: using drama to reimagine femininities in schools

Journal

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Description of the research project
This research project examines drama in relation to girls’ education and considers some of the ways in which drama might be applied in schools to challenge limiting hegemonic narratives about gender and to support girls’ understandings and performances of femininities. It reports on case study research conducted with a Year 9 Drama class (14–15-year olds) at an Australian girls’ school, where curriculum-based drama was used to investigate the complexities of twenty-first century girlhood. The study aimed to deliberately create work for/with/by girls, where in a supportive environment, girls could use their girl know-how to inform the unfolding drama about girls just like them. Working simultaneously both inside and beyond the curriculum, the project used Shaun Tan’s book The Red Tree as a core focus for a girl-centred process drama.

Key words
drama curriculum, adolescence, identity construction, girl studies, feminism