



Wednesday, 6th November 2013

1.00 - 2.00

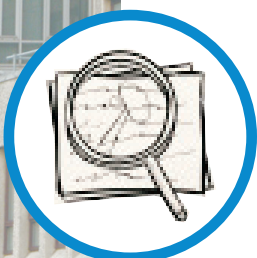
MR 317

Ruth Woods

**'We never hurt anyone on the inside or the outside':
The effect of British preoccupations with harm avoidance
on children's moral lives**

Over the last 25 years, adults in the UK, and in many other Westernised countries, have become increasingly motivated to prevent children from harming one another. Adults in British schools now feel obliged to protect children from harm caused by peers' physical aggression, name calling, exclusion and possession.

I draw on ethnographic data from a London primary school to consider the implications for children's moral experiences, focusing on possession in girls' friendships. I argue that children's responses to adults' demands not to harm one another can only be understood if we take into account their orientation to other important values and obligations, including freedom, status, and loyalty.



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