Netball and the Interpellation of Feminine Body Comportment

**Abstract:**

This paper will discuss whether the sport of netball has the potential to interpellate a feminine style of body comportment through its rules. Feminine body comportment is a term popularised by Young’s essay ‘Throwing Like a Girl’ (2005) to indicate how women typically present their bodies, especially when participating in sports. Scholars have generally overlooked how the rules of netball may reinforce feminine movement, instead focussing on sociological approaches. Firstly, this paper will give a brief historical overview of netball. Secondly, it will present Young’s theory of feminine body comportment and its application to the sport of netball. Thirdly, it will critically discuss Chisholm’s (2008) refutation of and amendments to Young’s feminine modalities, as well as their wider implications. Finally, it will conclude that netball has the possibility to interpellate femininity through ‘negative’ modalities, but that it also has the potential to provide a pathway for female transcendence.