



## Encyclopedia of Children, Adolescents, and the Media: TWO-VOLUME SET

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From Internet censorship to sex and violence on television and in video games to debates over rock lyrics, the effect of media on children and adolescents is one of the most widely debated issues in our society. The **Encyclopedia of Children, Adolescents, and the Media** presents state-of-the-art research and ready-to-use facts on the media's interaction with children and adolescents. With more than 400 entries, the two volumes of this resource cover the traditional and electronic media and their controversial impact—for good and ill—on children and adolescents.

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## **Editorial Review**

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**\*Starred Review\*** As media of all kinds become more pervasive, their effect on children and adolescents is much discussed and debated. This encyclopedia pulls together research on topics related to young people's daily media experience. Editor Arnett is a research professor at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, and the author of *Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties* (2004). More than 400 contributors from universities and organizations, primarily from the U.S., supplied the 463 entries. Broad areas of coverage (as outlined in the Reader's Guide) include advertising; advocacy groups; computers and electronic media; gender and sexuality; movies, music, and television; public policy; and violence and aggression, among others. Although some entries discuss benefits, the weight of opinion in the entries in the encyclopedia is decidedly in the direction of the concerns and potential negative effects of media. Examples of entries include Cigarette use in television and movies; Gender roles in music; Internet use, psychological effects of; Manga (Japanese comic books); and Viral marketing. The relationship between food advertising and obesity; the portrayal of women in hip-hop; the cognitive effects of electronic games; the sexual information available in teen magazines; and media use in Asia, Europe, and Latin American are all the subjects of entries. A number of entries provide historical perspective, showing how comic strips or children's television programming, for example, have evolved over the years. Others discuss academic theories such as mean world syndrome and the super peer. Each signed entry is from one to several pages in length and offers a list of further readings and cross-references. The index, more than 70 pages long and repeated in each volume, is invaluable for locating information on Dawson's Creek, Grand Theft Auto, Madonna, and MySpace. A decision was made to exclude specific characters, performers, and media products as topics for entries in part because they come and go, and entries on them would already seem dated by the time the encyclopedia was published. Although the cost is substantial, this resource should be valuable at both academic institutions and large public libraries since there is no other like it. Libraries with online book collections should watch for it as part of the Gale Virtual Reference Library. Highly recommended. Shonrock, Diana

## **Review**

*"With the support of four associate editors from various sociological- and communications- related disciplines, Arnett has created an outstanding research tool for both the specialized field researcher and the interested lay reader. The 400-plus entries, composed by 250 academic specialists from around the globe, are well reasoned and highly accessible. Excellent connections are drawn between empirical research and media theory, while 'further readings' titles are consistently offered. A valuable tool for understanding the media's impact on self-image construction and emergent social relations, this set is highly recommended for communications, social science, and childhood development collections."* (Library Journal Review 2007-03-20)

*"The inclusion of numerous entries addressing research methods for the study of youth and media, theories about the effects of youth media consumption, cross-cultural perspectives on media effects, and the use of media internationally sets this reference work apart from its predecessors. The general readability, ease of use, and introductory treatment of the subjects make this work suitable for students in a variety of disciplines."* (S. Lichtenauer 2007-05-31)

*"Arnett has created an outstanding research tool for both the specialized field researcher and the interested lay reader."* (Library Journal 2007-06-01)

*"As media of all kinds become more pervasive, their effects on children and adolescents is much discussed and debated, and this encyclopedia pulls together research on topics related to young people's daily media experience. Broad areas of coverage (as outlined in "Readers Guide") include advertising; advocacy groups; computers and electronic media; gender and sexuality; movies, music, and television; public policy; and violence and aggression, among others. Although the cost is substantial, this resource should be valuable at both academic institutions and large public libraries since there is no other like it. Libraries with online book collections should watch for it as part of the Gale Virtual Reference Library. Highly recommended."* (Diana Shonrock 2007-06-21)

*"The editor relied on an editorial board of acknowledged experts in their respective disciplines and on literally hundreds of contributors for as many entries from A to Z. He should be congratulated for what I consider a labor of love. In it, they will find the base for almost any conceivable topic they need to consult and use in parenting, clinical or preventive practice, applied and pure research, and teaching at undergraduate and graduate levels. What more can one ask for?"* (Luciano L'Abate 2007-10-30)

#### About the Author

Jeffrey Jensen Arnett received his Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Virginia. He taught at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, the University of Missouri, and the University of Maryland, where he is currently a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Human Development. He has also served as a Research Associate at the Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago while a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Northwestern University Department of Psychiatry, where he also served on the Committee on Human Development at the University of Chicago. He is currently Editor of the Sage "Journal of Adolescent Research" and is Editor-in-Chief of a four-volume encyclopedia of adolescence currently being developed with Routledge. Within the area of developmental psychology and media, his primary interests include music and adolescence, and he's especially interested in a cultural and international perspective, which he would hope to infuse into the encyclopedia.

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