Female genital cosmetic surgery (FGCS) is a relatively new phenomenon in contemporary medicine. Professional associations of obstetrics and gynaecology (Australia, US, UK, Canada) do not endorse FGCS. However, adolescent girls and young women are increasingly seeking labio/vulvoplasty procedures. Medicare data indicates that 22.7% of these procedures are performed on females aged 5-25. This pilot study uses a qualitative approach to examine how adolescent girls and young women in a clinical sample understand and make decisions about female genital cosmetic surgery.

Emma attained her MPH from the University of Sydney in 2007 and has worked in drug and alcohol and sexual and reproductive population health as a health promotion officer, trainer and educator for both not-for-profit and government organisations. Emma is interested in the health and wellbeing of young people. She works as an Academic Associate in the Health Humanities and Social Sciences Unit in the Centre for Health Equity, School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne where she also undertakes her PhD.

Supervisors:
Professor Marily Guillemin (Health Humanities and Social Sciences Unit, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health)
Professor Lynn Gillam (Health Humanities and Social Sciences Unit, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health/ Children’s Bioethics Centre, The Royal Children’s Hospital)
Professor Sonia Grover (Department of Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology, The Royal Children’s Hospital)