

# Deakin Research Online

## **This is the published version:**

Ha, My Trinh, Marsh, Herbert W. and Halse, Christine 2004, What you see is not always what you get : the self-concepts of adolescent girls with anorexia nervosa., in *SELF 2003 : Self-concept, motivation and identity : where to from here? : Proceedings of the 3rd International Biennial SELF research conference*, SELF Research Centre, [Berlin , Germany], pp. 106-106.

## **Available from Deakin Research Online:**

<http://hdl.handle.net/10536/DRO/DU:30034909>

Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that permission has been obtained for items included in Deakin Research Online. If you believe that your rights have been infringed by this repository, please contact [drosupport@deakin.edu.au](mailto:drosupport@deakin.edu.au)

**Copyright** : 2004, SELF Research Centre

### **What you see is not always what you get: The self-concepts of adolescent girls with anorexia nervosa**

**My Trinh Ha, Herbert W. Marsh, and Christine Halse**

SELF Research Centre, University of Western Sydney, Australia

**3.00 – 3.45 pm**  
**Ball-Saal**

Anorexia nervosa is an intriguing psychiatric disorder that is becoming a significant public health issue for adolescent girls across the globe. Despite the proliferation of research and literature in the field, particularly concerning the aetiology, incidence and treatment for the disorder, little is understood about the manifestation of the disorder in the adolescent population. Researchers have suggested that low self-concept is one of many risk factors for eating disorders, including anorexia nervosa. Despite this, significant questions still remain about the relationship between self-concept and the severity and incidence of anorexia nervosa in adolescent girls in Australia, due to the use of various different models of the self-concept resulting in inconsistent results. The pertinence of self-concept is undeniable due to the constructs relevance to personal and societal issues that exist in our society, and thus furthering our limited understanding of the construct and its relationship to anorexia nervosa is of great importance. This paper presents preliminary analyses of the multidimensional self-concepts of fifty-five adolescent girls with anorexia nervosa, and how the different domains of the self-concept are related to the severity of symptomatology.

#### **Corresponding Author**

My Trinh Ha  
University of Western Sydney, Australia  
SELF Research Centre  
E-Mail: [m.ha@uws.edu.au](mailto:m.ha@uws.edu.au)