**Introduction**

Body modification is a gendered domain. In the West, tattooing has historically been identified with deviant and marginal male populations, while piercing attaches to more mainstream female adornment. However, these gender antipodes are shifting in reflection of changing gender roles and socialization. Extensive questions about gender, sexuality and body modification suggest that significant gender differences remain, but in a surprising and changed form.

**Methods**

766 interviews were completed by 101 students enrolled in ANT100

An analysis of 424 young people age 18-24 in the social networks of first-year college students is presented

Literature reviewed focused on the intersections between intimacy, sexuality, adolescence, and political-economy

Composite scores were concatenated for all questions addressing body modification – maximum possible score 55

**Discussion/Conclusions**

Respondents were asked if they would consider or had already had body modifications of varied sorts, including tattooing, piercing, surgery, and injection-based augmentations involving the face, body, and pubic area. In nearly all dimensions women were more favorable to such procedures. Considering the vast literature on female body image it may be inferred that women are more insecure about their bodies as they are. However, an equally ubiquitous literature on fashion and identity suggests greater freedom and confidence afforded to women in using their bodies as sites of play and creativity. Separated questions about body hair removal suggest confirmation of data on body modification.

**References**
