Forum for Gender Studies at Mid Sweden University (FGV) is an interdisciplinary and intercampus platform from which to initiate and co-ordinate gender studies at the university and beyond. This volume is a result of the FGV’s mission as a productive research environment, and as central to that mission two international symposia under the umbrella ‘Networks for change and wellbeing – International gender and girlhood studies’ were held at Mid Sweden University in September and December 2014, along with two text seminars. The theme ‘Life course and gendered cultures’ is one of three research themes at FGV and has a broad perspective on how lives are shaped by different gendered cultures. The main focus of this theme is on two related areas: young people and sexual violence, and the production of knowledge necessary for resistance and social change. A key part of that work is visible in the essays in this volume.