

### ***Children and the pornography of violence***

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In their impressively exhaustive and wide-ranging anthology - *Violence in War and Peace* (2004), Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Philippe Bourgois offer an excellent rationale for their choice and organisation of 61 texts, as well as a particularly insightful commentary on the nature and consequence of violence. What they do not comment on, however, is the rationale for their decision to include 11 photographs, many of which are explicit in the violence and suffering they depict. Taking the images, which include images of children, as my focus, I will speculate on why these images are used and the work they are understood to do. More critically, I will ask whether the photographs risk the voyeurism that would subvert, Scheper-Hughes and Bourgois argue, 'the project of witnessing, critiquing and writing against violence, injustice and suffering' (1). Are we offered, in other words, a pornography of violence?