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She Works Hard for the Money: Strippers Cope with Issues of Concern to Their Community

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Poster Presentation P63

**SHE WORKS HARD FOR THE MONEY: STRIPPERS COPE WITH ISSUES OF
CONCERN TO THEIR COMMUNITY**

Korey Reynolds and Rebecca Gearhart*
Anthropology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Through the use of collaborative ethnographic research and photography, this poster communicates issues that arise within the stripper subculture, and creates a forum in which these topics can be openly and honestly discussed. By means of interviewing and producing photographs, this visual ethnography addresses topics raised by the participants such as exploitation and empowerment, the morality of stripping, and the costs involved with stripping as a profession. The use of photography allows the reader a closer contact with this particular subculture and further expresses the stories told by the women performers. A common theme that runs throughout the photo-essay is the misunderstood lifestyles of these women and their responses to these interpretations.