CONTENTS

Acknowledgements ix
Table of cases xi

Introduction: Constructions, themes and critical tensions 1
   Social construction theory and a discourse of morality 2
   Critical tensions 6
   Overview of the book 20

1 The modern day phenomena of child pornography and sexual grooming 25
   Child pornography 28
   Sexual grooming 32
   The paedophile and the child sexual abuser 39
   Exploring parallels between child pornography and sexual grooming 46
   The internet and the child: a double vulnerability? 48

2 Criminalizing child pornography and behaviour related to sexual grooming 54
   Criminalizing child pornography 54
   Criminalizing behaviour related to sexual grooming 70
   The law’s framing and construction of child pornography and sexual grooming 82

3 Matters of harm and exploitation 103
   The harms of creating and distributing child pornography 104
   The harms of possessing child pornography 108
   Pseudo-images and images of naked children: criminalization taken too far? 124
   The harms of sexual grooming 135
   Child pornography and sexual grooming: constructing harm as exploitation 139

4 Moral panics and the impact of the construction of childhood innocence 148
   Moral panics and availability cascades 148
CONTENTS

The construction of innocence: protecting or endangering children? 178

5 The law elsewhere and questions of individual rights 192
   The Canadian and US laws surrounding child pornography 193
   The criminalization of grooming through communication systems in Canada and the United States 212
   Rights and concerns within the English law context 214
   The international community's prioritization of children's rights and protection 222

6 Conclusions and implications 234
   The repercussions of the current societal and legal response for children 234
   Where a continuation of the current response will take us 237
   Advocating a new approach 239
   Concluding thoughts 246

Appendix A: Details of dates of interviews with police officers 248

Bibliography 249
Index 265