Greeks through the Romantic period are also protected. Over time, though, almost all images of nude children have been included in the ban.

* How, and why, did the change come about? Normally, in the United States, images would be protected by the First Amendment, and would be shielded by the political cultures in other countries. By what rationale were they excluded from this protection? Was there empirical evidence, or a claim of empirical evidence, or just an ideological change in the conception of childhood? What were the major steps in the change? In the United States what was the rationale and evidence for denying First Amendment protection to the production, distribution and possession of an image?

* Finally, we have to ask if the struggle against child pornography makes any difference. Is there any reason to protect child pornography even if the images do not do any harm? Would they add anything of value to the political or social dialog?

Child pornography, has been transformed by judicial fiat into the old form of language that had power by itself. like the old form of language. It has power in itself, is evil in itself- and can do evil just by its very existence. The mere possession of the images - whether they are looked at or not by others or not, or whether they are just on a computer disk and not displayed and don't lead to any action of the part of the owner, or simply lead to self action (masturbation) is irrelevant. This makes it unique. The language is legally punished just because it is evil. This goes counter to almost all modern western thought on words, where words that are just used to express thoughts, emotions or ideas,
are protected. (Both protected because they are about kids and because kids might see or hear these words/images that discuss their own bodies.) It is also assumed that these images will harm the kids if they were known, but there is no real examination, unlike other speech issues.) The power of the words and images to harm is taken on faith.

Substitution of an image for a thing or an object.