

Networked, Self-Organized and Mobile: the European Hardcore-Punk Scene of the 1980s and its Legacies

This paper examines the role played by the hardcore-punk scene in shaping new cosmopolitan ways of life and unusual ways to understand and use space. Time-wise, the focus will be on the 1980s, when this scene was developing in various European industrial cities, including, among others, Turin and Milan in Italy, Tampere in Finland, West-Berlin and Ruhr in the GFR and Amsterdam in Holland.

Punk bands were touring Europe by train (thanks to the InterRail ticket or illegally) or rented vans, often living on self-established daily allowances. Tours were organized autonomously, via telephone and letters, thanks to contact lists published on fanzines. Bands played in squats, DIY festivals and disused spaces, outside the normal club venue circuits.

This kind of networking was unprecedented in scale, giving often the opportunity to non-signed European bands to tour the whole US for instance, and in nature, being non-profit, DIY, self-supporting and completely external to the 'normal' popular music industry.

A nomadic lifestyle became the basis for the consistence of the scene and was very important for the subsequent birth of new highly mobile and highly networked music scenes (for instance rave-culture). In addition, distinctive nomadic settlements based on mobile homes, i.e. *Wagenplatz* or *Wagendorf*, began forming, especially in Germany.

In my view, the music genre and its material organization themselves gave birth to a cosmopolitan lifestyle, where mobility became the norm. Interestingly, a series of elements will later be adopted, accepted and taken for granted, in a variety of ways, by the sedentary majority. An example could be 'sofa-surfing', based on an online social network, which allows people to find a free place to sleep in any possible city of the world.

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