

Conference Entry Form

Conference entry form for participants of the 3rd international conference "Interdisciplinary Cultural Group Research: Youth Subcultures, Worldviews and Lifestyles".

Name *

Erik Hannerz

Job Title *

Senior Researcher

Company or Organization *

Dep of Sociology, Lund University

Contry *

Sweden

Short bio

Erik Hannerz is a researcher and senior lecturer at the Department of Sociology, Lund University, Sweden. He received his Ph.D. at Uppsala University in 2014 and his main research interest is subcultural groups, and particularly the cultural sociological refinement of the concepts of subculture and mainstream. His publications also include urban sociology and ethnography. Erik's most recent book —Performing Punk—was published in Palgrave MacMillan's Cultural Sociology series in 2015. Erik is a faculty fellow at the Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University.

Email *

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Proposal Title *

Nurturing places: graffiti and subcultural spatiality

Abstract (500 words). Abstracts will be published on the website before the conference. *

Despite the attempts of authorities all over the world to counter illegal graffiti on the streets and on trains, graffiti continues to grow and establish itself in most parts of the world. Even after a decade and a half of a global war on terror and an increased surveillance of urban space in general and public transport systems in particular, a quick look in any graffiti magazine, on Instagram, or watching any of the hundreds of graffiti films on Vimeo and Youtube, shows that graffiti writers still manage to regularly paint the streets and subways of New York, London, Melbourne, Stockholm, Tokyo or Shanghai and get away with it. It is through this interaction with, and appropriation of, urban space that graffiti's alleged transgression has been analyzed in the previous research on graffiti. That the writing of graffiti transgresses and challenges both the purity and order of urban space temporarily appropriating places and questioning the symbolic meanings and practices within that place (Ferrell 1996, Austin 2001, Høigård 2002, Kimvall 2014). From its initiation the research of subcultural graffiti have pointed to this writing of the city as being marked by considerate differences in how the city is approached and how it is written. These differences refer to the forms of writing—as in the different forms of graffiti, from the simple and fast to the large and time-consuming—generational differences—as in young writers versus the older—as well as to spatial varieties—as in the focus of different surfaces, including the legal. Missing from the research on graffiti and on subcultural spatiality is an investigation on the relation between the whats, hows and wheres in relation to authenticity work within subcultural graffiti. Drawing from an ongoing research project on how graffiti writers in Sweden perceive and make use of urban space this paper attends to the dialectic relationship between meaning and materiality, how the city is differently gazed, and how places are differently worked so as to mobilize plural subcultural identities and activities. I will attend to how exclusion and control are worked so as to establish sacred subcultural places—most often in relation to trains—that come to stand as a spatial and symbolic representation of what the subcultural should be. In so doing I will point out the differences to how space in general—as for example the city—is treated within graffiti, contrasting thrashing and destruction of the general to the nurturing and protection of the particular. Focus will be on plural authenticity work within subcultural graffiti so as to not only attend to the complexities and variations noted in the previous research but also provide a spatially grounded analysis that work to explain the cultural structuring of the subcultural rather than confining varieties to individual participants.

Session type

Presentation

Panel

Workshop

Panel Title

Short Panel Description

Planned Presenters (3-4 people)

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