

Conference Entry Form

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

Name *

Mikalai Dziadok

Job Title *

Student

Company or Organization *

VDU (Vitautas Magnus University) /EHU (European Humanities University)

Contry *

Belarus\Lithuania

Short bio

Born in 1988 in Bragin, Belarus. Graduated from Law college of Belarusian State University (2005), worked as a officer of court in Cenrtalniy district court in Minsk, as a lawyer in a private firm. Studied for a year in European humanities university (EHU) in Vilnius on a "Politology and Euoepan Research) programm (2009-2010), than forcedly dropped because of being repressed in Belarus for political activity. Now I am a student of a 2nd year of EHU program "World Politics And Economy". According to a joint program, our group was sent to a VDU for 2 years (2-3 course).

In 2017 issued a book "Paints Of A Parallel World", dedicated to a Belarusian prison system.

Email *

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Proposal Title *

DIY punk\hardcore subculture in Belarus

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

DIY punk/hardcore subculture in Belarus

As in any post-soviet country, in Belarus most of youth subcultures are still perceived to have a certain touch of protest and non-conformism. "Being different from others" allows young people to express their dissatisfaction and frustration about general social order and at the same time to develop a sense of community within a specific identity. Hence, there is no wonder that in the authoritarian and conservative realm of Belarus at least some subcultures tend to be politicized. This is exactly what happened with Belarusian DIY punk\hardcore subculture. Stemmed from the mid-1990-s as an imitation of Western (mostly Polish) subcultural patterns, values and political ideas, it adapted them to a local reality, giving birth to a unique social phenomenon, which made noticeable influence on Belarusian social, cultural and even political life and became quite an important part of Belarusian cultural underground.

Being, despite the state borders, part of a European context, Belarusian DIY punk\hardcore adopted all the main ideas and discourse of these European trends: antifascism, anti-capitalism, anti-sexism, anti-homophobia, antiauthoritarianism, the DIY principle, egalitarianism and, to a certain extent, anarchism. The numbers of local preferences are also present: for example, Communist and radical Socialist ideas were not adopted by the members of these subcultures, perceived to be hostile to ideas of freedom and social justice, which is quite different from similar DIY punk\hardcore cultures in the other European countries.

As political life in Belarus is strongly influenced by the state repressions, and the difference between an opposition politician\activist and a dissident is blurred, the public political activism considered to be unsafe, a lot of youth chose to express their ideas on a less controlled area: participating in punk\hardcore festivals, issuing zines and speaking out their ideas and feelings in songs. Nevertheless, in the recent years, members of these subcultural groups also started to face pressure from the state, like concerts are brutally assaulted by the riot police under pretext of "looking for drugs", opening criminal cases against participants of this subculture and considering punk zines, stickers or other visual production as "extremist" with certain legal consequences.

Therefore, this research is aimed to explain how punk\hardcore subculture in Belarus was born, what ideas are shared within this environment, how it was transformed since mid1990's until recent times, what social activities and movements stemmed from it and what repressive measures are taken by the state to supervise this community and put it under control.

Session type

Presentation

Panel

Workshop

Panel Title

DIY punk\hardcore subculture in Belarus: origins, political preferences, treatment by the state

Short Panel Description

An explanation of how punk\hardcore subculture in Belarus was born, what ideas are shared within this environment, how it was transformed since mid1990's until recent times, what social activities and movements stemmed from it and what repressive measures are taken by the state to supervise this community and put it under control.

Planned Presenters (3-4 people)

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