

Conference Entry Form

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

Name *

Panas Karampampas

Job Title *

Post-doctoral Researcher

Company or Organization *

École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS)

Contry *

France

Short bio

Panas Karampampas is a post-doctoral researcher at the Institut interdisciplinaire d'anthropologie du contemporain (IIAC), École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS). He currently works on Intangible Cultural Heritage policies and global governance. Previously he was a guest lecturer in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of St Andrews, where he also completed his Ph.D. His doctoral research focused on the goth scene, digital anthropology, dance and cosmopolitanism. He has also conducted ethnographic research on Roma education as a scientific associate in the Centre for Intercultural Studies at the University of Athens.

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Proposal Title *

Mentoring and Building Solidarity in the Goth Scene by Goth YouTubers: rethinking
“communities of practice” and “participatory cultures”

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

In this paper, I will analyse the social formations which are created by goth YouTubers (vloggers) and their goth viewers. They create three different types of collectivities which they relate and partially overlap to each other: 1) YouTubers and viewers, 2) YouTubers only, 3) viewers only. In my analysis, I propose an alternative approach to the already existing theoretical frameworks of 'communities of practice' and 'participatory cultures'. The results are based on ongoing anthropological fieldwork in the European goth scene since 2010.

'Participatory cultures' combine artistic expression and civic engagement based on sharing participant's creations with each other. They feel that their contribution is significant and they have some degree of social connection with each another, as well as they have of informal mentorship (Jenkins et al. 2006: 7).

'Communities of practice' (Lave & Wenger 1991; Wenger 1998a) are defined by three dimensions: 1) the perception of the participants to see themselves as part of a 'community'; 2) relationships between the participants; 3) a "shared repertoire of communal resources (routines, sensibilities, artifacts, vocabulary, styles, etc.) that members have developed over time" (Wenger 1998b).

I will argue that goth YouTubers and their viewers combine the characteristics of both 'participatory cultures' and 'communities of practice' which are different for each of the three collectivities. By doing this, I will re-examine these concepts since are not adequate for the analysis of the goth scene. Therefore, through my analysis I will explore and challenge the limits of these concepts and show how they might be redefined to better encompass the goth YouTubers and their fans as well as to provide a new framework which will be more appropriate to the study of music scenes and lifestyles.

Focusing on informal mentoring, which relies on creating videos which introduce newcomers to the goth scene, to an extended understanding of goth practices, music and styles. Moreover, goth YouTubers also create videos to respond to the problems which they face with bullying and discrimination. At the same time goth YouTubers also personally reply to their views, often create friendships. Through different author-author, author-viewer and viewer-viewer interactions, the social formations are sustained and grow further. Consequently, on the final part of this paper, I will discuss how these friendships help in building solidarity in the scene, with particular focus in the goths who does not live in locations with easy access to a local scene.

Session type

Presentation

Panel

Workshop

Panel Title

Short Panel Description

Planned Presenters (3-4 people)

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