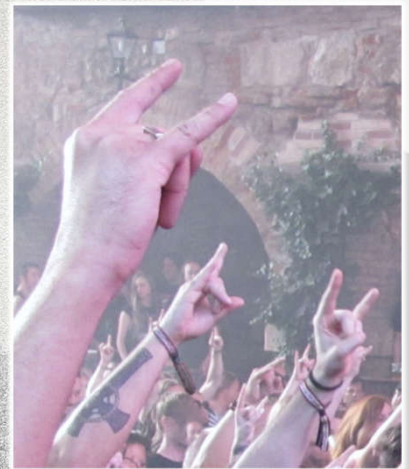


“Digital metal”: Digitalization as a historical key process in the Styrian heavy metal scene

Peter Pichler, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz

Four hypotheses on digitalization in the metal subculture:

- Digitalization is a new way of “living metal”
- Digitalization let emerge new “hybrid” metal spaces
- Digitalization let metal culture “survive” since the turn of the millennium
- The metal scene is a great case study to research the socio-cultural effects of digitalization



Project summary “Norikum”:

The aim in the research project *“Breaking the Law...?! Norm-Related Sonic Knowledge in Heavy Metal Culture (Norikum): Graz and Styria since 1980”*, led by Peter Pichler at the Institute of the Foundations of Law at the University of Graz, is to write an initial broad history of the metal scene in Graz and Styria since the 1980s. The topic under investigation includes whether and how concepts of law and law breaking as well as justice and injustice functioned as “scene laws”, thus playing a role in the history of the Styrian metal scene. The project’s interdisciplinary team integrates culturally-oriented methodologies from cultural history, musicology, semiotic discourse analysis and legal studies. At its centre, the researchers include interviews with older and younger scene members (fans, musicians, owners of concert venues, etc.). Additionally, the textual, visual, and compositional aspects are respectively addressed in terms of song lyrics and music periodicals, album covers, and musicological analysis of law-themed songs and albums. The project is running from February 2020 to January 2023 and is being generously funded by the Austrian Science Funds FWF (project number: 32982-G, volume: 250.855,50.-).

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