

ANNOUNCEMENT INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE "SKETCH A SUBCULTURE" FEBRUARY 21-26, 2021

What does a person aspire to?

The current century offers people a diverse set of thrilling, advantageous, successful, convenient and even simply beautiful lifestyles: springing from a "criminal wealth" to the "splendid lifestyle" of a free traveler, from the thorny path of a businessman to an extreme tamer of the forces of nature. But what does each of these lifestyles offer? Does a lifestyle always meet the real, secreted and innermost yearnings of a person?

Often, having experienced one life and reached certain heights, let us say, on the professional plane, there is still the emptiness of an unrealized aspiration, and one continues seeking for fulfillment. People often find what they were looking for in the form of a community of no less compelling and active like-minded people — in a specific environment termed a "SUBCULTURE."

Subcultures can be so tightly integrated into the contemporary person's daily life that they have become almost indispensable and ubiquitous. Family, job, agreements, responsibilities and negotiations are one thing, but, let us say, skydiving, or riding a bike in the company of motorcycle enthusiasts is a different thing — no less an important part of one's life. The current state of affairs is that almost everyone on this planet belongs to some subculture in one way or another. This another, natural part of one's lifestyle for pleasure is not always considered a "subculture," but the heart of the matter does not change because of this. To the point, a person might be a part of more than one subculture, and at the same time know nothing about what it may lead to; they may know nothing about the possible scenarios, goals and intentions of this environment. Even the most attractive and "mysteriously" formulated idea (for example, attaining Nirvana) remains something inconceivable for what is "Nirvana," and how to understand that this state has been achieved is unknown. The idea has no explanations, no criteria, no parameters.

And yet, this does not stop people from pursuing ideas as such. Many voluntarily strive for something they know practically nothing about.

Why are subcultures so attractive? Why have they become magnets to researchers, professionals and business persons, among all others? Is it critical to understand how subcultures shape, educate and "sharpen" people by instilling specific skills, attitudes and abilities? It is an extraordinary environment where people are united around an idea independently, without an external stimulus, without a heteronomous control-regulating function. It is all done based on their personal aspirations, to do what they love with their hearts and souls. If subcultures are perceived as environments obviously, they are astonishing as this particular environment has no selection process — people are entirely free to choose which subculture they belong to: hippies, roleplayers, hipsters, non-mainstream, emo, gamers, graffiti artists, headbangers, bikers, surfers... and the list expands with every decade.

What is a subculture? There is no consensus on this question.

ONE term and MANY definitions. Many "masks" and many "names." Can it be true that subculture has so many faces like ancient deities, embodying different "sacral" power variations, which humankind cannot cope with on the road of knowledge? What is a "subculture" then? A system of values? An organic part of the "common culture"? Or a product of the negative interpretation of the traditional culture, as part of the "counterculture"?

Definitions that exist in academia and literature do not equal five and not even fifteen variations of the term. Every language has dozens of meanings and interpretations of a subculture.

However, the idea is not about the number of definitions, but the quality of understanding and reflection of the concept's essence. It seems that one definition would have been enough, but no, for some reason there are many — pluralism has left its touch on the notion of "subculture" too, which is reflected upon both by sociologists and philosophers and ethnographers and psychologists. The first experimental observation that we have seen is the absence of a unified academic concept of subculture. Nevertheless, finding a "common denominator" in such disparate notions and various definitions is an attainable task.

WHAT exactly do we define as a "subculture"? What do we know about their types of formations, hierarchies, origin and philosophical components? Why is this definition not just a subject of cultural studies, religious studies, philosophy, and other human sciences or sociopolitical disciplines, but requires a holistic and interdisciplinary approach? In other words, we need to find out how "subculture" differs from other concepts. In this distinction, we need the help of fundamental characteristics.

Every phenomenon continuously has a set of indispensable traits that allow it to be distinguished from the rest. One way or another, every object, phenomenon and category has a distinctive and individual system of differentiating peculiarities that distinguish one phenomenon from another. What are these attributions, characteristics, signs or parameters in subcultures? The question is open. Equally, the open question relates to the method and methodology of research deserving of a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach.

These and many other questions require innovative approaches and an unbiased dialogue in an understandable scientific language. We invite leading experts, scientists, researchers, practitioners, journalists, photographers, and thinkers ready to support the discussion in the pursuit of truth and scientific patterns of human and social development!

Please register on the website to participate in the conference, the organizing committee will be getting in touch with you shortly. https://subculture.euasu.org/

PARTNERS:



ONLINE DISCUSSION PANEL TOPICS OF THE CONFERENCE "SKETCH A SUBCULTURE"

FEBRUARY 21, 2021 14:00 EST/21:00 EET

1) The difference between subculture and religion. What are specific elements that shape each institution?

2) Plan Use of religion by other social institutions (business, politics, etc.) for their own purposes. Religion transformation: from divine transcendence to the universal society based on techno-ideological principles.

FEBRUARY 22, 2021 14:00 EST/21:00 EET

1) Problems of choosing a research path in studying a subculture.

2) Plan of researching a subculture: from the idea to the completion of the research, from mythological and religious to scientific and philosophical worldviews.

FEBRUARY 23, 2021 14:00 EST/21:00 EET

1) From mythologemes to ideas as foundational elements of subculture formation. Approaches for researching mythologemes that underlie the philosophy of a subculture.

2) Approaches for studying the hierarchy of subcultures. Can we claim that the hierarchical structure of all subcultures is identical?

FEBRUARY 24, 2021 14:00 EST/21:00 EET

1) Ways to explore the attributes and symbols of subcultures.

2) The phenomenon of "Subculture in Subculture" and characteristics of its study.

The synthesis of ideas in the subculture, reasons for the existence of subcultures, invisible internal mechanisms that maintain their continuance.

FEBRUARY 25, 2021 14:00 EST/21:00 EET

1) Frederick Lawrence's drawing as the purpose of subculture research.

2) Can we consider a subculture as a machine that shapes a personality? The idea of death and different ways of implementing this idea by subcultures in daily life.

FEBRUARY 26, 2021 14:00 EST/21:00 EET

1) Frederick Lawrence's drawing, the theory of subculture formation, application of prototype method to understand phenomena.

2) Is it true that *one* idea forms a whole subculture? The pathway in subculture: fatal and successful.

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