

# RESEARCH ON PUNK IN BRAZIL: A FIELD IN CONSTANT METAMORPHOSIS



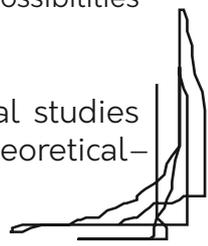
The production of academic works on punk is neither a recent phenomenon nor an academic fad, as some more orthodox minds might suggest. It began to emerge as early as the 1970s, through research conducted by scholars affiliated with the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies (CCCS) at the University of Birmingham. In postwar England, youth practices acquired a distinct analytical status, becoming a privileged object of investigation for observing changes in the economic, cultural, and behavioral realms. Alongside groups such as the Mods, Rockers, and Skinheads, punks quickly drew media attention—sometimes perceived as a threat to social order, other times celebrated as just another youth trend. For CCCS researchers, punk, like other subcultures, was understood as an expression of the tension between “those in power and those condemned to subordinate positions.”

In Brazil, research on punk began to emerge in the early 1980s, in parallel with the weakening of the military dictatorship and the rise of youth cultures inspired by the so-called “Rock Brasil” or “BR Rock.” Punk, as an identity embraced by working-class youth across different Brazilian capitals, had appeared somewhat earlier, in the second half of the 1970s. The small book by Antônio Bivar, titled “O que é Punk?” (What is Punk?), published in 1982, is considered the first publication on Brazilian punk. However, the first academic study appeared only the following year, as the result of an undergraduate thesis in Social Sciences defended at the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP).

Subsequently, there was a proliferation of works on this lifestyle across different fields of the Humanities and Social Sciences and in various regions of the country, highlighting the diverse nuances of punk experience in distinct geographical contexts. Currently, research on punk has accompanied the transformations of Brazilian society, revealing the vitality of this lifestyle as it continues to be re-signified through the experiences and demands of different social actors.

Thus, the aim of this presentation is to offer an overview of research on punk in Brazil, emphasizing its contexts, disputes, and theoretical-methodological orientations, as well as the new research possibilities that are emerging on the horizon of this field.

**KEYWORDS:** Punk subculture in Brazil, Youth cultures and social change, Cultural studies (CCCS), Subcultural research trajectories, Identity and working-class youth, Theoretical-methodological approaches to punk





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