

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

How subcultures and pop music affect social change

World first conference at London Met

Style-based subcultures, scenes and tribes, along with their music genres, have pulsed through the history of social, economic and political change.

From 1940s zoot-suiters; rock 'n' rollers and Teddy boys in the 50s; mods, hippies and skinheads in the 60s and 70s; through to the heavy metal, hip-hop, Goth and clubber styles of the 1980s, 90s, noughties and beyond - these distinctive blends of fashion and music have become a defining feature of the cultural landscape.

On 15 and 16 September 2011, more than 130 scholars from 20 countries will come to London Metropolitan University for the world's first academic symposium on Subcultures, Popular Music and Social Change (flyer attached).

Speakers include the singer and author Pauline Black (*The Selecter*), the artist and political activist Caroline Coon (who amongst her work designed the sleeve cover for *The Clash's* first hit single, *White Riot*), the author of the seminal book on subcultures, Professor Dick Hebdige (from the US), the mod 'face' and journalist Richard Barnes, and the writer and visual culture commentator Paul Gorman (whose books include *Straight with Boy George* and *Nine Lives with Goldie*).

The international line-up of presenters will cover topics ranging from 'Subcultures and civil rights and the politics of soul in Britain', 'Middle-class strippers and a subculture of commodified identities', and 'Is grime music criminal or commercial?'

Professor Bill Osgerby, the symposium organiser and subcultures academic at London Met, said: "This will be the place to meet and hear people who are exploring the relationships between subcultures, popular music and social change."

"The whole two days is for investigating the ways in which subcultures and popular music serve as mediums for social change from a wide range of interdisciplinary perspectives".

This event is the Inaugural Symposium of the Interdisciplinary Network for the Study of Subcultures, Popular Music and Social Change. Further details can be found here: www.londonmet.ac.uk/depts/fass/research/subcultures

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

Please note there has been an overwhelming response for this symposium, and places are now limited to members of the press and broadcast media. If you would like to attend and/or interview Professor Bill Osgerby or another speaker, please contact Victoria George, PR Officer, at v.george@londonmet.ac.uk.

Details:

Subcultures, Popular Music and Social Change

Thursday 15 - Friday 16 September 2011

The Graduate Centre

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