

Institut für Anglistik

Einladung zum Gastvortrag

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The Poetry of Punk

"We're the flowers in the dustbin / We're the poison in the human machine," the Sex Pistols sang some 40 years ago. This poetic sentiment, in combination with outrageous clothes, obnoxious behaviour, and loud, aggressive music, sparked off the early punk movement, which evolved into a genuine culture with distinct morals, aesthetics, and politics. In this multifaceted culture, lyrical expression—the poetry of punk—has taken on an important role, attesting to the relevancy of poetry as a means of human self-expression in modern times. Punk lyrics, which can be described as the community's collective 'poetic voice,' come in many different forms. Their themes range from romantic love to emotional distress to radical politics. Some songs are intended to entertain, some to express deeply felt emotions, some to provoke, some to spread awareness, and some to foment unrest. Punk lyrics also have a social function. They play a central role in the scene's political discourse, shaping communities and individual identities.

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