Creating a New Transnational Identity: Chicana Punk Rock in East Los Angeles in the 1970s

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Background

Borderlands

Performance Art

Wikia

Noisey
The Bags
Introduction

East L.A. Walkouts, 1968
UCLA

The Bags, 1977
Dawn Firth
Objectives and Aims

• Investigate Alice Bag’s creation of transnational identity
• Discover whether elements of original punk rock scene have continued today in East L.A.
• Contribute to scholarship on women in music
• Highlight important contributions of Mexican-Americans/Chicanas
Methodology

- Read, study, analyze memoir
- Secondary literature, interviews
- Documentary and critiques
- Understand motivations to enter scene

Violence Girl
Feral House

Los Punks
Angela Boatwright
Results

- Alice Bag created own transnational identity: preserve heritage and language, but adopt feminist ideology
- Continuity of certain punk characteristics
- New developments in East L.A. punk rock today
Limitations

• Limited geographical space
• An individual’s experience
• Specific genre
Conclusions and Implications

• Transnationalism can be formed as a “third” cultural identity
• Punk continues to evolve, but origins preserved: expected to continue
• Chicanas and other minorities played important role in the American arts
• Debunk stereotypes of Hispanics/punk rock scene
Future Directions

- Study of more women in punk
- University collaboration
- Expose/highlight contributions
- Study of other artistic expressions

Mural at US/MX Border

EFE/Juan Barak
Questions?

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