



HEAVY METAL YOUTH IDENTITIES

Researching the Musical Empowerment
of Youth Transitions
and Psychosocial Wellbeing

Paula Rowe

Emerald Studies in
Metal Music & Culture

**HEAVY METAL YOUTH
IDENTITIES: RESEARCHING
THE MUSICAL
EMPOWERMENT OF
YOUTH TRANSITIONS AND
PSYCHOSOCIAL WELLBEING**

EMERALD STUDIES IN METAL MUSIC AND CULTURE

Series Editors: Rosemary Lucy Hill and Keith Kahn-Harris

International Editorial Advisory Board: Andy R. Brown, Bath Spa University, UK; Amber Clifford-Napleone, University of Central Missouri, USA; Kevin Fellezs, Columbia University, USA; Cynthia Grund, University of Southern Denmark; G r me Guibert, Universit  Sorbonne Nouvelle, France; Catherine Hoad, Macquarie University, Australia; Rosemary Overell, Otago University, NZ; Paula Rowe, University of South Australia; Niall Scott, University of Central Lancashire, UK; Karl Spracklen, Leeds Beckett University, UK; Heather Savigny, De Montford University, UK; Nelson Varas-Diaz, Florida International University, USA; Deena Weinstein, DePaul University, USA

Metal Music Studies has grown enormously over the last eight years from a handful of scholars within Sociology and Popular Music Studies, to hundreds of active scholars working across a diverse range of disciplines. The rise of interest in heavy metal academically reflects the growth of the genre as a normal or contested part of everyday lives around the globe. The aim of this series is to provide a home and focus for the growing number of monographs and edited collections that analyse heavy metal and other heavy music; to publish work that fits within the emergent subject field of metal music studies; that is, work that is critical and interdisciplinary across the social sciences and humanities; to publish work that is of interest to and enhances wider disciplines and subject fields across social sciences and the humanities and to support the development of Early Career Researchers through providing opportunities to convert their doctoral theses into research monographs.

Published Titles and Forthcoming Publications

Pauwke Berkers and Julian Schaap, *Gender Inequality in Metal Music Production*

Ruth Barratt-Peacock and Ross Hagen (Eds.), *Medievalism and Metal Music Studies: Throwing Down the Gauntlet*

Catherine Hoad (Ed.) *Australian Metal Music: Identities, Scenes and Cultures*

Peter Pichler, *Metal Music and Sonic Knowledge in Europe: A Cultural History*

Karl Spracklen, *Metal Music and the Re-Imagining of Masculinity, Place, Race and Nation*

Interested in publishing in this series? Please contact Rosemary Hill R.L.Hill@leeds.ac.uk and Keith Kahn-Harris keith@kahn-harris.org

HEAVY METAL YOUTH IDENTITIES: RESEARCHING THE MUSICAL EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH TRANSITIONS AND PSYCHOSOCIAL WELLBEING

BY

PAULA ROWE

University of South Australia, Australia



United Kingdom – North America – Japan – India – Malaysia – China

Emerald Publishing Limited
Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley BD16 1WA, UK

First edition 2018

Copyright © 2018 Emerald Publishing Limited

Reprints and permissions service

Contact: permissions@emeraldinsight.com

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without either the prior written permission of the publisher or a licence permitting restricted copying issued in the UK by The Copyright Licensing Agency and in the USA by The Copyright Clearance Center. Any opinions expressed in the chapters are those of the authors. Whilst Emerald makes every effort to ensure the quality and accuracy of its content, Emerald makes no representation implied or otherwise, as to the chapters' suitability and application and disclaims any warranties, express or implied, to their use.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-78756-850-1 (Print)

ISBN: 978-1-78756-849-5 (Online)

ISBN: 978-1-78756-851-8 (Epub)



ISOQAR certified
Management System,
awarded to Emerald
for adherence to
Environmental
standard
ISO 14001:2004.

Certificate Number 1985
ISO 14001



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Acknowledgements

Above all, I am deeply grateful to the metal youth who worked with me on this project. There would be no book without them. But more than that, it was such a privilege getting to know them – they have enriched my life considerably. I'm so pleased I now get to share much of what they taught me in this book. In fact, I'm grateful to all the young people I've worked with over the years who have helped me to form various understandings of young people's lived experiences in the social world. Their stories inspire and motivate me to keep championing youth affairs at every opportunity.

Many thanks to all the metal scholars around the globe who have generously offered me wisdom, resources, opportunities and encouragement over the last 10 years. Our global collegial environment, born of necessity, is something special to be part of. Thank you also to my colleagues at the University of South Australia for their academic insight and support, and willingness to trust in the merit of researching with metal youth.

Cheers, of course, to my family and friends, and my own metal kin along the way.

And don't forget the dog. He has one job. Make everything okay. He excels at his work.

This page intentionally left blank

Contents

Chapter 1 Introduction	<i>1</i>
Part 1: Becoming Metal	
Chapter 2 ‘Metal is My Drug’: The Comforts and Pleasures of Listening to Metal	<i>31</i>
Chapter 3 ‘It’s True, Metal gives You Power when You’re Powerless’: Embodying Metal Identities for Social Protection	<i>49</i>
Chapter 4 ‘That Sense of Metal Community is Great’: Narrative Constructions of Acceptance and Belonging	<i>71</i>
Part 2: Being Metal	
Chapter 5 ‘No Shit I Wanna be a Rock Star, but for Real You Need a Plan B’: Heavy Metal Dreams Reprised	<i>99</i>
Chapter 6 ‘Dude, You’re Doing it, You’re Living the Dream’: From Dreams to Reality, What Does it Take?	<i>119</i>
Chapter 7 ‘Mum Hates it, She Thinks all Metal Dudes are Evil’: Practical Wisdom for Parents and Others	<i>143</i>
Chapter 8 ‘It Sucks that People Get the Wrong Idea about Metal’: Concluding Remarks	<i>165</i>
References	<i>173</i>
Index	<i>179</i>