Dancing through Post-Youth Cultures

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ABSTRACT

A review of Ros Jennings and Abigail Gardner (eds), 'Rock on': Women, Ageing and Popular Music (Ashgate, 2012) and Andy Bennett and Paul Hodkinson (eds), Ageing and Youth Cultures: Music, Style and Identity (Berg, 2012).

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Youth Culture and Art. Young folks can be a powerful force in precipitating change in the society. Throughout the 20th century, youth has also had a strong influence on lifestyle, culture, and arts. They turned from tradition towards novel attitudes and ideologies. The post-war optimism in the 1950s Paris, the urge for freedom in America, sexual desires in the dark alleys of London… all of them are now part of an invaluable visual legacy and archive, thanks to the few dedicated image-makers. Through the legendary imagery of youth culture photographers, we can now compare behaviors in our society through the years and even just for a few moments travel back in time when things were quite radically distant from everything we know and live today. Youth Culture Culture is among the most complicated words in the English language [1].

Youth Culture. Encyclopedia of Children and Childhood in History and Society COPYRIGHT 2004 The Gale Group Inc. Youth Culture. Culture is among the most complicated words in the English language. It refers to the processes by which the symbolic systems (e.g., common sense, "usual way of doing things"; traditions and rituals, frameworks for understanding experience, etc.) characteristically shared by a group of people are maintained and transformed across time. Despite the appearance of stability, culture is a dynamic, historical process. Post-subcultural theorists suggest that subcultures either no longer exist or are simply little different from mainstream culture. They emphasize that mass consumption, diffusion of cultures through globalization, and the overall interconnectedness of people, places, and products across the world transform the ways subcultures manifest in the identities of individuals (Bennett 2011; Nwalozie 2015: 10). Subcultural participants still both resist and uphold mainstream culture and politics through their participation. By lumping all subcultural youth into this category of passive consumers who choose and transform their identities as they please, post-subculturists fail to recognize the authentic self-identification that many youths experience.