

"A Day": 2nd Annual Goth Music and Subculture Conference

Deadline: May 22, 2025

Conference Date: August 16, 2025

Format: Online (via Zoom, Pacific)

Abstract: 150 words + 100 word biographical statement + Time Zone

Submit to: Noah Gallego, California State Polytechnic University @  
noahrgallego@gmail.com

Contact: Noah Gallego @noahrgallego@gmail.com

The Goth Music and Subculture Conference is coming back from the grave for another round of critical discussion! Due to the success of the inaugural conference last August, this sophomore installment will continue to critically engage the music and other artifacts from the goth music genre and subculture.

Last year we commemorated the 45th anniversary of the release of the definitive goth single, "Bela Lugosi's Dead" by the ur-goth band, Bauhaus, as well as the 68th death-day of the Count himself. This year, in 2025, we will commemorate two anniversaries: the 40th anniversary of the release of seminal Dutch darkwave Clan of Xymox's self-titled debut album (1985) as well as the release of the Northern English goth industrial group The Sisters of Mercy's debut album, *First and Last and Always* (1985).

1985 was a pivotal year in the goth subculture as both of these bands opened new doors to goth music production, with Xymox and the Sisters becoming pioneers in the darkwave and industrial subgenres, respectively. While the primary topics of inquiry for this conference are COX and TSOM, interested parties are welcome to explore other bands and discographies; they are especially encouraged to explore non-canonical as well as contemporary acts.

Below is a list that is illustrative but certainly not exhaustive of topics that prospective candidates are encouraged to explore:

Criticism:

Gender, sexuality, queerness

Disability

Monstrosity and Abjection

Class

Race

Postcolonialism, Decoloniality, (Neo-)Orientalism

Religion, spirituality, the occult, theology

Ecocriticism

Nonhuman/Transhuman/Posthuman (Animals, cyborgs, A.I.)

Feminism

Trauma and psychoanalysis

Rhetoric

Memory, hauntology, and the archive

Intersections:

Goth and literary influences

Goth and popular culture (film, television, comics, video games, etc.)

Goth and/as performance (theatre, drag)

Goth and Internet culture

Goth and fashion

Goth and festival culture (concerts, goth nites, graves, dance)

Goth and musicology

Goth outside of the West

Please send abstracts of 150 words to Noah Gallego @ noahrgallego@gmail.com, along with a short biographical statement (100 words) and time zone in order to best approximate presentation times for speakers. B.N. If certain obligations require you to be slated at a specific time that day, please also include those suggested times in your submission so you may be placed appropriately.

There are no pre-formed panels, but if you would like to submit a proposal for a special topics session, please do! A minimum of 2 papers would be required. Otherwise, you will be placed in a panel at the discretion of the organizer on the basis of theme and cohesion.

Candidates may expect a notification of acceptance, acceptance with revision, or rejection up to a week following the deadline. Presenters should aim to create papers/presentations of approximately 10-15 minutes in length.

The conference will be held on the 69th death-day of The Count on August 16, 2025. The symposium will be free and held online over Zoom. The estimated time slot is 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Pacific.

\*NOTE ABOUT PUBLISHING PAPERS: There are currently no plans to publish the accepted papers. However, depending on the success of the symposium, I am certainly open to the possibility of (co-)editing a collection or special issue based on the papers presented. If you would like to collaborate on this project, please let me know!

\*\*NOTE ABOUT AUDIO: Because Zoom can sometimes compromise the efficacy of audio, we recommend to refrain from including live play from your presentations. We understand this may sound counterintuitive for a conference primarily about music but because we are working in a virtual environment where things are certain to go awry, we want to preemptively minimize any technical difficulties that may arise. You are welcome to include links to playlists of the tracks or artist(s) you will be discussing, however! We apologize for the inconvenience, but we appreciate your understanding.