

# BOOK OF AB-202 OF AB-202 STRACTS 2

DIY CULTURES  
SUSTAINABILITY  
ARTISTIC ECOSYSTEMS

(Eds.)  
PAULA GUERRA  
ANDY BENNETT

KILL ME,  
AGAIN

KEEP IT  
SIMPLE,  
MAKE IT  
FAST

KISMIF  
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# KISMIF



# KISMIF CONFERENCE

13 - 16 July 2022

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS 2022**

***(Eds.) PAULA GUERRA + ANDY BENNETT***

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# **MARK FISHER & MUSIC: A COLLECTIVE LISTENING SESSION AT KISMIF CONFERENCE 2022**

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## **× ~~Abstract~~**

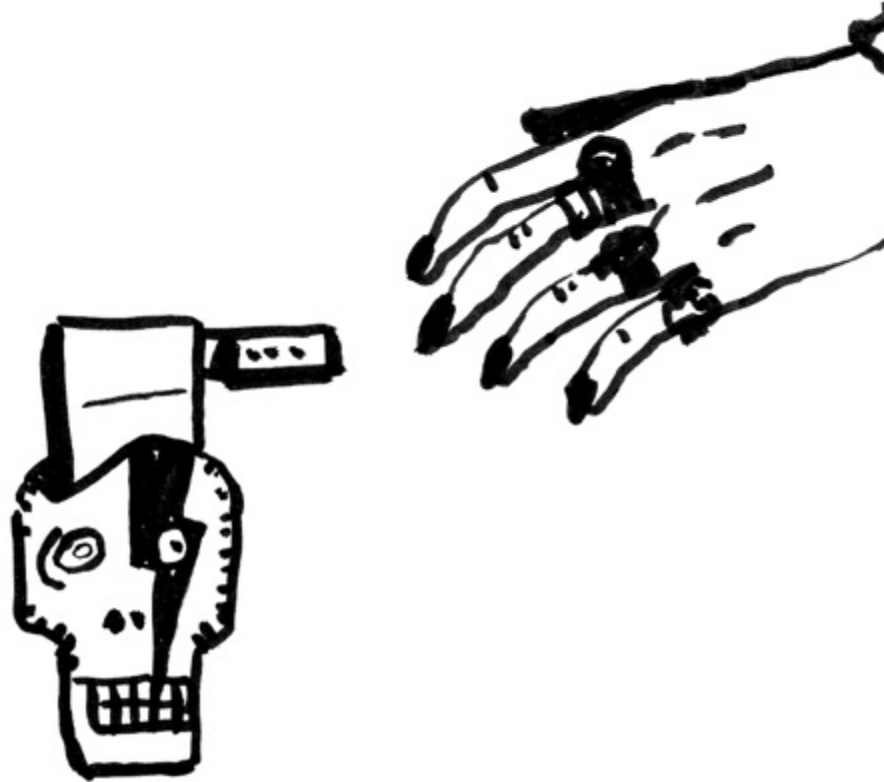
Mark Fisher, who left us on 13 January 2017, was a prominent English cultural theorist and music critic, whose writings and thoughts are present, in a fragmented way, through out books, articles, blogs' entries, music reviews and interviews with different musicians and bands, and so much more. Fisher masterfully combined critical writing on music with social and historical reflection on the contexts in which music was produced. In addition to his academic career, he was also a music critic, contributing to magazines such as The Wire, Fact, New Statesman and Sight & Sound. Therein, he covered a wide range of bands and musical genres – from post punk to dubstep. Beside his individual work, where music occupies a central place – see, for example, Fisher books Capitalist Realism: Is There No Alternative? (2009), Ghosts of My Life (2014) and the posthumous The Weird and the Eerie (2017) – he also edited or co-edited two books specifically dedicated to musical themes: The Resistible Demise of Michael Jackson (2009) and Post-Punk Then and Now (2016). His blog, k-punk, founded in 2003 was, as Simon Reynolds stated, a central hub of a 'constellation of blogs' in which popular culture, music, film, politics, and critical theory were avid discussed by journalists, critics and academics in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century<sup>1</sup>.

This listening session is build around Fisher's ideas on music and contemporary society. It will start with a video key-note speech by Simon Reynolds, author, cultural critic, teacher in the Experimental Pop program at the California Institute of the Arts, and Mark Fisher's personal friend, who will talk about his life and career, the broad contours of his work and possibly speculate on where he might have gone next. After Reynolds, five guest speakers – whose academic, artistic or professional path intersects with Fisher and his ideas – selected, from the huge amount of musical references that are present in Fisher's work or that can be somewhat related to his work, some tunes to be played at the session and will make a collective reflection and debate on it. Each piece of music will be introduced, played and then discussed by all the panel participants. At the end, debate will be open to the audience. We will have at the panel the historian Matthew Worley and the cultural studies scholar David Wilkinson, both working on the links between music, (sub)cultures, politics and post-war British societies; the poet and

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/jan/18/mark-fisher-k-punk-blogs-did-48-politics>

translator Miguel Cardoso and the philosophy student Filipe Felizardo who, together with historian and cultural programmer Ana Bigotte Vieira, who will be also present at this session, were involved at a 3-session cycle around Fisher ideas, held at the TBA – Bairro Alto Theater, Lisbon, in 2021<sup>2</sup>, and further published the fanzine *A Grande Recusa* (The Great Refusal), that will be available in this session, and an episode podcast that could be easily found online<sup>3</sup>.

**Keywords:** Mark Fisher, critical pedagogy, hauntology, post-punk, zines.



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<sup>2</sup> <https://teatrodobairroalto.pt/ciclo/mark-fisher/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://teatrodobairroalto.pt/materiais/dito-e-feito-31-uma-conversa-em-torno-da-obra-de-mark-fisher/>