

Edge of the Panel, Edge of the Page



March 2009

This composition is:

Good idea, ~~poor~~ execution

Edge of the Panel, Edge of the Page.

The print zine is a medium constantly at the edge. It is typically a short-form self-published or small press periodical that often includes political writing, life writing, and comics. They have a strong connection to radical social movements including anarchism, veganism, and third-wave feminism, as well as the riot grrrl movement and the DIY (do-it-yourself) punk scene. The materiality of the zine has edges as well—zine comics are a panel-based medium; zine layout is often done via cutting and pasting onto a page, which is later photocopied.

The personal zine is often about the immediate now—what you feel now, what you are eating now, what needs to be done right now. Why use a photocopied medium for the transmission of timely information when digital media are so much more immediate? What is the value of materiality in self-expression? Where is the border between zine and academic writing? Can this be transgressed?

To explore this, our panel is distributing and presenting a collection of laboratively produced zine that strives to answer these questions, both in a textual and an embodied, material way. First, we will each speak about our composition processes and our contributions to the project, which will include a virtual presentation from two panelists, and then conclude the session with a zine-making workshop where you can add your own contribution to blank pages in our zine.

A ZINE ALWAYS MUST
B-Y FRAUNY HOWES

I have something in me and I don't know how to get it out.

When you have something in you and you don't know how to get it out, that is a good time to make a zine.

When you are so angry that the only thing you can think of to do is shout obscenities, that is also probably a good time to make a zine.

Today I tried to teach my students about the difference between definition and description. What is a zine? A zine is a small, self-published or small-press magazine, usually black+white, on a variety of topics. What is a zine? A zine is freedom. A zine is saying shit and fuck off the grid. A zine is transgression. A zine is transgressing the boundary between what is published and what is only said in private. A zine is semi-private publishing.



What does a zine do? A zine hopes.



No one writes a zine because their life is perfect and they are a shining model of humanity. No one writes a zine because there is something right with the world. No one writes a zine because they are the same as everybody else.

I am making this zine because there are not enough zines.

So. Picture yourself at a table, and it is time for you to make a zine.



What must you write down before it disappears?

What is in you now?

What must you do?

A zine always must.

End.

WHAT DO YOU DO?



So I just got back from this big ass conference (4cs) and am now scrambling to do homework, research, make this zine, and stay sane. This is my life right now.

Conference Uniform (ccc in San Francisco '09)

This is Me! Casey Miles, grad student.

My research interests are still taking shape. Here is what I've got so far: the relationship between images and words (photography, film, ZINES); digital and visual rhetoric; genders; feminism; female masculinity.