

# How Hard Is Hardcore? The Emotional Styles of Oi and Emo.



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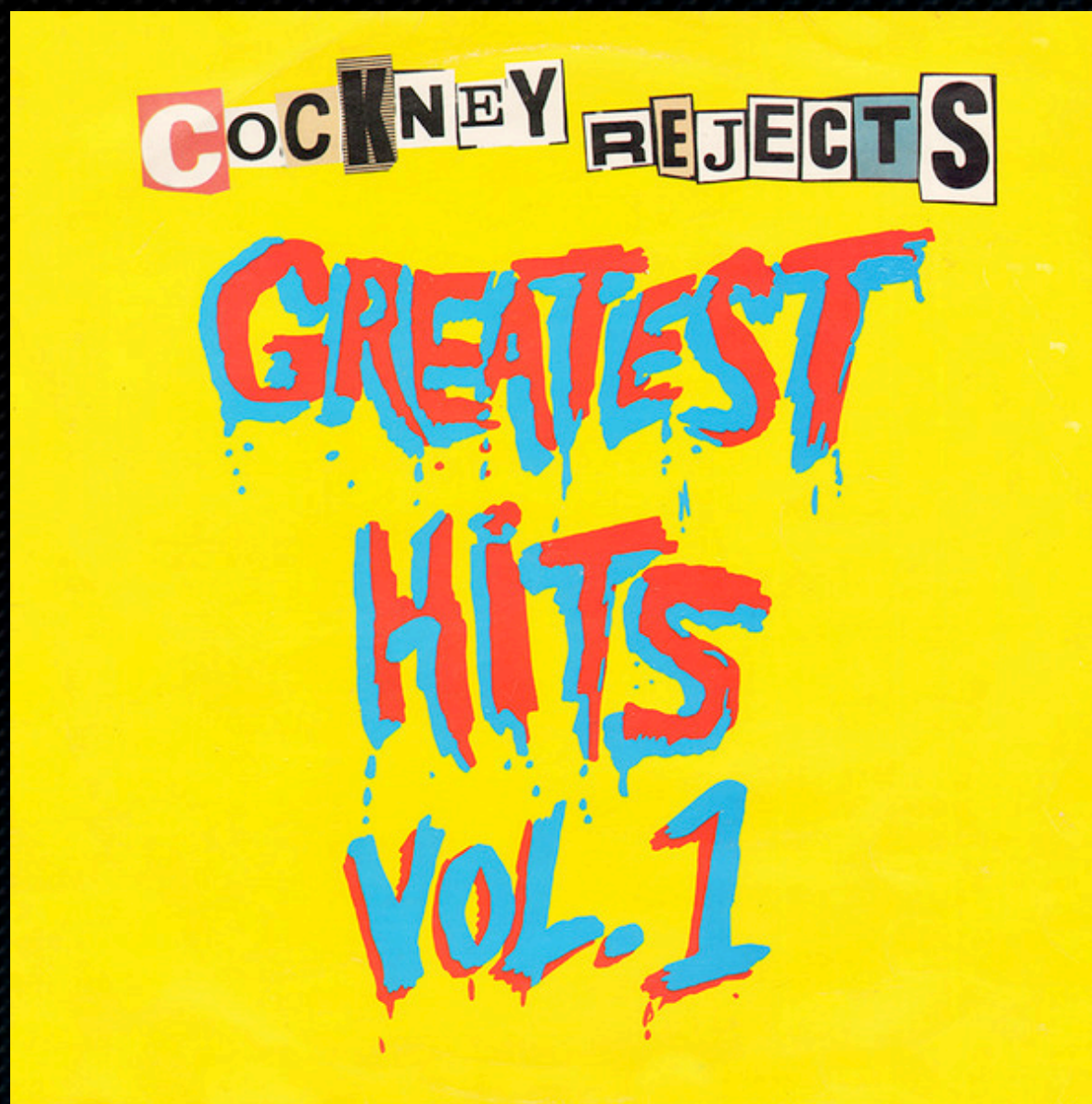


## Intro

- © Punk/hardcore as an emotional response to a world perceived as unjust or hostile
- © Comparing oi and emo as 'ideal types' to examine how each values and performs emotions
- © Sara Ahmed's research discusses the use of an emotional hardness, as a 'skin' against a world perceived as emotional, or soft

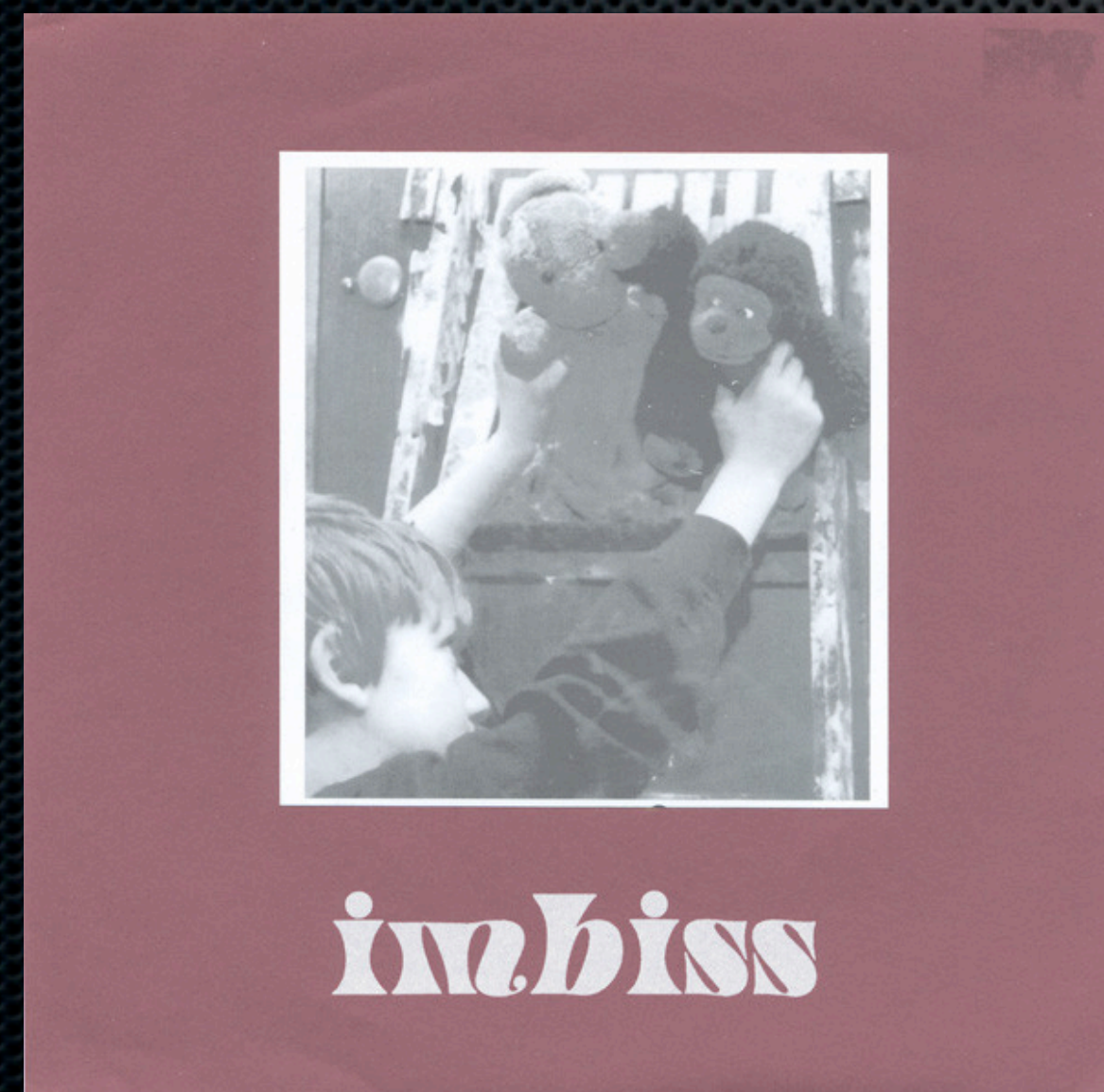






## Oi Music

- © Simplistic, stripped melodic rock
- © Gruff vocals, and group vocals
- © Loud but controlled and coherent, muscular



## Emo Music

- © Rock, but with sparse quiet sections and more noisy, frenetic passages
- © Plaintive and/or screaming vocals
- © Wider, more fluid, dynamic range that encompasses the very soft and chaotic



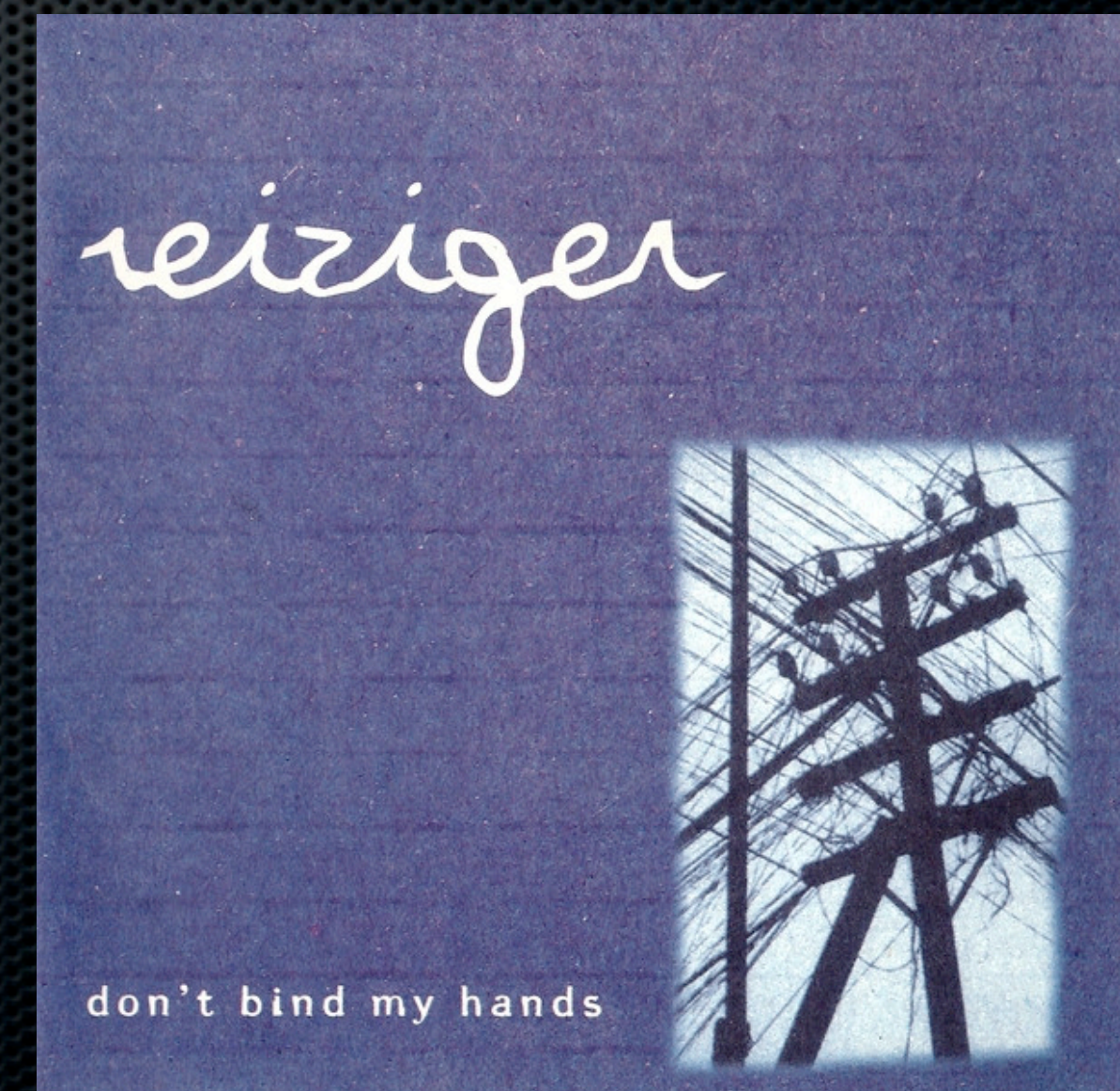
## Oi Lyrics

- © Themes of working class rebellion: drinking, fighting, hooliganism
- © Violent lyrics but tempered by a warrior-like emotionology
- © A genuine sense of communality and belonging



## Emo lyrics

- © Lyrics discuss personal emotions and feelings
- © An introspective and self-analytical tone
- © The implication that this self-analysis will create emotionally healthier communities







## Oi Bodies

- © Strong, stable body stance with martial overtones
- © The body as a container, managing emotions and feelings
- © Emotions are primarily 'released' through the vocal



## Emo Bodies

- © A softer stance and demeanour on stage
- © Performers express emotions sympathetically
- © Performers can appear governed or possessed by emotion, with no control



# The Greatest Discovery in Punk Studies Ever

- ◎  $oi - o = i$  (assertion/projection of identity)
- ◎  $emo - o = em = me$  (introspection)



## Conclusion

© Oi: emotional control, with a hard, martial masculinity; views emotions as potentially destabilising and thus requiring management

© Emo: surrenders to emotions and feelings; values emotions and encourages their exploration in order to better emotional wellbeing

© These two polarised positions reflect wider questions regarding our lives and behaviour as punks, activists, and humans



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