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Color Coding Classification in Counterculture Communities

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ABSTRACT

Fashion has been used to reflect the life of the person who wears them since the beginning of time, whether that be by showing distinctions of class and culture. One of the most historic ways of distinction between groups has been color. Groups, such as the Punks and members of the LGBTQ+ community, have been using color coding practices as a language with messages seen through the "flagging" of different colors. For the Punk Community, this coding is called Lace Laws and for the LGBTQ+ Community this coding is known as Hanky Code. The practice were quite popular during the 1970s and throughout the 80s and 90s but seem to have loss popularity in the past decades. The purpose of this study is to discuss whether or not these practices are "dead" through a series of interviews and an examination of social media forums focused on these debates.