

Zines

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“Children, Young People and Education” at York St
John University.

What is a zine?

Short for “magazine”,
pronounced “zeen”

“They can be a messy hodgepodge of personal thoughts or an expertly designed political treatise. They can fit easily into a pocket or take up an entire 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper. They can be heavily collaged or minimalist; colored or black-and-white; handwritten or typed; stapled, sewn, or loose. The unifying thread is their outside of-the-mainstream existence as independently written, produced, and distributed media that value freedom of expression and freedom from rules above all else.” (Duke University Library, in Radway, 2012, p. 28)



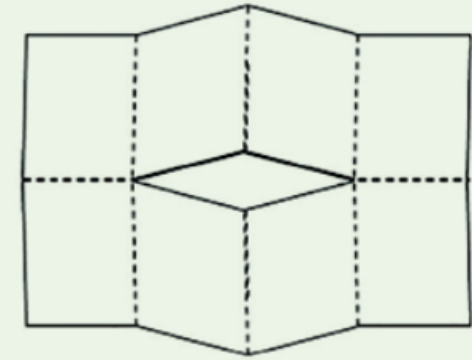
SF punk zines at Prelinger Library (Eyink, 2012)

How are they made?

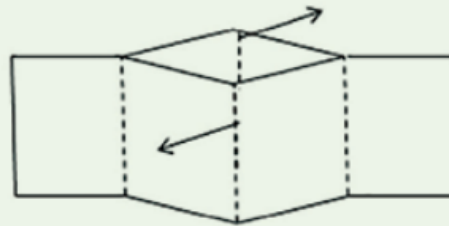
- Electronically or by hand.
- You can choose either for your assignment.
- You will have further information on how to create a zine electronically later in the semester.



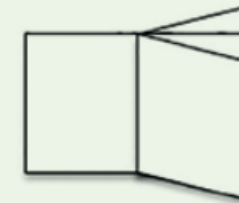
1. Fold any size paper into eighths.



2. Cut along the horizontal center fold line so that the paper appears as shown. (This is most easily accomplished by folding the paper along the center vertical fold, cutting the horizontal fold to the next vertical fold.)



3. Fold paper in half along the horizontal line. Open the cut sections so as to push the vertical center folds away from each other and to push the far right and far left sections together.



4. Pinch or rub the folds to make them sharp and to allow the booklet to lie flat.

Students are shown how to make a zine from one piece of paper (Oslund & Barton, 2017, p. 23).

Zine history

Science fiction fanzines
(magazines made by fans)
(Duncombe, in Creasap,
2014, p. 156)

Riot grrrl, “a small movement [...] confronting sexism in punk rock music subcultures and grew into a national movement of young women confronting sexism in their everyday lives (Marcus, in Creasap, 2014, p. 157).

Nguyen (2012) explores the problems the riot grrrl and zine scene have with race and racism (and sexism). (see also Radway, 2016).

1970s

2003

1930s

1990s

2012

Punk rock (ignored by mainstream) (Duncombe, in Creasap, 2014, p. 157)

started to be archived at Barnard zine library (Eichhorn 2013)

Let's look at some...

What do you notice about:

- Topics covered?
- Style and features?



SF punk zines at Prelinger Library (Eyink, 2012)

Topics

Music

“DIY” culture

Feminism

Anti-racism/race

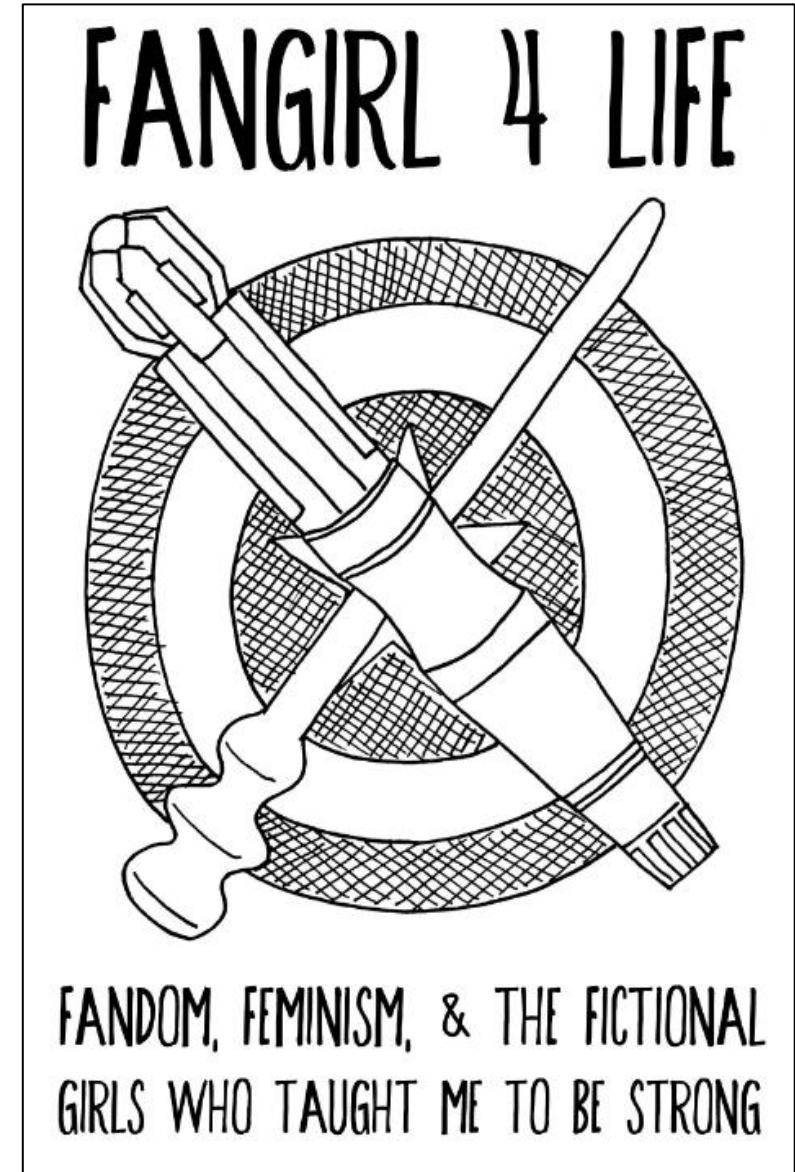
What else?

Feminist

“Zine-making employs three principles of feminist pedagogy: participatory learning, validation of personal experience, and the development of critical thinking skills”
(Creasap, 2014, p. 156)

“The personal is political”

- “Fangirl 4 life” by Holli Michele Mintzer
- “This zine breaks down what fandom and fan culture is from a feminist and feminine perspective. 28-year-old Holli writes about her love of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, draws "Patron Saints of Children's Literature," and unpacks the idea of "Geek Girl Cred." She explains terms related to fanfiction and gives recommendations for subversive fanfiction works. The zine is typed with hand-drawn illustrations.”



Anti-racism/ race

E.g. the People of Color
(POC) Zine Project
([anon], 1975)





Social justice zine fair



Features

Visual

Informal

No set size

Self-published

What else...?

Zine-making for teen girls

"This DIY ethic is the cornerstone of the political aspect of Grrrl Zines A-Go-Go. We believe zine-making embodies the phrase 'the personal is political' by encouraging active participation in the creation of one's own culture, and independence from mainstream media."
Grrrl Zines A-Go-Go (USA)

"Zine-making is especially important for teen girls who discover a new avenue for expression that is uncensored; something that they can produce alone, without the need for experts or expensive tools – their tools are their mind and a pen – anyone can do it."
Grrrl Zines A-Go-Go (USA)



Zines and academia

'INVESTIGATING THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF AN AFTER-SCHOOL MINECRAFT CLUB'

CHRIS BAILEY, SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY



Bailey, 2017

Formal vs. informal

“Unlike research papers, zine style is decidedly informal. Images are hand-drawn or cut-and-pasted by hand. Essays, poems, or confessional stories might also be hand-written—or typed with drawings framing the paragraphs.”

Creasap (2014, p. 155)

Presenting complex information

Questions

- ? How important were the missionaries to the survival of the new Jewish immigrants in the U.K.?
- ? What did the British Jewish community think of the missions and were their actions ever influenced by them?
- ? What did these interactions mean for Jewish-Christian relations in England?

Missionaries and Jews in Victorian London



Jewish immigrant



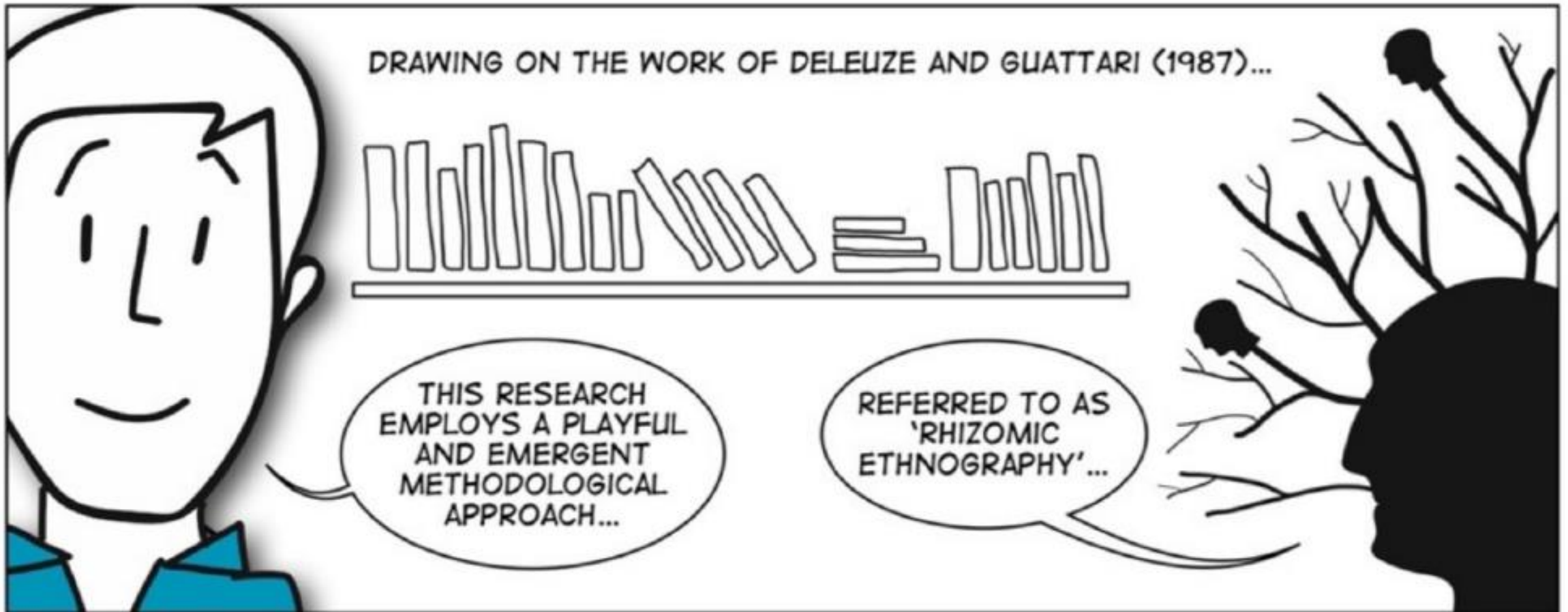
Russian or Polish
Single
Male



Fleeing persecution both physical and political / economic
Yiddish speaker - may know Hebrew as well as East European languages but not English
Came from a traditional Jewish religious orthodoxy
Limited trade knowledge / professional skills
No money or possessions



Academic zines: referencing



What about children and young people?

- Anything can be the topic of a zine
- BUT for young people (especially girls), zines can be a way to explore their own experiences in a creative way.

Guzzetti and Gamboa (2004)

- Focus on social justice
- Teenage girls created zines that reflected their identities and beliefs.
- They found they could write against gender stereotypes.
- Important that it is a “do-it-yourself” (DIY) approach.



Janene Irving holding zines (Guzzetti & Gamboa, 2004, p. 423)

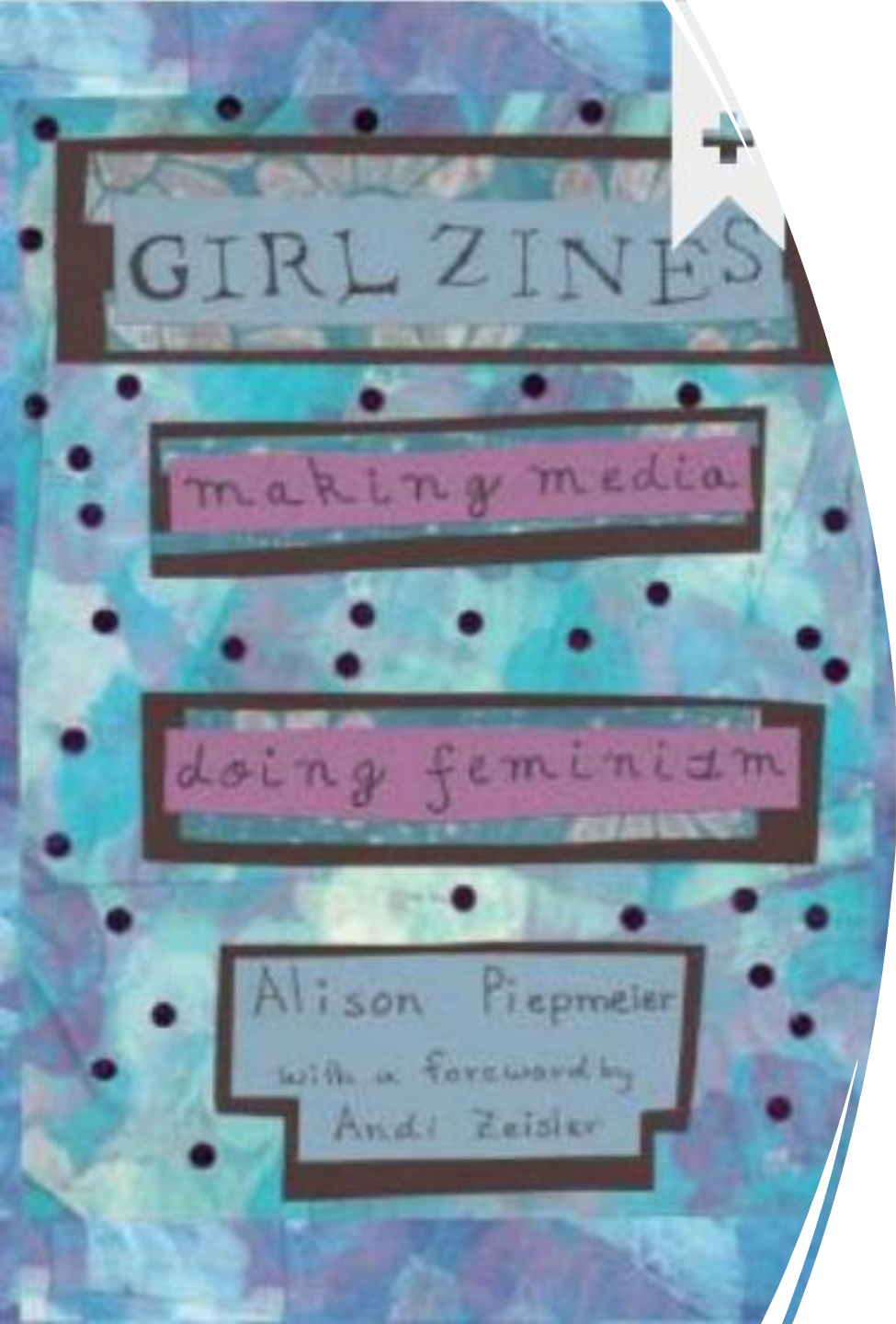
How to make zines

- [How to Make a Zine \(Barnard University\)](#)
- [Zine making \(Wikibooks\)](#)



Where to find paper zines

- Zines are traditionally sold in “distros” – just search for “zine distro” and you will find loads, selling zines for a few pounds. Also take a look at Etsy!
- [UK and Ireland Zine libraries](#)



Where to find electronic versions of zines

- [Queer Zine library](#)
- [Barnard zines](#)
- [People of Color Zine Project](#)
- Piepmeier (2009) – ebook covering lots of information and examples

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Images

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Further reading

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