

# Digital Feminist Activism of Extreme Metal Vocalists

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## Abstract

In recent years, extreme metal vocalists such as Larissa Stupar of Venom Prison and Serena Cherry of Svalbard, have used their music as a site to explore and engage with their feminism. Their feminist activism is not contained to their music, it is also expressed on their social media. Alongside the rise of feminism in extreme metal, digital feminist activism has become an increasingly popular form of feminist engagement, for example #metoo movement. This PhD thesis will examine the digital feminist activism done by women and non-binary extreme metal vocalists. It draws upon feminist accounts of affect to theorise how extreme metal vocalists are affected by being able to do feminist activism online. This work will uncover which feminist topics vocalists address online and their rationale behind doing so. Additionally, this thesis will consider the extent to which extreme metal vocalists feel their participation in extreme metal is affected by their feminism as well as the extent to which feminist vocalists believe there is a relationship between extreme metal and feminism.



Larissa Stupar- Venom Prison



Serena Cherry- Svalbard

## Research Question

RQ: How are women and non binary extreme metal vocalists doing digital feminism?

## Research Aim

Aim: To generate an understanding into how women and non-binary extreme metal vocalists do digital feminist activism. I will focus on how these individuals are affected by their ability to be able to do digital feminist activism and which feminist topics they choose to address through their digital affective labour. This focus will assist in understanding the relationship between extreme metal and feminism and how both extreme metal and digital media can affect the ways in which feminists can do feminist activism.

## Method

Semi-structured interviews will be used to gather data. Before interviewing, a vignette of the digital feminist activism of each participant will be collected. Once thematically analysed, this vignette will support my interview guide, providing me with examples to probe about in the interviews. My interview guide is composed of three main sections:

1. Feminism: How do participants define their feminism? What inspired their feminism?
2. Digital Feminist Activism: which feminist topics do participants talk about online? In what form does their digital feminism take? How do they feel being able to do digital feminist activism?
3. Relationship to extreme metal: Do participants believe there is a relationship between feminism and extreme metal? Has their feminism affected their participation in extreme metal?



## Research Contribution

1. Feminist Digital Media Studies  
The majority of existing research focuses on how fans are affected by a celebrity doing feminist activism online. There is little known about how public figures are affected by being able to do digital feminist activism and the relationship their digital feminist activism has with their career, in this case the relationship between a vocalist's digital feminist activism and extreme metal music.
2. Heavy Metal Studies  
In existing literature, feminism has been used as an analytical tool through which to study extreme metal. There is a lack of academia which address feminism as a subject of extreme metal. My research will address this gap by through the study of the feminist activism vocalists do online and how they are affected by this, given the anti-feminist context of extreme metal.

## References

Please scan the QR code to view the references for key literature that has informed my research

