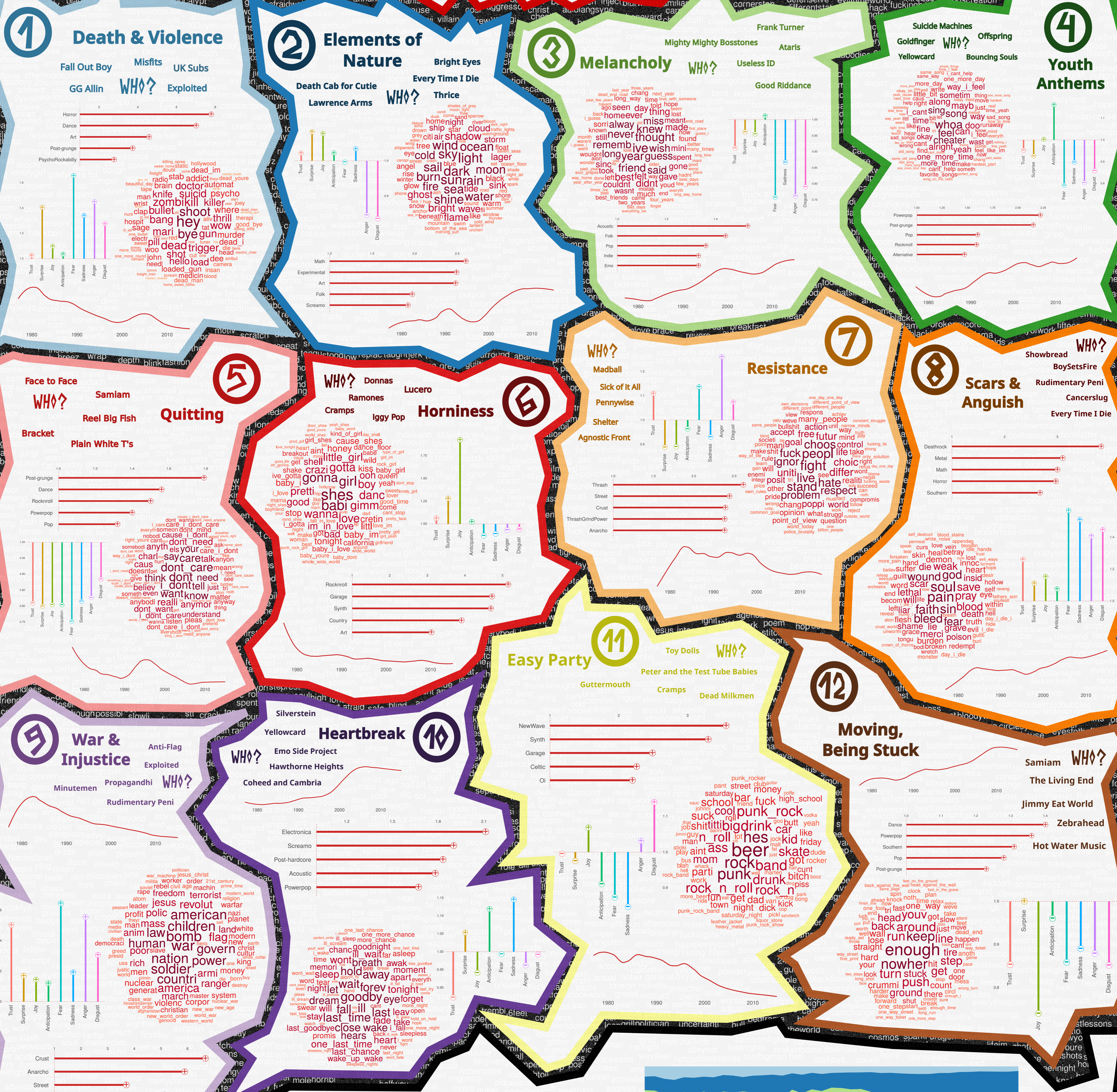


# WHAT DO WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE PLAY

MARTIN MÖLDER

# PUNK!?

FEDERICO VEGETTI



**WHAT DO WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE PLAY PUNK!?**  
A quantitative analysis of the lyrics of punk songs from the website [www.plyrics.com](http://www.plyrics.com)

The data include 85,548 songs and 3,362 bands between 1977 to 2015.

We extracted 12 topics from the corpus of songs. A "topic" is a pattern of words and phrases that occur together frequently across the songs. For each topic, we looked at the **most representative words**, the **subgenres** where the topic occurs more frequently, the **sentiment** expressed by the language, and the **top-5 bands** who talk about it in their lyrics. We also looked at the **prevalence over time** of every topic, to see how important different matters have been for the punk kids over the years. You can also see the time distribution of all topics together here on the right.

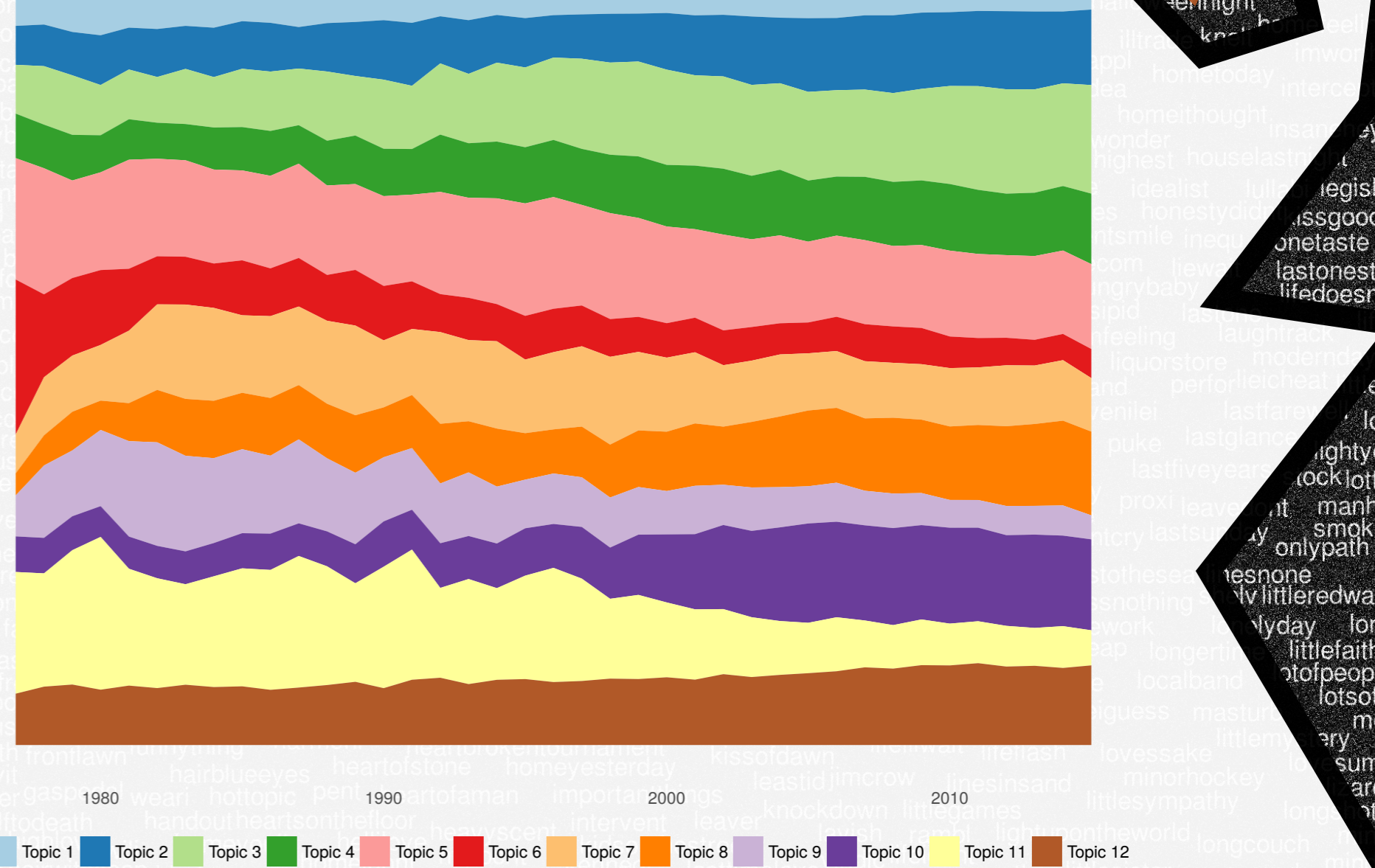
We gave a name to each topic based on the most characteristic words that you can see in the word clouds above. This is what each topic is defined by. To identify the subgenres, we used the 'genre' tags associated to the albums on plyrics. For many bands the genre is missing, so results are partial. The sentiment analysis is based on the 'NRC Word-Emotion Association Lexicon'.

The analysis was performed in R using the packages **stm**, **wordcloud**, **phrasemachine**, **tidytext**, and **ggplot2**

**Martin Mölder**, once a member of a punk band himself, is now a doctoral candidate at the PolSci Department at the Central European University. For more on Martin, see: [www.martinmolder.com](http://www.martinmolder.com)

**Federico Vegetti** is a huge fan of punk rock since the age of 15, and works as a postdoc at the PolSci Department at the Central European University. For more on him, see: [federicovegetti.github.io](http://federicovegetti.github.io)

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1980 1990 2000 2010  
Topic 1 Topic 2 Topic 3 Topic 4 Topic 5 Topic 6 Topic 7 Topic 8 Topic 9 Topic 10 Topic 11 Topic 12