

X

Straight Edge and Radical Sobriety

Gabriel Kuhn

Straight edge—hardcore punk’s drug-free offshoot—has thrived as a subculture since the early 1980s. Its influence has reached far beyond musical genres and subcultural divides. Today it is more diverse and richly complex than ever, and in the past decade alcohol and drug use have become a much-discussed issue in radical politics, not least due to the hard work, dedication, and commitment to social and environmental justice found among straight-edge activists.

X: Straight Edge and Radical Sobriety is Gabriel Kuhn’s highly anticipated follow-up to his critically acclaimed *Sober Living for the Revolution*. In this impressive volume, Kuhn continues his reconnaissance of straight edge culture and how it overlaps with radical politics. Extensively illustrated and combining original interviews and essays with manifestos and reprints from zines and pamphlets, *X* is a vital portrait of the wide spectrum of people who define straight edge culture today.

In the sprawling scope of this book, the notion of straight edge as a bastion of white, middle-class, cis males is openly confronted and boldly challenged by dozens of contributors who span five continents. *X* takes a piercing look at religion, identity, feminism, aesthetics, harm reduction, and much more. It is both a call to action and an elaborate redefinition of straight edge and radical sobriety.

Promising to inspire discussion, reflection, and unearth hidden chapters of hardcore punk history, *X: Straight Edge and Radical Sobriety* is of crucial importance to anybody interested in the politics of punk and social constructive thought.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gabriel Kuhn is an author, translator, and union activist. He has published widely in English and German. His texts have been translated into more than a dozen languages.

ACCOLADES

“Straight-edge culture is very diverse, and parts of it always had a strong emphasis on emancipation and equality, also with regard to gender and sexuality. It’s good to have a book acknowledging this.”

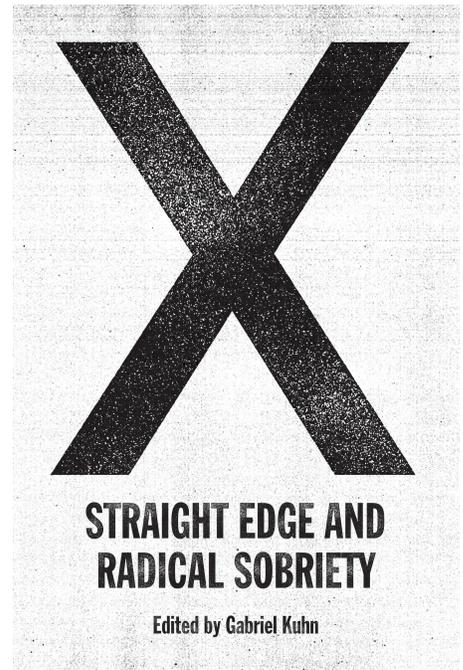
—Jenni Ramme, Emancypunx Records

“Forget the clichés—straight edge isn’t just about buff white dudes. Kuhn’s book shows that it’s a multifaceted social movement rooted in the intersection of DIY culture and political resistance.”

—Lori Black Bear, Sprout Distro

“Kuhn once again brings a razor-sharp eye to straight edge, powerfully illuminating the gamut of liberatory possibility in the choice to not only reduce harm to oneself and this world but, crucially, experiment with caring, consensual social relations and spaces too.”

—Cindy Milstein, editor of *Rebellious Mourning: The Collective Work of Grief*



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