OUT OF THE DARK AND INTO THE LIGHT:
A LOOK INTO METAL MUSIC AND VIOLENCE

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ABSTRACT

Out of the dark and into the light is a project that looks at the relationship, real or perceived, between metal music listenership and violence. The project utilizes semi-structured interviews with four working metal musicians whose bands are based in the Kansas City area. There is also an elicitation element with articles from the New York Times that deal with metal music being blamed for a tragic event. The topics covered include: the musician's beliefs on the perceived issue of metal music leading to increased violent behavior, what they believe they would do if their music was blamed for a tragedy, and their thoughts on metal music fans.

Summary of Professional Skills Component

Out of the dark and into the light also contains a collection of photographs that show the intense, yet intimate experience of a metal concert, and a portrait series of metal music fans. The interlacing of these two subject matters show the interactions that fans have with music and musicians in a live atmosphere. It also shows the diverse fan base that makes up the metal community. It puts a face to the people that are often wrongly labeled or categorized based on negative stereotypes.