

# ANTI-CORPOS



Several months ago in Berlin we found the words "Anti-Corpos" written on a wall in the local subway station with a big feminist sign next to it. We were suspicious of what it could mean—a collective, a feminist gang, or maybe a local band we had never heard of before? Then, a few days later, at the Landverraad show I organized in Berlin, I saw a girl with a big Anti-Corpos patch on her back. Later this summer my friend Juninho, who happened to be visiting Europe with his bands Ratos de Porão and O Inimigo, mentioned a band from São Paulo with the same name and told me I should check them out. Actually, we both thought the band had already broken up. My curiosity was growing. Luckily, it turned out they had just taken a long break, and the drummer of Anti-Corpos, Helena, had been living in Berlin for a few months. When we met she told me that her band is just about to do a new release! What a great coincidence! When I first listened to their band I couldn't believe I had never heard of them before. Their sound is a full throttle Brazilian thrash—very fast, tight, and furious. Soundtrack to the annihilation of bigotry and inequality.

How is it possible to not know about such a great band? I think it somehow shows that even in the hardcore punk scene, which is politically aware and progressive, bands outside of the U.S. and certain western or southwestern European countries, are still more likely to be overlooked. That's a pity because when it comes to female/female-fronted hardcore, and hardcore punk in general, the Brazilian scene has a lot to offer. Brazil has a great tradition of good hardcore punk bands, including feminist bands. Just remember the amazing all-girl punk formations like As Mercenárias, Kaos Klitoriano, or local riot grrrl scene pioneers Dominatrix, and all the bands mentioned by Anti-Corpos in the following interview. The questions for the interview were answered by two of the band members, Helena and Rebeca, in August of 2013. The current formation of Anti-Corpos is Rebeca Domiciano (vocals), Helena Krausz (drums), Adriessa Oliveira (guitar), and Daniele Marighetti (bass). Interview and introduction by Jenni Ramme. Photos provided by Donna Kether, Kimmy Simões and the band.

## MRR: Please introduce yourselves.

Helena: I'm Helena Krausz from São Paulo, Brazil. I'm 25 years old. I'm a feminist and the drummer. I'm also vegetarian, same as the other members of our band.

Rebeca: I'm 18 years old. I identify as a radical lesbian feminist. I'm the singer of Anti-Corpos and guitarist of I Kama Iaba.

## MRR: How did you come together as a band?

Helena: Veri and I met in school in 1999. We started listening to rock together and discovered hardcore. We went to some hardcore underground gigs, but had never seen any girls on stage. In 2002 we all met through a Riot Grrrl fest where national bands such as Bulímia, Infect, Menstruação Anárquica, Hats, Lava, and several others performed. Then we decided to start playing, but we didn't know how to play anything! I decided to be the drummer and Veri the bassist. We invited

two girls to play with us, Maira Moya (singer) and Bel (guitar). It was super awesome to start from zero all together. Our first show consisted of nineteen covers! After that we went through several formations. In 2007 the band was totally different, both the members and the sound. But Adriessa and I played in other bands too, and we thought we'd better stop, with plans to come back at a later date. Around 2010 or 2011 Adriessa and I wanted to start playing together again. We met Rebeca through Coletivo Emancipar (Emancipation Collective). We thought the force and desire she had to do feminist things was amazing, and we decided to invite her to sing in Anti-Corpos. We wanted to reform the band because we needed to talk about feminism again in the hardcore scene. Also, we also wanted to have more girls there as well as more bands formed by girls. In Brazil in 2007 there was a shortage of female bands. Virtually all the bands broke up. So we decided to go back in order to try to retake that scene.

## MRR: How was it being so young and playing in a band? Does it make a difference?

Helena: It was amazing for us! Since we were fourteen we have been playing around, getting to know new bands and people, a lot of Brazilian cities and their local scenes. We learned a lot about feminism through music. I have met a lot of good friends of mine because of this band. The only problem was always the lack of money to record some quality records, mostly because we were still in school. Ten years later and money still is a problem, but we've been recording and doing some nice stuff.

## MRR: What are your musical influences?

Helena: Our influences come basically from Riot Grrrl. We like Team Dresch, Bikini Kill, and Sleater Kinney a lot. We also like melodic hardcore. We like RVIVR. We also like heavy, faster, and more aggressive hardcore. I have been listening to Landverraad (from Amsterdam); I've gotten to know this band this year since I've been living in Berlin.

Rebeca: I got to know punk through bands like Dominatrix, Anti-Corpos, Dealers, some bands that played in the early 2000s. It was only later that I discovered other foreign bands like Bikini Kill, Team Dresch, etc. Nowadays I have been listening to a lot of electronic music and rap done by womyn.

## MRR: Are there other bands you've been involved with, and do you have any side projects?

Helena: I used to play in Siete Armas ([sietearmas.bandcamp.com](http://sietearmas.bandcamp.com)), which is a bit calmer, a mix of rock and blues.

Rebeca: I play guitar in a crust, anarcho-feminist band called I Kama Iaba.

**MRR: I think your record is a pretty good one, but hardly known. Tell us about that record and your future plans concerning the band.**

Helena: First of all, thank you! We have always done DIY recordings. We are a band from São Paulo, Brazil and we never really got a spot in the hardcore scene there. We never had a label that wanted to distribute our material. Our last EP, *Meninas para Frente* [Girls to the Front] was recorded and distributed DIY. We did it ourselves. Now it is just available on bandcamp. But soon we will have a new release on Emancypunx Records (Germany/Poland), Fêmur Records (a label from São Paulo started by our guitarist Adriessa), Drink and Be Merry Records (Russia) and No Gods No Masters Records (Brazil). The release will be a 7" EP and should come out at the beginning of 2014. We are recording seven songs for this album! Plus we are very excited, because Emancypunx is a label we have heard a lot of good things about, and it's super important to us. We are so glad!

**MRR: Your lyrics talk about internal punk scene issues. What things do you feel should be changed or improved within the hardcore punk, queer punk, and feminist scenes?**

Helena: In Brazil we see a lot of bands in the hardcore scene that have beautiful statements, anti-sexist, anti-racist and anti-homophobia. But it is just a beautiful speech. There are a lot of guys playing that have physically attacked their girlfriends, or even do jokes about lesbians, trans\* and gays. There are even some that believe grrrls don't belong in the scene. When our band reformed we draw attention from the macho hardcore scene, but when we started talking about the sexism in the scene their preaching changed from "How cool you are!" to "These girls are too radical, they can't even take a joke." We felt deeply rejected from many people in the hardcore scene just because we talk about sexism and homophobia in the scene. We think their statements are tragic and comical, like "You can be radical feminists, but you can't talk about me and my friends' behavior." I sincerely feel like the scene lacks a lot of conversation about these topics and there is a need to deconstruct it, so we can talk about freedom in the hardcore and punk scenes. Last year I went to some events that discussed sexism in the punk scene, so I hope that in a couple of years things will get better. Maybe with new people, a new generation.

**MRR: Tell us about the Girls Rock Camp in Brazil. I heard that there were 60 girls attending! In Germany, for example, we really had a hard time finding participants for the camp. Is rock music so popular in Brazil? Do young people listen to rock music?**

Helena: The Girls Rock Camp was really successful! We did the first one on January this year at Sorocaba, a city close to São Paulo. Flávia and Mayra from a band called Biggs took part in the camp in Portland, Oregon as instrument instructors. Flávia always commented on how genial the camp idea is, and that she would like to organize a Brazilian version. In April of 2012 we organized the Emancipar Fest and did drums, bass and guitar workshops. After this we felt stronger about doing our own camp, which we did in 2013. When we lunched the call for volunteers it took us very little time to fulfill the 60 places needed. Since 2005, Flávia had been doing guitar workshops for girls at Sorocaba, so people in town knew her already. But we had people from many parts of Brazil. Also, parents that really loved the project had their daughters enroll. We had volunteers from all over the country, and we were able to create nine bands! I was a drum instructor, and produced one of the

bands. Adriessa was guitar instructor, and produced another band, and Rebeca was a roadie. In the last day of the camp, Anti-Corpos played at lunch time and it was definitely the best concert ever with the best audience! Rock is not the most popular rhythm in Brazil, but there are many people who enjoy it!

**MRR: Why do you think the Girls Rock Camps have become so popular in feminist communities, so much so that the camps are now organized in all different countries?**

Helena: I think it has become popular because it is a great empowerment tool. We are dealing with young girls at the beginning of their social life. It is much more than music! I think that most of the organizers and volunteers from many Girls Rock Camps all around the world wish they had such an experience when they were kids too. So why not gather a team of feminists and do it?

**MRR: Are you involved in any other feminist projects besides the Girls Rock Camps?**

Helena: Currently I am in Berlin helping organize LaDIYfest for 2013. But in Brazil I am part of the group that organizes Emancipar Fest, which is very similar to LaDIYfest.

**MRR: How is the situation for LGBTQ folks in Brazil?**

Helena: Brazil is huge, and we have some regions that are very homophobic, while some others are less homophobic. It's a big contradiction. For instance, the same Avenida Paulista that hosts the biggest gay pride parade in the world is also where people have been suffering homophobic aggressions. We are still struggling for some basic rights, like making homophobia a crime. It is a long and slow struggle and there is a lot of intolerance from some religious people, as well as people that are in important political positions within our government. Homophobia is being more talked about so people are thinking more about it as well.

**MRR: What are the main issues that the women's rights movement deals with in Brazil, and what is the state of the movement?**

Rebeca: Here in Brazil, and also in other parts of the globe, equal salaries for both men and women have been talked about for years, for we do the same jobs yet still earn different wages. Also the empowerment of the female body, abortion legalization, non-sexist campaigns for avoiding pregnancy, etc. Brazil is very racist and misogynist, but we have a strong movement of black women that are always bringing up important discussions. They talk about the discrimination that a lot of people in Brazil suffer from for being poor, not white, and not men. It's hard to admit, but it is a fact that the hardcore and Riot Grrrl scenes are dominated by middle class white people, which is easy to understand for it's a place where offensive jokes are tolerated.

**MRR: How are the feminist and queer punk scenes in Brazil? Are there any bands or projects you would like to recommend?**

Helena: Some years ago we had a lot of bands, and a strong grrrl scene. But since 2007 the bands started disappearing and the grrrl bands breaking up. But we are retaking this scene. There are bands like Biggs and the Dealers that play some heavy rock'n'roll. Human Trash is also a very nice band that is actually going to be touring in Europe between September and November of 2013. In the northeast of Brazil there are the Noskill playing hardcore. These are

some of the active bands we like a lot. There is also a very beautiful band called Teu Pai Já Sabe? that plays queer hardcore, and we love it!

Rebeca: Like we said, our band has been trying to avoid sexist scenes. We are creating and exploring new places and people. Trying to break the macho block in these spaces is almost impossible. It demands a lot of energy, so we think we're better off doing our own thing, for we know it's gonna bring us good experiences.

The Biggs: [myspace.com/thebiggsrock](http://myspace.com/thebiggsrock)  
Human Trash: [humantrash.bandcamp.com](http://humantrash.bandcamp.com)  
Noskill: [noskill.bandcamp.com](http://noskill.bandcamp.com)  
Teu Pai Já Sabe?: [teupaijasabe.bandcamp.com](http://teupaijasabe.bandcamp.com)

**MRR: You told me that Anti-Corpos is an all-lesbian band. I think that's pretty unusual for hardcore punk bands. How is that in Brazil, and how does being an openly lesbian band affect you, and how does it affect your scene?**

Helena: I think that being a lesbian is a form of activism, inside and outside the scene. This is very interesting because many feminist bands formed by lesbians are not in the hardcore or sXe scenes. There are girls playing with dudes, but they aren't dykes. I don't know any other lesbian hardcore bands besides us. (laughs) This is strange.

Rebeca: Just to complete what Helena just said, I think that the fact there are no lesbians in this scene is because this scene is a masculine, macho, heterosexual-dominated scene. It is not appealing to the dudes to see a girl band in which no one playing wants to date or have sex with them.

**MRR: How is the networking and cooperation between the Brazilian radical feminist, queer, and queer-feminist hardcore punk scene with other South and Latin American countries?**

Helena: It is curious because we do not have any relations with bands in Latin America besides Brazil. We are a lot more in contact with bands from the USA than with feminist punks from Latin America. Okay, I only know Kumbia Queers from Argentina/Mexico, and they are amazing!

**MRR: Any question MRR did not ask, but you would wish to hear? Anything you want to add? Feel free to do so!**

Helena: Thanks for the space! MRR is awesome! And I just wanted to say that since I am living in Berlin this year, Duda Gonçalves is playing drums for Anti-Corpos until I am back. Thank you sista!

Rebeca: We hope we can do a European Tour ASAPI! I'm saving money already! Thanks for the space! Noix!

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