## Popular Music

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Special Issue East Asian popular music and its (dis)contents

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Popular Music is an international multi-disciplinary journal covering all aspects of the subject - from the formation of social group identities through popular music, to the workings of the global music industry, to how particular pieces of music are put together. The journal includes all kinds of popular music, whether rap or rai, jazz or rock, from any historical era and any geographical location. Popular Music carries articles by scholars from a variety of disciplines and theoretical perspectives. Each issue contains substantial, authoritative and influential articles, topical pieces, and reviews of a wide range of books. Some issues are thematic. The editors also welcome polemical pieces for the 'Middle Eight' section of the journal. Contributors should consult the 'Notes' on the inside back cover.

Articles and any other material not related to reviews should be submitted online at http://journals. cambridge.org/pmu. Any queries relating to submissions may be addressed to popularmusic@cambridge.org. Material for review should be sent to Professor Martin Cloonan, email martin.cloonan@music.glasgow.ac.uk.

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## The Contributors

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# Popular Music Call for contributions to the Middle 8

Over the years, the *Middle 8* section of *Popular Music* has acted as a very useful platform for various reports, polemics and discussions for which the format of a refereed academic paper is not suitable. In recent times, we have had fewer suggestions for items for inclusion. We would like to invite readers to offer material akin to what we have published in the past, and in addition we would like to encourage responses to a particular topic. The editorial group has recently held a discussion on the relationship between published research in the field and academics' wider responsibility, in particular to their students. While the group's professional responsibility effectively finishes once material is in the public domain, we feel perhaps a moral responsibility to understand what happens to it subsequently.

Accordingly, we would like to invite academics from within the field, whether with years of experience or not, to contribute short pieces (up to 1,000 words) to the Middle 8 section saying something not about particular papers (or even particular books - let us not restrict this only to material published within our own pages), but about process, about how you decide what, of others' research, should find its way into the curriculum for your own teaching. Is the process purely serendipitous? Do you, as a matter of policy, only use material published in the last couple of years? How strongly does the language in which research is published restrict its value to you, and do you have mechanisms to overcome any attendant problems? Do you use material which generates good discussions, or material which is 'good' in its own right (as far as these can be distinguished)? Is the disciplinary background of authors of material more, or less, relevant than content and conclusions? Do you rely on reviews or citations to guide you towards what to use? Do you rely on publishers' lists? Do you trawl universities' open access repositories? Do you regularly read only a limited number of journals with an eye to using material? How has digitisation affected whatever process you use? Do you set out to use papers thrown up by internet searches? Perhaps it's all of these, but in what way(s) do you control the process by which material, the fruit of others' research, finds its way into your classes, your reading lists, the essays you mark and, hence, your students' heads?

We intend this as an open-ended initiative. We are keen on as broad a discussion as possible, irrespective of the level of your experience, your disciplinary background or your native language. There is no date by which we ask colleagues to respond to this particular call, although the sooner someone starts the ball rolling, the sooner we can learn from each other's practices. Submissions on this or any other topic for the *Middle 8* section can be made using the same process as for submitting an article.

The editorial group