

Colloquium April 18, 2025
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Title: “Intertextuality in Protest Music”

Abstract:

Music in social movements regularly recalls pre-existing music, text, and symbols, which can capture attention, resonate with historical memory, enhance participation, or obfuscate under oppression. This chapter considers how intertextuality manifests itself in protest music. Extending Genette and Lacasse, it posits a typology of intertextuality in protest music—including cover songs, contrafacta, hip-hop remakes, remixes, allegories, metaphors, genre adaptation, paratext, and metatext—and considers how these techniques convey political messages, often by combining with contemporary indexes (Peirce) or exploiting intertextual gaps (Bauman and Briggs). The type of intertextuality chosen and how it is received can vary depending on method of censorship, copyright regimes, stage of the protest cycle, performance venue, and status of artist. Drawing examples from this handbook’s essays and the author’s own research in Japan and elsewhere, the essay shows the ubiquity of intertextuality in protest music, how it differs by circumstance, and how it communicates or misfires.

Bio: Noriko Manabe is professor and chair of music theory at Indiana University, with affiliations in the departments of Folklore & Ethnomusicology and East Asian Languages and Cultures. She researches music in social movements, popular music in Japan and the Americas, and the interactions of linguistics and music. Her monograph, *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised: Protest Music after Fukushima* (OUP), won the John Whitney Hall Prize from the Association for Asian Studies, the Book Prize from the British Forum for Ethnomusicology, and Honorable Mention for the Alan Merriam Prize from the Society for Ethnomusicology, and her article on Kendrick Lamar’s “Alright” won the Outstanding Publication Award from the Society for Music Theory. She is co-editor (with Eric Drott) of *The Oxford Handbook of Protest Music*. She is editor of the book series, 33-1/3 Japan, from Bloomsbury Publishing.