

DOCTORAL THESIS

Christian Musicking as Imagined Communities: Three Case Studies from Hong Kong

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Date of Award:
2022

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Abstract

The musicking of Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) is essential for Protestant Christian communities worldwide. Hong Kong is no exception, where CCM was introduced two decades ago. Nonetheless, academic studies on CCM in Hong Kong are few. This study focuses on the musicking of CCM in three local organizations, namely the Stream of Praise Music Ministry (SOP), the Hong Kong Association of Christian Music Ministry (HKACM), and the North Point Methodist Church (NPMC). A mixed-mode method of ethnography and auto-ethnography is employed that entails semi-structured interviews, participant observations, and practice-led reflections. As a practitioner-researcher, I look at my participatory and reflexive experiences as a valuable part of this study. I argue that musicking plays an essential role in the formation of imagined communities. By applying Benedict Anderson's notion of "imagined communities" (1983)—different communities that members may not know each other nor have actual physical contact with each other but are mutually connected (6), I reveal how different social imaginaries have contributed to the formation of three very different imaged communities and how CCM musicking can connect local Christians to other Christians globally.