
Music and Globalization

TRACKING GLOBALIZATION

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Music and Globalization

Critical Encounters

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Preface and Acknowledgments

This volume grows out of the work of Critical World, a virtual research laboratory that uses ethnographic research to explore the relationship between popular culture and globalization. A Web-based experiment in project-oriented teaching and research (www.criticalworld.net), Critical World provides resources for critical engagement with the products of global culture and creates the opportunity for debate about the role of globalization in our everyday lives. Professors, researchers, students, and artists from various cultural backgrounds and disciplinary perspectives participate in the project. Bringing them together is a common concern about the history and consequences of globalization and a shared interest in popular culture's potential to reveal something about the worlds that we inhabit. Critical World consists of a series of multimedia modules intended for use in university teaching and research. Projects are structured in a way that permits users to combine video, sound, images, and text in novel ways. In addition to providing basic information about the project, the website also allows visitors to correspond directly with the project's author, either to give feedback or make suggestions about potential contributions to the project.

The Critical World Project would not have been possible without financial support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The project was launched officially in 2004 during a three-day inter-

national workshop made possible with the assistance of the SSHRC research workshops and conferences program as well as the Department of Anthropology and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the University of Montreal, the Canada Research Chair in Comparative Memory (Laval University), l'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (Bureau Amérique du nord), and the Center for Research on Intermediality (University of Montreal). A number of the analyses presented in this volume were originally formulated in presentations at the workshop.

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