



CALL FOR PAPERS

Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory

Topic: Religion and American Music

Two of the most personal expressions of humanity include religious belief and music. Despite the assumed power attached to combining the two, St. Augustine (and others) were distrustful of aesthetics. Coercion, said Marx, amounts to a dark construct, one foisted upon the masses, escaping perception. Religionists have often resisted the allure of sights, sounds, and electronic devices. But hegemonic practices have, nonetheless, remained part of the arsenal of clergy and politicians.

Whether music (as merely one example) does or does not have the “power” of persuasion (to the extinguishing of human agency), or whether music remains a tool of resistance, the seminal relationship between religion and music remains clear. To complicate the matter, scholars have offered new insight into the “crisis of representation,” as it relates to aesthetic value and truth-claims, which often accompany cultural artifacts connected to capitalism.

For this special issue, papers are requested from philosophers, theologians, and scholars of religious studies, American studies, and ethnomusicology are invited to explore various theoretical positions on music and religion, particular those related to the music industry, business, consumer dynamics, and religious and political belief. Possible topics might include such things as:

- Christian rock and the religious right
- Applying Lawrence Grossberg’s exploration of post-structuralism to explain religious rhetorical devices (as industrial “product”)
- Evangelical popular music and apocalypticism
- Consumer culture and Christian missions
- Heavy metal and conservatism
- The increased LGBT presence within contemporary Christian music (CCM)

- Using the functionalism of William James as an apologetic for a “pluralist” approach to contemporary worship music

Deadline: March 1, 2016

Submission Instructions: Inquiries about possible topics and ideas are welcome at any time. Please send complete papers of 6,000-8,000 words, prepared for blind review, to Dr. Shawn Young, syoung23@ycp.edu. Please also send a separate cover sheet with complete contact information for the author(s).