

Public Abstract

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Graduation Term:FS 2016

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Degree:MA

Title:Yunnan Reggae: Music and Politics

This research looks at the music and politics of Yunnan reggae, exemplified by Wa reggae band Kawa. Drawing upon ethnographic fieldwork in Yunnan, primary and secondary sources, this paper first compares Yunnan reggae with roots reggae, including their theoretical groundings, folk beliefs, sounds, instrumentations, and geopolitical backgrounds. Supported by a literary analysis of Kawa's songs "Red Hair Tree" and "Nursery Rhyme" in comparison with Bob Marley's songs with similar ideologies, this research identifies how the context of Yunnan reggae gives rise to its genuine fusion with roots reggae, and how this fusion revives the cultural traditions and heritages for the Wa people.