

Cries of Joy, Songs of Sorrow: Chinese Pop Music and its Cultural Connotations

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Because of Western academia's focus on PRC Rock, almost nothing has been written on Taiwan's Mandopop (Mandarin Chinese pop music) which is far more popular throughout East Asia, including in the PRC. As a result of this, Mandopop's ubiquitous themes of loneliness, isolation, and anomie have been ignored. This is not to imply that people in the PRC and Taiwan are more lonely than people from other countries but, rather, that being human they experience these emotions. What is distinctive is that Mandopop becomes a primary conduit to express feelings that are relatively sanctioned in daily speech. In the following pages I will address these concerns and provide in depth interviews in Shanghai and Taipei in regards to Mandopop's themes of loneliness and isolation are so resonant to its fans.