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The Time and Manner of 'Postcolonial Finland' in the Context of Popular Music

The phrase 'postcolonial Finland' may constitute a provocation to some, but it is undeniable the postcolonial condition is a global issue. The peculiar geopolitical position of Finland in relation to both Eastern and Western Europe offers distinctive points of departure for interrogation of postcoloniality. This is further complexified by the notion of 'multicultural Finland' and its associated discussions over so-called new Finns.

Taken the pervasiveness of exoticizing tendencies in popular music, this sphere of cultural activity appears particularly fruitful for the examination of postcoloniality. Thus, I aim to address the applicability of postcolonial theories for the study of popular music in Finland. My examination is primarily theoretical in nature and entails discussing the temporal and ideological aspects of 'postcolonial Finland': in which ways is Finland implicated in power relations that are grounded on the history of European colonialism, and how have these power relations surfaced in Finnish popular music?