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Urban Desire: Asian Diaspora and Music Practices I

Navigating between cultures? Living in a third space? Children of exile? Heroes of resistance? – Moving away from grand narratives, we seek to situate our understanding of diaspora and its cultural politics in what they actually do. More specifically, the six papers included in these two sessions take music practices of Asian diaspora in Europe and the USA as their site of inquiry, to examine the complexity and dynamism of diasporic life in light of two mutually corresponding themes: 1/ youthful desire and longing in urban and multicultural contexts; and 2/ transnational pursuit across geographical and cultural distances questioning the boundaries between homeland, host country and their imagined community. Grounded in empirical research, our studies link identity and industry issues to a diversity of music consumption and production practices including hip-hop, indie rock, pop, musical, ethnic party and *noraebang* gathering.