

Friday Seminar

Spring
2022

“Music Tills the Soil of Our Hearts”: Sonic Moments and Anthropology

Ju-chen Chen

Department of Anthropology, CUHK



Date: 22 April 2022

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 pm



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How does sound work for anthropologists? If fieldwork is, after all, a different way of knowing, how do sounds matter? This talk is based on my venture to understand the economic aspirations of indie musicians conducted over the past few years. It all started from a shocking realization that many well-adored musicians often, year after year, go into debt so that the show can go on. I started to attend gigs and worked as a volunteer at music events with the hopes of observing and talking to musicians. Soon, my attention was diverted by another curiosity — the sublime experience of live performance. Live music moves people and creates community. How does music work on our minds? The yearning to answer this question led me to explore the nature of our sonic experience, revealing answers to both the inquiry about the economic aspiration of musicians and the experience of epiphany in anthropological fieldwork.



Department of Anthropology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
香港中文大學人類學系