



The Department of Anthropology  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

presents a seminar

by

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on

**Musical Cosmopolitans, New Mobilities,  
and Southern China's Transforming  
Music Industry**

Friday, 10 Nov 2017

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Room 11 Humanities Building

New Asia College, CUHK

A light lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. First come first served.

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**Abstract:**

In this paper, I present ongoing ethnographic research among a cohort of musicians who have moved to Guangzhou from smaller cities and rural areas throughout southern China. These musicians selectively draw from transnational genres of popular music and Chinese folk musics, and sing in local dialects about themes related to urban/rural difference, migration, their hometowns, and broader changes in Chinese society. Increasingly successful commercially, these bands have become central to a new business model adopted by one of China's largest record companies, which seeks to integrate traditional industry approaches with new strategies and new media that cater to an increasingly mobile citizenry. I propose two kinds of mobilities—actual and vicarious—which I argue are connected and mutually constituted, in part, through emergent forms of musical creativity and modes of circulation. Inspired by multiple and sometimes contradictory understandings of musical cosmopolitanism. I discuss the ways that global popular musics serve as palettes that musicians in China selectively draw on as they create music reflective of their own lives and own mobilities, and grapple with shifting ways of understanding space, place, where they are from, where they are going, China's place in the world, and the world's place in China.

**Bio:**

Adam Kielman is Assistant Professor of Music at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He holds a PhD (2016) and MA (2011) in ethnomusicology from Columbia University.

**ALL INTERESTED ARE WELCOME**