

**CFP: for the *Journal of Popular Music Studies* special issue on nightlife and global club cultures**

**Global Club Cultures**

Proposed Special Issue of the *Journal of Popular Music Studies*

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**200 Word Proposals Due:** Friday, August 15th 2014

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The *Journal of Popular Music Studies* invites submissions for a special issue on global nightlife cultures. There's a myth that to be interested in nightlife -- to party, to seek pleasure in the night, to devote oneself to a club scene and its music -- is to somehow be less concerned about the more "serious" aspects of everyday life. After all, how can you feasibly go to work tomorrow if you've been out until 6 a.m. or later? Ears ringing from pounding dance music. Club stamps still visible on your wrists. Isn't it better to stay at home, safe in the bosom of domesticity and fully tucked away from the ribald dangers and creatures of the night?

This is, of course, the primary moral argument that has been lodged against nightlife and club cultures since at least the late 19th century because it goes against the very core of modern urban life: productivity. Curfews, cabaret laws, zoning laws, and debates about which types of nightlife establishments can open where and what can be allowed to happen inside of them, how loud music can be played and until when -- these are all aspects of nightlife that are controlled by the irrational fear that nightlife is always up to no good.

But this simple moral argument overlooks three key ingredients of nightlife: 1) that global nightlife is a multi-billion dollar industry. To put that number in perspective, in New York City alone nightlife is a billion dollar industry and in places like Berlin, nightlife is one of the main cultural-touristic attractions; 2) that nightworlds are spaces for subcultural aesthetic innovations and experimentation; 3) and finally that through intimacy, dance, and self-styling, nightworlds create unique possibilities for social belonging and connectivity within and across race, class, gender, and sexualities.

This issue seeks to further investigate such particularities and their specific historicity, expanding on the current bibliography that, as much as it forms a canon strongly supported by Bourdieusian and Cultural Studies approaches, can and must profit greatly from a more theoretically diverse perspective. We hope to bring the best of recent work from a range of interdisciplinary fields to bear on music, place, and the global nightlife economy, from Berlin to Angola, thereby deepening our understanding of a cultural phenomenon that garners novel modes of existence throughout the globe.

**Some Possible Directions Of Inquiry May Include (but are not limited to):**

- Nightlife and club culture as cultural industry
- Creative non fiction about a unique nightlife experience
- Global voguing and house ball culture
- Kuduro and afro-house
- Creative innovations born in nightlife cultures
- Ethnographies of global/local nightlife scenes in South America, Africa, South East Asia and the Caribbean
- Album reviews; venue reviews
- Interviews with key players in the nightlife economy (DJs, hosts, promoters, venue owners)
- Couple dances in the afro-diaspora
- The rise of “EDM” and commercial dance music
- Location specific scenes (Nightlife Metropolises): Berlin, London, New York, Sao Paulo, Cape Town.
- What is a genre?
- Nightlife as queer world-making
- The body as signifier through dance
- Modes of appropriation, appreciation and creation in its particular aesthetic
- Sexuality and sensuality on the dance floor
- Sound and sound systems
- Nightlife methods — how to do nightlife research
- Nightlife as performance
- Nightlife as debris: bar stamps, flyers, stories, anecdotes, sweat, hangovers, exhaustion
- Intimacy and touch on the dance floor
- The cult and culture of the DJ
- DJ technologies — from vinyl to Ableton to iPad
- Nightlife and gentrification
- Nightlife and fashion/putting on a “nocturnal self” or “working a look”
- The relationship between venue and music
- Urban dystopia, parties in disused spaces, abandoned buildings, vacant lots, illegal spaces
- Club kids, drag queens and nightlife personalities then and now
- Nightlife and legal restrictions — liquor laws, cabaret laws, racism at the door
- The power of pleasure: between the affective and the aesthetic