

Abstract Template

TITLE: *Power and the Passion: A Study of Midnight Oil's Public Pedagogy for Social Change*

AUTHOR: John Haycock

AFFILIATION: Monash University

Ever since the 1960's, the transformative power of protest music has been shrouded in mythology. Sown by musical activists like Pete Seeger, who declared that protest music could “help to save the planet”, the seeds of this myth have since taken deep root in the popular imagination. The mythology surrounding the relationship between protest music and social change has become pervasive and persistent. Protest songs have often been used as classroom texts for critical teaching and learning about socio-political issues and events. Yet as a popular cultural product of the later 20th century, which continues to surface in more contemporary musical genres, protest music and its presumed relationship with social change has largely evaded critical interrogation and significant theorisation. Drawing on extensive case study research, this paper (re)imagines the Australian band *Midnight Oil* and their protest music, as a radical and critical pedagogy occurring outside the bounds of formal education and schooling. Using the new theoretical lenses offered by public pedagogy, it unpacks and illuminates the prevailing myth about protest music and its connection with social change.

Bio

John Haycock is a researcher, educator and writer in the field embracing the cultural sociology of education, media studies, and education for social change. As the topic of his PhD thesis, his chief research interest is in exploring relationships between popular and protest music, critical and radical pedagogies and social change.