

## David Hesmondhalgh: Towards a Critical Understanding of Music, Emotion and Self-Identity

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The article outlines a dominant conception of the relations between music, emotion and self-identity in sociologically informed analysis of music, which sees music primarily as a positive resource for active self-making. It is argued that this conception rests on a problematic notion of the self and also on an overly optimistic understanding of music, which implicitly sees music as highly independent of negative social and historical processes.

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