

Fuchs, Peter / Heidingsfelder, Markus (2004): “Music No Music Music – Zur Unhoerbarkeit von Pop”

English abstract:

The heuristic idea followed in this essay is to perceive the phenomenon of fuzziness as expressed in ›pop‹ as a peculiar function system operating on a world-wide scale. As a social system it reproduces a specific (communicative) difference manifested in the ›song‹, which acts as its medium and subtly embeds perceptions in the system's larger communicative context. The argument presented here rests on the assumption that in the 1950s, after some preadaptive advances had been made as early as during the period of the Renaissance, the system started with the specific operation ›provocation-in-the-medium-of- song‹ and evolved along different forms of provocation and counter-provocation: Rock'n'roll, beat, garage, psychedelic, heavy metal, hip hop, rave, techno ... Among other things, it shall be seen if the system exhibits an inherent function, i.e. if there is a guiding code contained within it (thesis: hit/flop), if it has a medium (songs) and/or possesses certain organizational safeguards (labels) etc. While no definite conclusions about the system status can be drawn from such analyses, they could help to substantiate the assumption that scientific research based on them could well be fruitful.