"Dancing in Chains: Why Music Cannot Keep the World Free"

Wednesday, November 4, 2015 | 6:00–8:00 pm
Room A, IAAK, Regina-Pacis-Weg 5

Lecture in the context of the seminar
“Key Developments in American Foreign Policy”
(Dr. Manfred Stinnes)

Jazz, rock, pop, hip-hop – for generations, these styles of American popular music have been inspiring the world’s dissidents, rebels, and freedom fighters. An article of faith for millions of avid musicians and listeners in every country, this idealized vision of American music as a force for liberation is also a principle of good practice for thousands of US public diplomats. But is it true?

In recent years, some scholars have doubted this idealized vision; others have debunked it outright. There are grounds for such questioning, especially of the motives and methods of US government officials in the past. But today we face a more urgent question: how, and to what degree, is American popular music becoming a force for repression?