

Confessing the female body in music: a discussion

Women in music culture are often othered; at once a part of and apart from the traditionally male-dominated scene which they inhabit. This presentation explores how being a female-identifying person in Western music culture, as depicted in confessional literature such as fiction and memoir, can be seen to run analogous to women occupying patriarchal space more broadly.

Music culture necessarily engages with several issues of corporality, from bodies on stage to bodies in a crowd. This presentation questions how confessing issues pertaining the body in this context may resonate with and represent the lived experiences of female readers. This is frustrated by questions of representation, as well as criticisms specifically levelled at the confessional genre.

Keywords: feminism, body, confession, writing, music

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Biography:

I am a PhD candidate at Western Sydney University, where I am researching the role of women in music culture through feminist confessional writing, via a novel and a thesis. I have previously presented the results of my Honours thesis at University of Queensland's 'Excess, Desire, and 20-21st Century Women's Writing' conference, and have been published by *Kill Your Darlings*, *Funny Ha Ha*, and *Lip Magazine*. I am interested in the complex intersections of gender, popular culture, and lived experience.