‘If they call me foreigner in the place where I live’: Italian Hip Hop and the Shifting Boundaries of Italianness

What are some of the founding elements that define Italianness?

By focusing on Italian hip-hop, I explore the question of Italian national identity and, in particular, its critical relation to Italy’s internal and external colonial past. Hip-hop artists from Southern Italy and, later, second generation Italian rappers both raise questions that point at the limitations of national identity. In bonding over common feelings of alienation, some rappers choose to refuse national identity, while others seek to conform to it.

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A lecture by
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