

Van Der Merwe has produced a history in quite a specific way. To trace back the 12-bar blues to Europe in the sixteenth century is clearly different to following it back to Africa in the eighteenth century. The quest for beginnings, and the decision to stop at a particular moment of 'origins', has clear political implications for how identities are understood in the present.

—Negus, p.145

- **How should one go about seeking origins in a musical context? Is such a thing as impossible as Negus claims?**
- **How *do* we decide when we have looked back 'far enough'?**

The argument (of articulation) is that while elements of culture are not directly, eternally or exclusively tied to specific economically determined factors such as class position, they are determined in the final instance...through the operation of articulating principles which *are* tied to class position. These operate by combining existing elements into new patterns or by attaching new connotations to them.

—Middleton, p.8

- **Can you think of an example of articulation in your own field?**
- **Do you think Middleton's approach to finding meaning in culture is a useful one? Are there instances in which it doesn't apply?**