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Working Title

“Listening to Pak Chun: An Exposition on Democracy through Memory-Work”

Abstract

In this paper, I argue that hope as political praxis depends on *how* we remember. While many have critically interrogated the shortcomings of the 2016-2017 Candlelight movement, I instead attempt to re-member it by listening for its democratic potentials. By following the minor figure Pak Chun and approaching his musical activism as palimpsest—as a multilayered structure of feeling—I contend that we can embody a different ideology of political change. Candlelight or no Candlelight, Pak Chun is always hard at work. Exceeding the temporal confines of the Candlelight as “event”, his everyday activism encourages us to conceive of transformational politics as unfolding across a longer horizon of time. As I demonstrate, by narrativizing Pak Chun’s musical activism *into* memory, we can move beyond the assertion that the Candlelight was a failure. Only by crafting new memories can we dare to hope that things can, and will, be different.