

John Paul Meyers, Ph.D.
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Employment

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Assistant Professor, Department of African American Studies (primary appointment) and Department of Musicology (courtesy appointment). 2018- current.

Lincoln Excellence for Assistant Professors award. 2021-2023.

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2015-2018.

Michigan State University

Visiting Assistant Professor, College of Music and Residential College in the Arts and Humanities. 2014-2015.

Education

University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology, 2011.

Dissertation: "'Rock and Roll Never Forgets': Memory, History, and Performance in the Tribute Band Scene."

Advisor: Carol Muller. Committee Members: Timothy Rommen and Guthrie Ramsey.

Columbia University

B.A. in Music and American Studies, 2005.

Book Manuscript in Progress

Play it Again: The Enduring Past in Popular Music (manuscript completed, under review)

Articles

2022 "Stories to Tell: Family and Reality in Hip-Hop Autobiographies"—accepted for publication and forthcoming at *College Language Association Journal*

2016 "Standards and Signification between Jazz and Fusion: Miles Davis and 'I Fall in Love Too Easily,' 1963-1970"—*Jazz Perspectives*, Volume 9, Number 2: 113-136.

2015 "The Beatles in Buenos Aires, Muse in Mexico City: Tribute Bands and the Global Consumption of Rock Music"—*Ethnomusicology Forum*, Volume 24, Number 3 (December 2015): 329-348.

2015 "Still Like That Old Time Rock and Roll: Tribute Bands and Historical Consciousness in Popular Music"—*Ethnomusicology*, Volume 59, Number 1 (February 2015): 61-81.

Winner of Richard Waterman Prize from Society for Ethnomusicology for Best Article on a Popular Music Topic by a Junior Scholar

- 2010 “The World According to Marsalis: Difference and Sameness in Wynton Marsalis’s *From the Plantation to the Penitentiary*”—*Journal of Popular Music Studies*, Volume 22, Issue 4 (December 2010): 416-35.

Reviews

- 2014 Review of Matt Sakakeeny, *Roll With It: Brass Bands in the Streets of New Orleans—Jazz Perspectives*. Volume 8, Number 1: 103-107.
- 2013 Review of Mark Katz, *Groove Music: The Art and Culture of the Hip-Hop DJ—Notes: Quarterly Journal of the Music Library Association*, Volume 70, Number 1 (September 2013): 109-11.
- 2012 Review of Andrew J. Rausch, *I Am Hip-Hop: Conversations on the Music and Culture—Notes: Quarterly Journal of the Music Library Association*, Volume 68, Number 3 (March 2012): 583-585.

Scholarly Presentations

- 2022 “Is Jazz Dead for Musical Activism? Adrian Younge’s *The American Negro* project”—Paper presented at annual meeting of Society for American Music (online). Organizer for panel: “Music, Race, and Activism.”

[this paper also to be presented at the Rhythm Changes Jazz Studies conference in Amsterdam (August 2022) and at the Society for Ethnomusicology in New Orleans (November 2022)]

- 2019 “The Confrontation of Youth and Middle Age in Hip-Hop”—Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association. Honolulu, HI. November 9, 2019.
- 2019 “Memory Deleted? Janelle Monáe and the Uses of the Past”—Paper presented at the annual meeting of U.S. Chapter of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music. New Orleans, LA. March 10, 2019.
- 2019 “Perspectives and Methodologies for Studying African American Music in the 21st Century”—Presentation at Department of African American Studies Colloquium Series. March 1, 2019.
- 2018 “‘Bring the Noise’ or ‘Check Out My Melody’: The Music/Noise Binary in Hip-Hop”—Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for American Music. Kansas City, MO. March 3, 2018.
- 2017 “I Got a Story to Tell: Hip-Hop Autobiographies in Old and New Media Landscapes”—Paper presented at the annual meeting of Society for Ethnomusicology. Denver, CO. October 29, 2017.

- 2016 "A Chance to Talk: New Political and Media Environments for Black Popular Music"—Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for American Music. Boston, MA. March 11, 2016.
- 2014 "Remembering and Re-Hearing the 1970s in Contemporary Hip-Hop"—Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for American Music. Lancaster, PA. March 6, 2014.
- 2011 "Stickers, Strings, and Sgt. Pepper Jackets: Resources for Re-Creating the Past in the Tribute Band Scene"—Paper presented at the annual meeting of Society for Ethnomusicology. Philadelphia, PA. November 20, 2011.
- 2010 "Is There Anybody Out There? Tribute Bands, Audience Studies, and Ethnomusicology"—Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for American Music. Ottawa, ON. March 18, 2010.
- 2009 "Rock and Roll Never Forgets: Tribute Bands, the Nostalgia Industry, and Historical Consciousness in Popular Music"—Paper presented at the annual meeting of the U.S. chapter of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music. San Diego, CA. May 31, 2009.
- 2008 Discussant and Panel Participant—David Coplan, "Migrancy, Travel, and Poetics in Africa." University of Pennsylvania, African Studies Center. March 28, 2008.
- 2008 "The World According to Wynton: Musical Political Critique in *From the Plantation to the Penitentiary*"—Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for American Music. San Antonio, TX. February 29, 2008.
- 2007 Discussant—Carol Oja, "Leonard Bernstein's *Wonderful Town*: Conception, Reception, Politics." University of Pennsylvania Music Department Colloquium Series. March 2007.
- 2007 "Autobiography as Ethnography in Bob Dylan's *Chronicles*"—Paper presented at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate Humanities Forum. Spring 2007.

Editorial Work

- 2013 Editorial Assistant for Guthrie Ramsey, *The Amazing Bud Powell: Black Genius, Jazz History, and the Challenge of Bebop*—University of California Press, 2013.
- 2008 Editorial Assistant for special issue of *Black Music Research Journal*, edited by Guthrie Ramsey. Volume 28, No. 1.

Academic Awards and Honors

Lincoln Excellence for Assistant Professors award. UIUC. 2021-2023. (\$10,000 total in research funds)

Campus Research Board, Humanities Release Time Fellowship. UIUC. Fall 2019. (\$2000 award and teaching release)

Richard Waterman Prize from Society for Ethnomusicology, 2016.

Penn Critical Writing Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania. 2010-2011.

Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania. 2005-2010.
5-year fellowship covered full tuition and stipend.

Summer Travel Grants, University of Pennsylvania. Summer 2008, 2009.
Grants supported summer dissertation fieldwork.

Society for American Music Student Travel Award. 2008.
Competitive award covered travel expenses to present a paper at the Society's annual meeting.

Other Professional Activities

Campus General Education Board, UIUC. 2022-current.

Senator, University Senate, UIUC. 2020-current.

Interviewed and featured on first episode of "Ethnomusicology Today" podcast by SEM. "Tribute Bands and Historical Consciousness with John Paul Meyers." September 2015.
http://www.ethnomusicology.org/members/group_content_view.asp?group=156353&id=534762

Participant in Junior Faculty Symposium, sponsored by American Musicological Society Popular Music Study Group. June 2014, University of Richmond.

Peer reviewer for *Ethnomusicology Forum*, *American Music*, *Jazz Perspectives*, *Journal of Popular Music Studies*.

Courses Taught

African American Music. University of Illinois. 2016-current.

Black Music and Social Justice. University of Illinois. 2016-2019.

Art, Culture, and African American Experience. University of Illinois, Spring 2016.

Hip-Hop Music: History and Culture. University of Illinois. 2017-current.

Music and Culture: Popular Music and Global Culture. Michigan State University. Fall 2014 and Spring 2015. 150-student world music course.

Writing in Transcultural Context: Music, Technology, and Culture. Michigan State University. Fall 2014. First-year writing seminar within the Residential College of Arts and Humanities.

Creative Workshop: Brazilian Percussion. Michigan State University. Residential College of Arts and Humanities. Spring 2015.

Music of Africa, University of Pennsylvania. Summer 2012, 2013, and 2014. Course taught online using the Adobe Connect platform.

Penn Critical Writing Program, University of Pennsylvania. Fall 2010, Spring 2011. "Music, Recording, and Technological Change." Writing seminar for first-year students.

Introduction to World Musics and Cultures, University of Pennsylvania
Spring 2007, Fall 2007, Spring 2008.

Preceptorial Instructor, University of Pennsylvania
April 2008. Gave an invited preceptorial lecture about tribute bands.

Teaching Assistant for *Introduction to World Musics and Cultures*, University of Pennsylvania.
Summer 2007. Course taught online.

Teaching Assistant for *Jazz: Style and History*, University of Pennsylvania. Fall 2006.

Graduate Committee Service

Dissertation committee member for Paul Hartley, "Unfamiliar Sounds in Familiar Settings: On the Cosmopolitan Labour of Film Composers in Istanbul." Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology. Defended December 2016.

Dissertation committee member for Karen Blackall, "Nostalgia, Landscape, and the Negotiation of Identity in Contemporary Big Band Compositions of Maria Schneider and Darcy James Argue." D.M.A. in Jazz Performance and Literature. Defended April 2021.

Dissertation committee member for Kevan Feyzi, "Barry Rogers: His Career, Life, and Influence on the Trombone in Latin Music." D.M.A. in Jazz Studies. Ongoing.

Dissertation committee member for Markiquis McKnight, "Elvin Jones: The Evolution of Modern Jazz Drumming." D.M.A. in Jazz Studies, concentration in African American Studies. Ongoing.

Fieldwork Experience

Book research on tribute bands in Europe. August 2013-December 2013.

Dissertation research on tribute bands in the United States. May 2008-September 2011. Fieldwork was conducted in Philadelphia, Atlantic City, New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, and Louisville.

Dissertation research on Tribute Bands in Mexico City, Mexico. October 2009-November 2009.

Dissertation research on Tribute Bands in Buenos Aires, Argentina. October 2008-February 2009.

Quba Institute Mosque and Islamic School. Philadelphia, PA. January-May 2006. Research culminated in my production of a 20-minute documentary film exploring the role of music in a Philadelphia area Muslim family over three generations.

Selected Applied Music Experience

ViraSamba. Small group specializing in Brazilian songs, including samba-enredos. December 2013-August 2014.

Timbeleza Samba Ensemble. Percussion ensemble specializing in samba, samba-reggae, and maracatu. Gigs included opening for Grupo Fantasma. Pittsburgh, PA. June 2010-August 2014.

Penn Brazilian Ensemble
Fall 2006-Spring 2008. Led by Orlando Haddad.

Classical Piano Lessons, Columbia University
Fall 2001-Spring 2005.

Columbia University Wind Ensemble
Fall 2001-Spring 2005. Tenor Saxophone.

Keyboards and Songwriter in original five-piece rock band.
Fall 2002-Spring 2005. Gigs included opening for Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra.

Special Skills

Experienced user of online teaching programs, including Zoom, Compass, Canvas, and Adobe Connect.

Fluent speaker of Spanish—intensive language study in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala and Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 2008-February 2009. San Cristóbal de las Casas, Mexico, December 2021.

Reading proficiency in French and Portuguese.

DSLR photography.

References

Carol Muller
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Timothy Rommen
Professor, Music Department
University of Pennsylvania
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Joanna Bosse

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Michigan State University

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