MUSIC 2611: Musicology Seminar: Approaches to Global Music History (Bloechl)

Global music history topics and approaches are appealing to many right now, and this enthusiasm calls for conversations on what global music history is and what it should be. This seminar is meant to be a series of such conversations exploring key problems and processes in global music historical research and teaching. Its aim is to prepare students to work thoughtfully and confidently with the past musics, sound art, or soundscapes of interconnected societies. Starting with an overview of contemporary frameworks (historical ethnomusicology, history of world music, global music history), we’ll then discuss important concepts and processes like interconnection, networks, globality/locality, language-based cosmopolises, zomia and shatter zones, ephemerality, performance as memory, and archives. The seminar will conclude with a series of guest speakers who will talk with students about how they’re addressing these and other issues in their current work in this field.