

Stefan Fiol

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Professional Experience

<i>Professor of Ethnomusicology</i>	2019-
College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati	
<i>Affiliate Faculty, Anthropology</i>	
<i>Affiliate Faculty, Asian Studies</i>	
<i>Affiliate Faculty, Public Engagement with Science</i>	
<i>Associate Professor</i>	2015-2019
<i>Assistant Professor</i>	2010-2015
<i>Visiting Scholar</i>	2009-2012
South Asian Studies Program, Cornell University	
<i>Visiting Assistant Professor</i>	2008-2010
Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester	
<i>Adjunct Instructor</i>	2005-2006
University of Notre Dame, Department of Music	

Awards and Fellowships

National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks Grant	2025
Co-Director, <i>Cincinnati Sounds: Exploring a Musical City's Spaces, Places, and Sounds</i>	
Helen Roberts Prize for Best Article, Society for Ethnomusicology	2024
Best Article, International Council for Traditional Music and Dance (ICTMD) for "White Caste Supremacy and Dis/Connection in Fieldwork Encounters," In <i>The Routledge Companion to Ethics and Research in Ethnomusicology</i> (J. Stock and B. Diamond, eds.).	2024
National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship	2023-24
American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Fellowship	
UC Faculty Study Abroad Development Grant	2023
UC Pivot Award	2022-23
UC Office of Research Major Proposal Support	2021-22

UC Urban Health Pathways Seed Grant	2021-22
UC Forward Grant for Service Learning Course: Dementia and the Arts	2020
Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies Jim Fisher Book Award <i>Recasting Folk in the Indian Himalayas</i> , Honorable Mention	2019
Active Learning Fellowship (ALF), Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning at the University of Cincinnati	2017
AMS 75 PAYS Book subvention from the American Musicological Society	2017
CCM Dean's Special Projects Award to support documentary film production	2017
Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Fellowship (9 months)	2016-2017
American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Fellowship (declined)	2016-2017
AHSS Faculty Research Grant, University of Cincinnati	2016-2017
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend	2016

Publications

Monographs

Recasting Folk in the Himalayas: Indian Music, Media and Social Mobility.
Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2017.

[Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies Jim Fisher Book Award](#)

Music Making Community (Stefan Fiol and Tony Perman, eds.). University of Illinois
Press. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2024.

Dialects of Dhol: Sounding Subaltern Memory and History through a Himalayan Drum
(in preparation).

Articles & Book Chapters

“HARM-HEAL: A Model of Power Consciousness for Bodies of Privilege,” 2024
w/ Murthi, Meera (co-author). *Kalfou: Comparative and Relational
Ethnic Studies* 11(2), 129-155.

“Drumming, Value, and Patronage in a Himalayan Village Economy.” 2024

- In Labor, Livelihood and Creative Economies: South Asian Performers and Craftspeople* (A. Morcom and N. Raina, eds.). New York, NY: Routledge.
- “‘We Know What Our Folk Culture is From Cassettes and Videos’: Rethinking the Popular-Folk Dynamic in the Indian Himalayas.” 2024
In *Music and Dance in Everyday South Asia* (Z. Sherinian and S. Morelli, eds.). New York: Oxford University Press, 337-349.
- Fiol, Stefan and Tony Perman. “Introduction: Music Making (and Unmaking) Community.” In *Music Making Community* (T. Perman and S. Fiol, eds.), Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 7-36. 2024
- “Visions of Community and the Perils of Safeguarding a Himalayan Festival.” 2024
In *Music Making Community* (T. Perman and S. Fiol, eds.), Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 248-270.
- “White Caste Supremacy and Dis/Connection in Fieldwork Encounters.” 2023
In *The Routledge Companion to Ethics and Research in Ethnomusicology* (J. Stock and B. Diamond, eds.). New York, NY: Routledge, 105-116.
WINNER: Helen Roberts Prize for the Society for Ethnomusicology
BEST ARTICLE: International Council for Traditional Music and Dance
- “Listening to Garhwali Popular Music in and out of Place.” *HIMALAYA, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies* 38(1), 113-126. 2018
- “Folk Drums and Tribal Girls: Sounding the Himalayas in Indian Film.” 2017
In *Music in Contemporary Indian Film: Memory, Voice, Identity* (J. Beaster-Jones and N. Sarrazin, eds.). New York, NY: Routledge, 133-146.
- “One Hundred Years of Indian Folk Music: The Evolution of a Concept.” 2015
In *This Thing Called Music: Essays in Honor of Bruno Nettl* (V. Levine and P. Bohlman, eds.), Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Press, 317-329.
- “Making Music Regional in a Delhi Studio.” In *More than Bollywood: Studies in Indian Popular Music* (G. Booth and B. Shope, eds.). New York: Oxford University Press, 179-197. 2013
- “Of Lack and Loss: Assessing Cultural and Musical Poverty in Uttarakhand.” 2013
Yearbook for Traditional Music 45, 10-24.
- “All India Radio and the Genealogies of Folk Music in Uttarakhand.” 2012

- Journal of South Asian Popular Culture* 10(3), 1-12.
- “Articulating Regionalism through Popular Music: The Case of *Nauchami Narayana* in the Uttarakhand Himalayas.” *Journal of Asian Studies* 71(2), 447-474. 2012
- “From Folk to Popular and Back: Assessing Feedback between Studio Recordings and Festival Dance-Songs in Uttarakhand, North India.” *Asian Music* 42(1): 24-53. 2011
- “Sacred, Inferior, and Anachronous: Deconstructing Liminality among the *Baddī* of the Central Himalayas.” *Ethnomusicology Forum* 19, 191-217. 2011
- “Dual Framing: Locating Authenticities in the Music Videos of Himalayan Possession Rituals.” *Ethnomusicology* 54(1): 28-53. 2010
- “*Baddī Geet*: Songs of the *Baddī* Community of Garhwal.” Recordings, Liner Notes, and Photographs published on Smithsonian Global Sounds website: <http://www.folkways.si.edu/> 2007

Book and Recording Reviews

- “The Voice in the Drum: Music, Language and Emotion in Islamicate South Asia,” by Richard K. Wolf. *Journal of Asian Studies* 78(1): 232-234. 2019
- “Mountainous Sound Spaces: Listening to History and Music in the Uttarakhand Himalayas, by Andrew Alter, *The World of Music* 4(1). 2015
- “Bhangra and Asian Underground: South Asian Music and the Politics of Belonging in Britain,” by Falu Bakrania, *Ethnomusicology* 59(1): 153-155. 2015
- “Music and Society in South Asia: Perspectives from Japan” Yoshitaka Terada (ed.), *Asian Music* 41(2): 198-204. 2010
- “Pop Idols and Pirates: Mechanisms of Consumption and the Global Circulation of Popular Music,” by Charles Fairchild, *ARSC Journal* 40(2): 253-255. 2009
- “Behind the Curtain: Making Music in Mumbai’s Film Studios”, by Gregory Booth, *ARSC Journal* 40(1): 75-76. 2009
- “Oscar Benito: Paraguayan Harp.” Recording Review in *The World of Music*, 46. 2004

Public Ethnomusicology

Longing: Pahari Paintings of Eighteenth Century India. An artwork and soundscape collaboration, Cincinnati Art Museum. Exhibit: Feb. 5-July 5, 2026.

"Music, Movement, & Dementia." Giving Voice Foundation's annual workshop for local professionals, Twin Lakes, Montgomery, OH, November 7, 2025.

"Musical Awe and Cognitive Reserve." Keynote lecture, Cincinnati Music and Wellness Coalition Annual Conference, Sept. 26, 2025.

"[Music, Memory and Awe.](#)" *The Annual Science and Nature Lecture*, Mercantile Library of Cincinnati, July 12, 2024.

"Ritual Drumming in the Himalayas with Stefan Fiol." *Musicking Podcast* hosted by Trinity Lê: www.musickingpod.com

[The Dhol and Dholi of Uttarakhand.](#) An Online Talk hosted by *Been There, Doon That*, 2020.

[Let the Gods Dance.](#) Ethnographic Film Series produced by Stefan Fiol and directed by Jarrod Welling-Cann, in post-production. Trailer available at: <https://vimeo.com/751750370?p=1s>

[A Model for Music and Health Science Collaboration.](#) Stefan Fiol and Rhonna Shatz. *UC Press*, UC Writes about Service Learning Series.

[Connecting through Music: Innovative Course Brings Students, Patients and Family Members Together.](#) Tim Tedeschi. *UC News*, May 24, 2022.

[The Spirit of Sitar: Raga Series Masterclass.](#) Ithaca College, *The Ithacan*, April 27, 2016.

[Identity.](#) *Life of the Mind Series*, University of Cincinnati, 2011.

Select Research Presentations

"Researching Sonic Gentrification as a Catalyst for Ethical Engagement and Service Learning." Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Atlanta, GA.	2025
Bruno and Wanda Nettl Distinguished Lecture in Ethnomusicology University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2025
"Musical Awe and Cognitive Reserve." Luncheon Speaker Series of the	2025

University of Cincinnati Emeriti Association.

“Musical Awe and Cognitive Reserve.” Invited Lecture by Research & Discussion group of the Center for Public Engagement with Science, University of Cincinnati.	2024
“The Sounds of Inequality: Musical Boundaries and Caste Realities in Modern South Asia.” Symposium Presenter, South Asian Studies Conference.	2024
“Dialects of Dhol: Drumming as Historiography in the Indian Himalayas.” Worldwide Music Conference (online).	2023
“Interprofessional Music & Health Collaborations: Four Case Studies on Aging and Dementia.” Roundtable Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, New Orleans.	2022
“White Caste Supremacy and Dis/Connection in Fieldwork Encounters.” Bi-Annual Conference of the International Council for Traditional Music, Lisbon, Portugal.	2022
“Decolonizing the Music Ensemble.” Roundtable at the Midwest Chapter of The Society for Ethnomusicology Conference, Lexington, KY.	2022
“Influence of Geomorphology and Geology on the Evolution of Drumming in The Uttarakhand Region of the Indian Himalayas.” w/ Dr. Daniel Sturmer, Geological Society of America 56th Annual North-Central Section Meeting, Cincinnati, OH.	2022
“Building Connection and Resilience through the Arts.” Urban Resilience in the Pandemic: An Interdisciplinary Collaborative Response, w/ Dr. Rhonna Shatz and Betsey Zenk-Nuseibeh, UC Faculty Enrichment Center.	2021
“The Silent Drummers: Female Subjectivities and Musical Embodiment in the Indian Himalayas.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Bloomington, IN.	2019
“Drumming and Belonging in the Central Himalayas.” Bi-Annual Conference of the International Council for Traditional Music, Bangkok, Thailand.	2019
“Drumming as Embodied History in the Indian Himalayas.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Albuquerque, NM.	2018
“Dialects of Dhol: Drumming as Historiography in North India.” Invited Lecture at UCLA’s Herb Alpert School of Music, Department of Ethnomusicology.	2018

“Dialects of Dhol.” Music Research Forum Lecture Series, Ethno/Musicology Program, University of Cincinnati.	2018
“Why Music Matters: An Ethnomusicological Approach.” Invited Lecture at Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, Guatemala City.	2018
“Drumming as Historiography in the Uttarakhand Himalayas.” Fulbright Research Conference, Kolkatta, India.	2017
“From Backward Ritual Practice to Celebrated Regional Emblem: Reimagining <i>Jagar</i> in Uttarakhand.” South Asian Studies Conference, Madison, WI.	2015
“ <i>Khud Lagni Cha</i> : A Social History of Music, Media and Folk Culture in the Garhwal Himalayas, Music and Technology Conference, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.	2015
“‘In Search of the Creators of True Folk Wealth’: A Tale of Two Reformers.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Indianapolis, IN.	2013
“Recast(e)ing Folk: Three Paradigms of <i>Lok Sanskriti</i> .” Invited Lecture for the Inaugural Mohindar Brar Sambhi Lecture Series on Indian Music, University of California at Los Angeles, CA.	2013
“Divergent Pathways for Social Mobility among Hereditary Musicians in the Garhwali Music Industry.” South Asian Studies Conference, Yale University.	2013
“The Folk Sound without the Folk Body: Schizophonia in the Music Industry of Uttarakhand, North India.” Invited Lecture for South Asian Studies Series, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.	2012
“Unsettling Regionalism: Perspectives from the Uttarakhand Himalayas.” First Annual Himalayan Studies Conference, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN.	2011
“Revisiting the Issue of Musical Change among Hereditary Musicians.” Pre-Conference at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.	2010
“Mobility, Migrancy, and (Out)Marriage in the Popular Music of the Uttarakhand Himalayas.” South Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin.	2010

- “‘Making *Lok Sangeet* Without the *Lok Kalakaar*?’ Schizophonia and Social Mobility in the Music Industry of Garhwal.” Invited Lecture at the India International Center, New Delhi, India. 2010
- “Exploring Divergent Pathways for Social Mobility through the Music Industry for Hereditary Performers in the Uttarakhand Himalayas.” Presented for the inaugural South Asian Music and Dance Study Day, Institute of Musicological Research, London. 2009
- “From Popular to Folk and Back: Musical Feedback between Studio Recordings and Festival Dance-Songs in Uttarakhand, North India.” Annual Conference of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Mexico City, Mexico. 2009
- “Folk Tropes: Making Village Music Sound Traditional in Delhi Recording Studios.” Invited Lecture for ‘Sound Works: Musicians and Media in South Asian Cities’ Symposium, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. 2009
- “Restoring the Balance: The Integration of Human and Spirit Beings in Possession Ceremonies of the Central Himalayas.” Lecture for ‘Across the Threshold: Creativity, Healing, & Being’ Conference, Duke University, Durham, NC. 2009
- “Articulating Regionalism through Vernacular Popular Music: The Case of *Nauchami Narayana* in the Uttarakhand Himalayas.” South Asia Colloquium Series, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. 2009
- “Teaching and Performing South Asian Music and Dance in American Universities.” Workshop & Roundtable Discussion with Carol Babiracki & Denise Nuttall, Niagara Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Cornell University. 2009
- “Beyond Preservation? The Musical Loss and Media Representations of Itinerant Performers in the Central Himalayas.” Annual Conference of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT. 2008
- “From ‘Traditional’ to ‘Popular’ and Back: Toward a Cyclical Model of Musical Commodification.” Musicology Colloquium Series, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Oberlin, OH. 2008
- “*Devi* Possession as Regional Expression: Authenticity and Commodification through Video Compact Discs in 2007

- Uttarakhand, North India.” Annual Conference of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Columbus, Ohio.
- “Music and Politics in the Garhwali *Geet* of Uttarakhand.” Junior Fellows Conference, American Institute of Indian Studies, Gurgaon, India. 2006
- “Himalayan Citizenship through the Music of Garhwal.” Association for Asian Studies Meeting, San Francisco, CA. 2006

Education

- Ph.D. in Musicology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 2008
Dissertation Title: *Constructing Regionalism: Discourses of Spirituality and Cultural Poverty in the Popular Music of the Uttarakhand Himalaya, North India*
- Winner of the Nicholas Temperley Award for Excellence in a Dissertation in Musicology
- M.Mus. in Musicology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 2003
Thesis Title: *Musical and Cultural Performance in the South Asian Community of Urbana-Champaign, Illinois*
- B.A. in Music Performance (Classical Piano), Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon, May 1998
Study Abroad: Universidad de Chile & Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile, 1996-1997

Courses Designed and Offered

- Dementia and the Arts* (service learning course)
- Music of the World's Peoples* (undergraduate survey course)
- No Wellness without Fairness* (undergraduate Honors service learning seminar)
- The Social Life of Music* (undergraduate Honors seminar)
- Music of the Himalayas* (undergraduate Honors seminar, graduate seminar)
- Introduction to Music Studies* (undergraduate BA-Music gateway course)
- Music and Brain Health* (graduate seminar)
- Music and Cosmology* (graduate seminar)
- Music and Memory* (graduate seminar, Honors seminar)
- Music and Social Justice in South Asia* (graduate seminar)
- Music, Media, and Religion in South Asia* (graduate seminar)

Raga in Theory and Practice (graduate seminar)
Theory and Historiography in Ethnomusicology (graduate seminar)
Approaches to Fieldwork and Musical Ethnography (graduate seminar)
Popular Music from the Margins (graduate seminar)
Music of Zimbabwe (graduate seminar)
Ethnography of Over-the-Rhine (graduate seminar)
Listening to Gentrification in Cincinnati (graduate service learning course)
Folk, Inc. (graduate seminar)
MbiraCats: Zimbabwean Mbira Ensemble
Himalayan Drumming Ensemble
Raga Ensemble
Musical Excursions Abroad: Guatemala (study abroad course)

Performance and Ensemble Leadership
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Select Himalayan Music Performances

CCM Werner Recital Hall	Feb. 2018
Spurlock Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Feb. 2018
University of Cincinnati President's Dinner	Oct. 2017
Town Hall Series in Dehradun, India	Sept. 2016
Ramlila Ground in Pauri Garhwal	July 2014
Mana Festival (Badrinath)	August 2014
Performance Tour with Pritam Bhartwan at CCM, Oberlin College, U. of Kentucky, U. of Dayton, and U. of Oklahoma (see video: http://vimeo.com/41522876)	Oct. 2011

Sitar Training

Anupama Bhagwat	2014-
Ustad Imrat Khan and Ustad Irshad Khan	2010-
Partha Sarathi Chatterjee	2009
Dr. Anand Pillay (Urbana, IL)	2002-2005
Rajbhan Singh & Ajit Singh (Varanasi, India)	1999-2000

Select Sitar Performances

Zoofari (Fundraiser for Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden)	Sept. 2024
Reena Ismail's <i>This Love Between Us</i> , Cincinnati Music Hall, American Choral Directors National Conference	Feb 2023
World Music Festival, Covington, KY	June 2016
Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY	April 2016
w/ Beijing Bamboo Orchestra, Chinese New Year Concert	Feb. 2015
MUSE Series, Cincinnati Art Museum	Feb. 2014

Asian Festival, Cincinnati Museum Center	April 2014
Atrium Concert (CCM)	April 2014
Asian American Heritage Month Reception	May 2014
Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY	April 2013
MbiraCats (Zimbabwean Mbira Ensemble), Director	
New Directions in Disability Studies Conference, UC	Oct. 2025
Cincinnati Roots River Festival	Oct. 2025
New Montessori School Performance	Dec. 2018
World Music Festival, Covington, KY	June 2016
World Fest at Cincinnati Museum Center	April 2016
UC Prism Concert	2014
UC Worldfest	2013
Zoofari Fundraising Event	May 2014
Cincinnati Museum Center's African Festival	Jan. 2014
Cincinnati Art Museum's MOMA Series	April 2014
Classical Revolution, Northside Tavern	2014, 2016
Ethnomusicology Series: Concert w/ Guest Artists	
Patience Chaitezvi and Jennifer Kyker	Nov. 2013
Ethnomusicology Series: Atrium Concert	
w/ Musekiwa Chingodza	May 2012
see video at: http://vimeo.com/60925064	

Professional Service

Helen Roberts Prize Committee, SEM	2025
Best Article Prize Committee, ICTMD	2025
Jaap Kunst Prize Committee, SEM	2021-2023
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships Program Evaluator for Music Proposals, 2018-2019	July 2017
Editorial Board Member for <i>Ethnomusicology</i>	2014-2017
Editorial Board Member for <i>Journal of Music History Pedagogy</i>	2015-2018
Society for Ethnomusicology Council Member	2013-2016
President, Midwest Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology	2011-2013
Local Arrangements Committee Chair for the Midwest Chapter Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology (MIDSEM) at the University of Cincinnati (CCM)	April 2013

Ethnomusicology Advisory Committee, College Music Society	2011-2013
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Service at the University of Cincinnati

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| • Associate, American Association of University Professors | 2019-2022 |
| • AHSS University Research Council Committee | 2019 |
| • BA-Music/BM-Music History Program Director | 2018-2021 |
| • Colloquium Co-Coordinator | 2018-2020 |
| • Academic Council | 2017-2019 |
| • Fulbright Interview Committee | 2017, 2020 |
| • Thinking about Music Lecture Series Coordinator | 2012-16 |
| • International Programs Committee | 2011- |
| • India Advisory Committee | 2012- |
| • Honors Council | 2011-2020 |
| • Undergraduate Research Committee | 2014-2016 |
| • Tangeman Sacred Music Committee | 2011-2017 |
| • CCM Graduate Student Association Faculty Advisor | 2012-2018 |

Membership in Professional Societies

- International Association in the Society for Popular Music (IASPM)
- International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM)
- Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM)
- British Forum for Ethnomusicology (BFE)
- Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies (ANHS)

Languages

Reading, writing, and speaking fluency in Spanish, Hindi, and Garhwali