

JENNIFER FRASER

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OBERLIN COLLEGE

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology and Anthropology, Oberlin College • 2013-present.
Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology and Anthropology, Oberlin College • 2007-2013.
Instructor of Record, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • 2003.
Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • 2000-2003, 2005.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Musicology • University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • 2007

- “Packaging Ethnicity: State Institutions, Cultural Entrepreneurs, and the Professionalization of Minangkabau Music in Indonesia”
- *Dissertation Committee*: Charles Capwell (chair), Thomas Turino, Donna Buchanan, and Clark Cunningham.

M.A. in Ethnomusicology • Brown University, Providence, RI • 1998

- *Master’s Paper Title*. “Queer as Theory: Reading Music Queerly across Cultures.”
- *Adviser*: Marc Perlman.

B.A. in Music • 1st Class Honors and University Medal for Distinction in Music •
University of Sydney, Australia • 1996

- *Honor’s Thesis*: “Interpretations of the “Traditional””: *Gambuh* Performance in Batuan, Bali.”
- *Adviser*: Sarah Weiss.

MONOGRAPH

2015. *Gongs and Pop Songs: Sounding Minangkabau in Indonesia*. Research in International Studies. Southeast Asia Series, No. 127. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECTS

Jennifer Fraser with Saiful Hadi, Gabriela Linares, Megan Mitchell, et. al. *Song in the Sumatran Highlands*.

<https://songinthesumatranhighlands.com/song-in-the-sumatran-highlands/index> (June 2021)

Song in the Sumatran Highlands is a large-scale interactive, interpretative ethnographic archive that celebrates and documents *saluang*, a prominent flute and vocal genre from West Sumatra, Indonesia.

Jennifer Fraser with Helena Colindres, Gabriela Linares, Momo Suzuki, & DaQuan Williams. *Sounding Decolonial Futures: Decentering Ethnomusicology’s Colonialist Legacies*.

<http://scalar.oberlincollegelibrary.org/decolonizing-ethnomusicology> (June 2021)

Sounding Decolonial Futures is a collaborative student and faculty project that explores ethnomusicology’s colonialist legacies and suggests strategies to help sound decolonial futures.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES & CHAPTERS

- with Saiful Hadi. "Singing 'Naked' Verses: Interactive Intimacies and Islamic Moralities in Saluang Performances in West Sumatra." *Sounding Out the State of Indonesian Music*, Edited by Christopher J. Miller and Andy McGraw. Under contract: expected 2022.
- with Karla Hubbard. 2021. "Natural" Disasters, Cultural Framings, and Resilience in Indonesia: Transdisciplinary Engagements in an Immersion Program. *ASIANetwork Exchange: A Journal for Asian Studies in the Liberal Arts*, 27(2), pp.30–42. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.16995/ane.299>
- "The Sustainability and Evolution of *Talempong*: Pluralism in Minangkabau Gong Practices" *Performing Indonesia*, ed. by Sumarsam and Andy McGraw. Smithsonian Institution. Freer Occasional Paper Series, New Series, vol. 5, 2016. <https://www.freersackler.si.edu/essays/article-fraser/>
- "The Art of Grieving: West Sumatra's Worst Earthquake in Music Videos." *Ethnomusicology Forum* 22(2):129-159. 2013.
- "Pop Song as Custom: Weddings, Entrepreneurs, and Ethnicity in West Sumatra." *Ethnomusicology* 55(2):200-228. 2011.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- "Celebrating Saluang: Advancing the Arts through the Digital Humanities" in *Proceeding International Conference 2020: Reposition of The Art and Cultural Heritage After Pandemic Era*, ed. by Afri Wita Sunan Ambu Press, Lembaga Penelitian dan Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat (LPPM), Institut Seni Budaya Indonesia (ISBI) Bandung. 2020.
- "Hybridity and Emergent Traditions: Gongs, Pop Songs, and the Story of *Talempong Kreasi* in West Sumatra." *Proceedings of the 1st Symposium of the ICTM Study Group on Performing Arts of Southeast Asia*. ICTM Study Group on the Performing Arts of Southeast Asia. 31-36. 2011.
- "Talempong Transformations: Cultural Politics and Aesthetics," in *Membangkit Batang Tarandam, Kumpulan Makalah Seminar Internasional Kebudayaan Minangkabau 2004* (Collection of Papers from International Seminar on Minangkabau Culture), Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia. 118-168. 2004.

BOOK AND RECORDING REVIEWS

- Stunning males and powerful females: Gender and tradition in East Javanese dance*. Christina Sunardi. *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 2017.
- Antiphonal Histories: Resonant Pasts in the Toba Batak Musical Present*. Julia Byl. *World of Music*. 2015(2):140-142.
- Performance, popular culture, and piety in Muslim Southeast Asia*. ed. Timothy P. Daniels, *Anthropological Forum*, 2014. DOI: 10.1080/00664677.2014.960064
- Musical Journeys in Sumatra*. Margaret Kartomi. *Asian Music* 46(2): 127-130, 2015.
- Divine Inspirations: Music & Islam in Indonesia*. David Harnish and Anne K. Rasmussen, eds. *Ethnomusicology* 57(3):539-542, 2013.
- "Discovering the *Music of Indonesia*," CD Series Review, *Bijdragen tot de taal-, land-en Volkenkunde*. 160(1):160-175, 2004.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Minangkabau/ West Sumatra, Indonesia" in *The Ethnomusicologists' Cookbook, Volume II : Complete Meals from Around the World*, edited by Sean Williams, Taylor & Francis Group, 2015, 47-52.

Journeying through Balinese Lives, co-authored with Laura Bellows,
www.spurlock.uiuc.edu/explorations/online/bali/bali001.html [no longer accessible]
“Talempong: West Sumatran Music,” *Swara Bendhe*, 6 (March 2004): 8-10.
“Tracing Talempong in West Sumatra,” *Latitudes*, 44 (September 2004): 50-56.

INVITED TALKS

Syiah Kuala University, Department of Arts, Banda Aceh, January 9, 2018, delivered in Indonesian.
Center for Religious and Cross-cultural Studies (CRCS), Graduate School, Universitas Gajah Mada,
Yogyakarta, Indonesia, August 10, 2016.
College of Musical Arts, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, April 20, 2016.
Department of Musicology, Ohio State University, October 19, 2015
Department of Music, Bowdoin College, October 2, 2015
Department of Anthropology, Case Western Reserve University, January 22, 2015.
Universitas Gajah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, January 22, 2014.
Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, February 1, 2013.
Department of Music, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, April 13, 2012.
Department of Musicology, Department Colloquium Series, Oberlin College, February 14, 2012.
Participant in Symposium on *Minangkabau Culture: Islamic Influence and Matrilineal Traditions* at East-
West Center Arts Program and the University of Hawaii-Manoa Department of Theatre and
Dance, Hawaii, January 27, 2012.
Department of Music, University of Hawaii-Manoa, January 23, 2012.
Department of Anthropology, Andalas University, Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia. July 15, 2010.
Southeast Asian Seminar, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. August 19, 2010.
Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies Brown Bag Series. Oberlin College. April 17, 2009.

INVITED CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Keynote Speaker at International Seminar, *Reposition [sic] of The Art and Cultural Heritage After
Pandemic Era*, Institut Seni Budaya Indonesia, Bandung. Paper [delivered in Indonesian]:
“Merayakan Saluang Minang: Memajukan Vitalitas Kesenian Melalui Cara Pendekatan
Etnomuskologi Baru” “Celebrating Minangkabau Saluang: Advancing the Vitality of the Arts
through a New Ethnomusicological Approach” September 29, 2020.
Invited Speaker at *Sounding Out the State of Indonesian Music: The Fourth Cornell Modern Indonesia
Project “State of the Field” Conference*, Cornell, Ithaca, March 28-March 30, 2018. Paper: “Singing
Naked Verses: Interactive Intimacies and Islamic Moralities in Saluang Performances in West
Sumatra.”
Future of the Liberal Arts Music Major, AALAC, Grinnell 2016.
Invited Speaker at *Performing Indonesia: A Conference and Festival of Music, Dance, and Drama*,
sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Washington
D.C., Oct 31-Nov 3, 2013.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Presenter in roundtable discussion, “Indonesian Performing Arts: What to Do with Our Field
Recordings?” *AIFIS-MSU Conference on Indonesian Studies*, Inaugural Meeting, June 22-26, 2021,
Virtual.
Co-present with Gabriela Linares, “Sounding Decolonial Futures: Pedagogy, Digital Humanities, and
Moving Beyond Ethnomusicology’s Colonialist Legacies” Midwest Chapter of the Society for
Ethnomusicology, Virtual, University of Iowa, April 10-11, 2021.

- “Teaching as Scholarship or, How My Students Have Made Me a Better Ethnomusicologist.” Organized panel, “Ethnomusicology as a Liberal Art: Pedagogy, Disciplinarity, and Institutionalization at the Educational Crossroads” Society for Ethnomusicology 65th Annual Meeting, Virtual, October 22-25, 2020.
- “Building Community through Music: Working at the Interface between Applied Ethnomusicology, Community Music, and Community-Engaged Learning Pedagogy” International Council of Traditional Music 45th World Conference, Bangkok, Thailand, July 2019
- “The Dangers of Sex Work: Researching Musical Erotics in Sumatra” Music & Erotics, University of Pittsburgh, 22-23 February 2019.
- Presenter, “Access, Risk, Safety, and Gender in Ethnomusicological Fieldwork: Reflections, Analysis, and Directions in the Age of #MeToo” paper: “Dangers of Fieldwork & Dangers of Sex Work: Erotics In/Of/And Ethnomusicology” Society for Ethnomusicology 63rd Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Nov 15-18, 2018.
- Co-Presenter with Jody Kerchner & Adrian Bautista, “Sounding out Liberation in the Ohio Rust Belt: Oral Histories, Music-making, & Transformative Education” Imagining America National Gathering, Chicago, IL, October 19-October 21, 2018.
- Presenter, “Engaging Communities: Navigating the Dangers of Academic Baggage” with Marissa Glynias Moore, Jody Kerchner, Kathryn Metz. “Rhetorical Choices: Structuring Community-Engaged Courses and Projects,” Society for Ethnomusicology 62nd Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado October 26 – 29, 2017.
- “Playing with Men: Female Singers, Male Audiences, and Porno Texts in a West Sumatran Vocal Genre” International Council of Traditional Music 44th World Conference, Limerick, Ireland, 13-19 July 2017
- Roundtable chair and panelist, “Pedagogies of Activism,” Society for Ethnomusicology, 61st Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, November 10-13, 2016.
- Roundtable panelist, “Why Music? Developing New Music Rhetoric In and Out of the Changing Academy,” Society for Ethnomusicology, 58th Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, November 14-17, 2013.
- “Gongs, Sociality, and Shifting Modes of Economic Exchange in West Sumatra.” International Council of Traditional Music 42nd World Conference, Shanghai, China July 11-17, 2013.
- “Music to Survive Disasters By: Making Sense of West Sumatra's Worst Earthquake.” Society for Ethnomusicology 56th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, November 17-20, 2011.
- “Inscribing Grief, Marketing Tragedy: Exploring the Sonic Ecology of the 2009 West Sumatran Earthquake through Music Videos.” International Council of Traditional Music 41st World Conference, St. John's Newfoundland, Canada, July 13-19, 2011.
- “Inscribing Grief, Marketing Tragedy: Exploring the 2009 West Sumatran Earthquake through Music Videos.” Midwest Chapter of Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Meeting, April 8-10, 2011. Bowling Green University, Ohio.
- “Female Rivalry, Black Magic, and Legitimacy in Gong Ensembles in a West Sumatran Village.” Society for Ethnomusicology, 55th Annual Meeting, November 10-14, 2010, Los Angeles, CA.
- “Hybridity and Emergent Traditions: Gongs, Pop Songs, and the Story of *Talempong Kreasi* in West Sumatra.” Southeast Asian Studies Performing Arts Study Group of the International Council for Traditional Music, Inaugural Meeting, Singapore, June 10-13, 2010.
- “Women on Stage: Sex Appeal, *Porno* Lyrics, and the Male Gaze in Islamic West Sumatra.” Society for Ethnomusicology, 52nd Annual Meeting, October 25-28, 2007, Columbus, OH.
- “From the Highlands to the Metropolis: Traversing Aesthetic and Discursive Distance in West Sumatra.” Society for Ethnomusicology, 51st Annual Meeting, November 16-20, 2006, Honolulu, HI.
- “Custom for Hire: The Performance of Ethnicity at Cosmopolitan Minangkabau Weddings.” Paper presented at the Society for Ethnomusicology, 50th Annual Meeting, November 16-20, 2005, Atlanta, GA.
- “Transformasi Talempong: Politik Kebudayaan dan Estetika [Talempong Transformations: Cultural Politics and Aesthetics].” Paper presented in Indonesian at *International Seminar on Minangkabau Culture*, November 22-23, 2004, Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia.
- “Penahanan Perbedaan: Instansi Pemerintah, Perubahan Estetika Musik, dan Penyajian Etnis

Minangkabau [Containing Diversity: State institutions, musical aesthetics, and the performance of ethnicity in West Sumatra, Indonesia.]” Colloquium paper presenting research results at College of Indonesian Arts, West Sumatra. October 2004.

“From the Village to the State: a Minangkabau Musical Genre and the Indonesian College of the Arts.”

Paper presented at Southeast Asia Student Conference, Northern Illinois University. March 2, 2002.

“Identities of Queerness.” Paper presented at the Society for Ethnomusicology, 42nd Annual Meeting, October 22-26, 1997, Pittsburgh, PA.

AWARDS

Outstanding Community-based Learning Practitioner Award • Bonner Center for Service and Learning • Oberlin College • 2018.

Outstanding Community-based Learning Advocate Award • Bonner Center for Service and Learning Oberlin College • 2016.

Teaching Excellence Award 2009-10. Oberlin College. (First junior faculty member to receive)

Frank Albert Prize for Music IV. University of Sydney. 1995. Prize for best student.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

EXTERNAL

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend 2020 for Digital Humanities Project, *Song in the Sumatran Highlands*.

Finalist, Social Science Research Council Book Fellowship Competition, 2009.

International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC). 2003-2004.

Grant to conduct dissertation fieldwork in Indonesia. One of 50 recipients out of 800+ applicants.

Presser Music Award for Graduate Students, Theodore Presser Foundation. 2003-2004. Grant to conduct dissertation fieldwork in Indonesia.

Darmasiswa, Department of Education and Culture, Indonesia. 1998-1999. Scholarship to study at College of Indonesian Arts, West Sumatra.

INTERNAL

Research Status, Oberlin College, AY2020-21 for Digital Humanities Project, *Song in the Sumatran Highlands*.

Student Assistant Grant • Oberlin College • AY2018-20 (for teaching assistants for *Bang on a Gong*), Summer 2017 (for research assistant on *saluang* project), Fall 2017 (for teaching assistant in Ethnomusicology as Activism)

Powers Travel Grant • Oberlin College • 2008, 2010, 2015, 2016, 2019.

Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment (LIASE) Curriculum-Development Grant • Oberlin College • Summer 2015

Writing-Advanced Curriculum Development Grant (with Charles McGuire and James O’Leary) • Oberlin College • Summer 2014

Research Status, Oberlin College, AY2010-11. (Peer-reviewed campus competition; only junior person that year).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Oberlin College • Conservatory of Music • Fall 2007 to present

Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology and Anthropology

Courses taught include

- 100-level
 - Introduction to Musics of the World, renamed: Introduction to Anthropology of Music (for students with little or no musical experience)

- Introduction to Musics of the World (for students with previous musical experience)
 - Music as Social Life
- 200-level
 - Music of Indonesia
 - Music of India
 - Music of the Balkans and the Middle East
 - Music and Media since the Age of Mechanical Reproduction
 - Music and Ecology
 - Music and the Politics of Identity
 - Music and Gender
 - Epics, Puppets, and Music: from India to Indonesia (a hybrid theory & practical class)
- 300-level
 - Theory and Method of Ethnomusicology
 - Musical Thinking: Analysis of World Music
 - Ethnomusicology as Activism [CBL]
 - Decolonizing Ethnomusicology
- Ensembles
 - Javanese Gamelan
 - West Sumatran Talempong
- Community-Based Learning [CBL]
 - Gamelan as Community Engagement [half course]
 - ETHN/PACE222: Building Community Through Music [full course]
- Winter Term
 - Gamelan Intensive 2009
 - Music, Islam and Disasters in Indonesia 2014: trip to Indonesia for 10 students, 3 weeks.
 - “Natural” Disasters, Culture and Sustainability in Indonesia 2018: sponsored by LIASE (Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment): leader for interdisciplinary trip involving 3 other faculty and 8 students, 2 weeks.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Designed and directed [*Bang on a Gong*](#), a community music project, Fall 2017-Spring 2020.

Mission Statement

- *Bang on a Gong* builds community and increases equitable access to the arts by providing collaborative, creative, and inclusive music-making opportunities for kids using gongs.

Partners

- Fall 2017-Spring 2019 we partnered with the Learning Zone, an afterschool program for K-7th grade at the Salvation Army Lorain Corps.
- Spring 2020: planned to partner with youth program at El Centro, Lorain, but canceled due to pandemic.

Outcomes

- Worked with over 25 kids, K-7th grade over period of 2 years.
- Kids participated in 5 public performances (2 co-presented with OC gamelan) and 2 for parents.

Student Collaboration

- Since its inception, the program has involved 14 Oberlin College Student Facilitators, who received training as part of a community-engagement course or as paid student assistants.

Program

- 1hr/week engagement with kids for duration of program: 45 direct hours of engagement
- 2hr/week planning, set-up, reflection with whole team.
- Meetings with community partners (21hrs), administration of program, including planning (@90 hours), travel (20hrs).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Society for Ethnomusicology
- International Council for Traditional Music
- Performing Arts of Southeast Asia Study Group of ICTM
- Society for Asian Music

CONSULTANT

- Areas of expertise
 - Digital Humanities (philosophy, methodology, Scalar)
 - Ethnomusicology at liberal arts/liberal arts curriculum
 - Community engagement, community-based learning, community music programs
 - Engaged/ High Impact Pedagogy

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Ohio 5's CODEX Pre-Pilot Investigation Team Fall 2019: investigation into digital engagement pedagogy throughout the Ohio 5.
- Program Review (Music), Macalaster College, Spring 2019.
- Program Review (Music), Colorado College, Spring 2018.
- Anonymous reviewer for *Ethnomusicology* journal, The Sociology Quarterly, Ethnomusicology Forum, Asian Music, Sage Online Review.
- Review of Tenure Portfolio, External Reviewer for Grants
- President and host, MIDSEM 2017
- Chair, Diversity Action Committee (renamed Deborah Wong Research & Publication Award), Society for Ethnomusicology (2017, 2018)
- Treasurer for Section on the Status on Women, Society for Ethnomusicology (2012 to 2016)
- Council Member, Society for Ethnomusicology (2013-2016)
- Shansi Oberlin Board of Trustees (2014—2021)
 - Board Member
 - Secretary of Board, Chair of Membership Committee: Spring 2016-Spring 2020
- Mentor, 2013-2014 SSW Mentor-Mentee project

CAMPUS SERVICE

Committee Membership

Search Committees

- Library Director Search 2016
- Musical Studies for 3-yr ethnomusicology position: Spring '17.
- Conservatory African-American Music half dean, half jazz studies/ ethnomusicology: Spring '14 (served while on sabbatical)
- Musicology: 3 visiting positions, Spring 2015.
- Musicology, tenure-track American Music, AY11-12.
- Ethnomusicology sabbatical replacements, AY09-10, Fall '13.

Faculty Committees

- Oberlin College Languages and Culture: Spring 12-16
- Equity and Diversity, voluntarily Spring 2013, appt: AY15-16.
- Library Committee: AY08-09.

- Student Assemblies: AY08-10, AY11-14.
- Community-Based Learning: AY16-20, AY21-
- Institutional Review Board: AY19-20
- Environmental Studies Program Committee: AY19-20

Elected Committees

- General Faculty Committee: AY14-16
- Personal Conduct Review Committee: AY17-18, AY19-20, AY21-23.
- Mediation Committee: AY11-12, AY16-18
- Board of Trustees
 - Academic Affairs: AY17-19, AY21-23
 - Development: AY19-20

Invited Committees

- Mellon Council Advisory Committee Library-Museum Spring 17--Spring 2020.

RELATED JOB EXPERIENCE

PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Center for World Music • University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign • AY2006-2007

- Managed and collaborated in writing the proposal *Making Music, Building Bridges* for 2007 Civic Commitment grant.
- Initiated contact with, and elicited support from, leaders in local school districts for Civic Commitment grant.
- Instituted system to classify and catalog materials in new collection of instruments and artifacts.
- Coordinated travel arrangements and campus logistics for visiting artists.
- Managed logistical arrangements for performances.

EDUCATION ASSISTANT

Spurlock Museum • University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • 2002-2003, 2005-2006

- Collaborated on planning large-scale event with performers from Bali, Indonesia, from initial conception through logistics of travel arrangements and the design of public and schools outreach programs.
- Assisted with exhibit development, including contribution of creative suggestions for space, concept and content, along with management and preparation of an extensive collection of photographs.
- Introduced and interpreted public and school performances, along with serving as the primary host and interpreter for the visitors.
- Created and led interactive workshops on Minangkabau and Zimbabwean music for preschool and K-12 audiences, devising appropriate pedagogical approaches.
- Authored, planned, and collaborated on multimedia online educational modules, including *Journeying Through Balinese Lives*.
- Designed, presented, recorded, and edited demonstration videos on Minangkabau and Zimbabwean instruments for K-16 classroom use.