

Special Session: Analysis and Ethnography

Rosa Abrahams
Northwestern University, USA

Yonatan Malin
University of Colorado Boulder, USA

Chris Stover
The New School, USA

Daniel Goldberg
Yale University, USA

Approaches for the analysis of world music are commonly developed by scholars with disciplinary roots in either ethnomusicology or music theory. Considering the modes of inquiry most often cultivated in these two fields it is understandable that much existing scholarship undertakes the analysis of world music from a perspective heavily weighted towards either music analysis or ethnographic research. While such work undoubtedly makes a valuable contribution to the field, the analysis of world music also offers a rich opportunity for integrating the methods of both disciplines. The presentations in this session engage with this prospect in different ways, striving to generate insights leading beyond the disciplinary division between ethnomusicology and music theory.

The papers in the session are as follows: “Analytical Stories, Ethnography, and Cultural Values” by Yonatan Malin (University of Colorado-Boulder), “Mimicry as Movement Analysis?” by Rosa Abrahams (Northwestern University), “Conception and Performance of Meter in Bulgarian Folk Music” by Daniel Goldberg (Yale University), and “Contextual Theory, or Theorizing between the Discursive and the Material” by Chris Stover (The New School). Each paper will be thirty minutes long, followed by five minutes for questions. After the four papers, respondent Michael Tenzer (University of British Columbia) will share his thoughts on the common themes presented, and the session will be then opened for questions and general discussion.