

ERIC J. SCHMIDT

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APPOINTMENTS

- 2024– ACLS Fellow, American Council of Learned Societies
- 2023– Lecturer of Musicology, Meadows School of the Arts, Southern Methodist University (SMU)
- 2020–23 Adjunct Assistant Professor, College of Fine Arts and Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University (BU)
- 2018–23 Assistant Director, African Studies Center, BU

EDUCATION

- 2018 PhD, Ethnomusicology, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
Dissertation: *Rhythms of Value: Tuareg Music and Capitalist Reckonings in Niger*
Advisor: Timothy D. Taylor
- 2013 MA, Ethnomusicology, UCLA
Research paper: *Rock (Music) at Hard Rock Cafe: Articulating Texts, Experiences, and Ideologies in the Experience Economy*
Advisor: Timothy D. Taylor
- 2009 BA, Music: Jazz Studies with University Honors, *summa cum laude*, American University (AU), Washington, DC

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2020 “Arid Fidelity, Reluctant Capitalists: Salvage, Curation, and the Circulation of Tuareg Music on Independent Record Labels.” *Ethnomusicology Forum* 28(3): 260–282.

Book Chapters

- In Review “Playing with Class: Honor, *Griotisme*, and Professional Artists in the Tuareg Music Economy.” For *Music and Imagination in West Africa*, edited by Babacar M’Baye, Fallou Ngom, Alioune Willane, and Khadimou Rassoul Thiam.

Encyclopedia Articles

- 2019 “Tuareg Guitar Music.” *Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Popular Music of the World*, Volume XII, edited by Heidi Carolyn Feldman, David Horn, John Shepherd, and Gabrielle Kielich, 545–548. New York: Bloomsbury.

Reviews

- 2019 Film Review: *Akounak tedalat taba tazoungbai* (Rain the color of blue with a little red in it) by Christopher Kirkley. *Ethnomusicology* 63(1): 156–158.
- 2014 Book Review: Andy Morgan, *Music, Culture, and Conflict in Mali* (Freemuse, 2013). *Ethnomusicology Review Sounding Board*. <http://www.ethnomusicologyreview.ucla.edu/content/book-review-music-culture-and-conflict-mali-andy-morgan>.
- 2012 CD Review: *Wallahi le Zein! Wezjin, Jakwar, and Guitar Boogie from the Islamic Republic of Mauritania* (Latitude 07, 2010). *Ethnomusicology Review Sounding Board*. <http://ethnomusicologyreview.ucla.edu/content/cd-review-wallahi-le-zein>.

Other Publications

- 2020 “Fighting for Funding: A Member Experience at the 2019 Coalition for International Education Advocacy Event.” *African Studies Association News* 53(1): 8–10. https://issuu.com/alix-africanstudies/docs/asa_news_complete.
- 2018 “East-West Musical Exchanges in the Sahel-Sahara: Mauritanian Dances on Tuareg Guitars.” *West African Research Association Newsletter*. https://issuu.com/west-african-research-assn/docs/jan_25_final_newsletter_2018.
- 2016 “Attending to Localized Internet Practices in Fieldwork.” *Ethnomusicology Review Sounding Board*. <http://ethnomusicologyreview.ucla.edu/content/attending-localized-internet-practices-fieldwork>.
- 2014 “Interview: Christopher Kirkley, Sahel Sounds, and Guerrilla Ethnomusicology.” *Ethnomusicology Review Sounding Board*. <http://ethnomusicologyreview.ucla.edu/content/interview-christopher-kirkley-sahel-sounds-and-guerrilla-ethnomusicology>.
- 2013 “New Branches and Deep Roots in Malian Music: Vieux Farka Touré and a Tribute to Ali Farka.” *Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA Blog*, Jan 31. <http://cap.ucla.edu/blog/new-branches-and-deep-roots-in-malian-music-vieux-farka-toure-and-a-tribute-to-ali-farka>.
- 2012 “Nigerien Radio on a Nigerian Radio.” *Ethnomusicology Review Sounding Board*. <http://ethnomusicologyreview.ucla.edu/content/nigerien-radio-nigerian-radio>.

Works in Progress

- *The Cultural Production of Displacement: Capitalist Reckonings in 21st Century Tuareg Music*. (Book manuscript, conducting follow-up research and writing.)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2024– ACLS Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies
- 2024 Sam Taylor Fellowship, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, United Methodist Church
- 2023 Postdoctoral Fellowship, West African Research Association

- 2023, 21 Hub (General Education Curriculum) Course Enhancement Fund, BU
- 2022 Title VI institutional funding for National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Programs, US Department of Education (\$2.4m, as lead grant writer and coordinator for BU African Studies Center)
- 2022 Diversity and Inclusion Learn More Programming Grant, BU
- 2022, 19 Advocacy Travel Award, African Studies Association
- 2018 Title VI institutional funding for National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Programs, US Department of Education (\$2.2m, as grant coordinator for BU African Studies Center)
- 2017 African Libraries Student Paper Prize, Society for Ethnomusicology
- 2017 Honorable Mention, Ki Mantle Hood Student Paper Prize, Southern California and Hawai'i Chapter, Society for Ethnomusicology
- 2017 Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA
- 2016 Fulbright US Student Fellowship (Niger)
- 2015 Arnold Rubin Award, Fowler Museum, UCLA
- 2015 FLAS Summer Fellowship (Hausa), University of Florida
- 2014–15 Graduate Research Mentorship, UCLA
- 2014 FLAS Summer Fellowship (Hausa), University of Kansas
- 2014 FLAS Summer Fellowship (Hausa), University of California, Berkeley (*declined*)
- 2012, 13, 14 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA (*declined in 2013*)
- 2013 Critical Language Scholarship (Arabic/Morocco)
- 2013 FLAS Summer Fellowship (Arabic), UCLA (*declined*)
- 2012–13 Dr. Hyman Eugene Oxman Scholarship, School of the Arts and Architecture, UCLA

INVITED AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Invited and Campus Talks

- 2019 “‘Arid Fidelity’ and ‘Reluctant Capitalists’: Independent Record Labels and the Circulation of Tuareg Music.” Walter Rodney Seminar, African Studies Center, BU, Apr 22.
- 2018 “The Cultural Production of Displacement: Tuareg Nomads Rocking the Saharan City.” Musics Abroad Seminar, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, Oct 18.
- 2017 “Ethnicity, Tourism, and the Formalization of the Cure Salée Festival, Niger.” Fowler Museum, UCLA, May 18.

Public Outreach and Guest Lectures

- 2022 Facilitator, artist workshops with Qwanqwa (Ethiopia) and Yamma Ensemble

(Israel), BU Global Music Festival, Sep 17.

- 2022 “Music in the Classroom.” Teaching Africa Teachers’ Certificate Program event, BU African Studies Center K-16 Education Outreach Program, Jun 23.
- 2022 “Emerging Scholars and Advocacy: Finding Your Voice on Capitol Hill and Beyond.” African Studies Association special event, Apr 27.
- 2014 “Exploring Banjo Origins in West African Lutes.” Pre-concert talk co-presented with Scott Linford, UCLA Center for the Art of Performance, Feb 8.
- 2013 “Music in Mali Today.” Pre-concert talk, UCLA Center for the Art of Performance, Feb 1.

Guest lectures at: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, College of the Holy Cross, Eisenhower Science and Technology Leadership Academy (Philadelphia, PA), Babson College, SMU, BU, and UCLA.

Media

- 2023 Consulted for *New York Times* reporting, “Soundtrack of a Coup: The Revival of Pro-Military Music in Niger,” Sep 4. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/04/world/africa/niger-coup-music-videos.html>
- 2016 Interviewee for Jazz Appreciation Month, *Radio Télévision Dounia*, Niger, Apr 19.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Forthcoming “Whose Right to Copyright? Authorship and Collective Heritage in Tuareg Guitar Music.” Paper, African Studies Association annual meeting, Chicago, Dec 12–14.
- 2023 “Resources for Teaching African Studies in the College Classroom.” Chair, roundtable by Association of African Studies Programs, African Studies Association annual meeting, San Francisco, Dec 1.
- 2023 “Composing a New ‘Music of Nomads’: Wodaabe Artists and Tuareg Guitar in Niger.” Paper, African Studies Association annual meeting, San Francisco, Dec 1.
- 2023 “Capital Nomads: Wodaabe Artists at the Margins of the Tuareg Guitar Scene in Niamey.” Paper, International Council for Traditional Music World Conference, Legon, Ghana, Jul 17.
- 2022 “Radio Clubs to WhatsApp: Listening for the Ideal Nomadic Subject in Niger.” Paper, African Studies Association annual meeting, Philadelphia, Nov 19.
- 2022 “Nomadic Listening: Tuareg Subjectivity in Niger across Radio, Cassette, and Social Media.” Paper, Society for Ethnomusicology/American Musicological Society/Society for Music Theory joint annual meeting, New Orleans, Nov 13.
- 2021 “Where Does African Studies Belong? Institutional Experiences of African Studies and African-American Studies.” Co-organizer, roundtable by Association of African Studies Programs, African Studies Association annual meeting, Nov 17.
- 2019 “Political Advocacy and the African Studies Association: Ways Forward.” Panelist,

- African Studies Association annual meeting, Boston, Nov 21.
- 2019 “Legacies of Professionalism: Honor and the *Artiste* in the Tuareg Music Economy.” Paper, Society for Ethnomusicology annual meeting, Bloomington, Nov 10.
- 2018 “Tuareg Ethnopreneurialism and the Ownership of Nomadic Culture at the Cure Salée Festival, Niger.” Paper, Society for Ethnomusicology annual meeting, Albuquerque, Nov 15.
- 2018 “Between ‘Conflict’ and ‘Post-Conflict’: Nostalgia for Tourism and the Ownership of Nomadic Culture in Niger.” Paper, British Forum for Ethnomusicology one-day meeting “Beyond Memory and Reconciliation: Music, Conflict and Social Manipulation in Post-Conflict Contexts,” Keele University (UK), Nov 3.
- 2018 “Creative Waiting: Digital Sociability and Musical Exchange among Tuareg Youth in Niger.” Paper, Society for Ethnomusicology Southern California and Hawai‘i Chapter annual meeting, Pomona College, Feb 25.
- 2017 “Creative Waiting: Everyday Musicking and Digital Sociability among Tuareg Youth.” Paper, African Studies Association annual meeting, Chicago, Nov 16.
- 2017 “Making *Purple Rain* in the Sahara: Sahel Sounds and the Telling of a ‘Universal Story’ in a Particular Place.” Paper, Society for Ethnomusicology annual meeting, Denver, Oct 26. *Winner, African Libraries Student Paper Prize.*
- 2017 “Reckoning with Value in the Global Circulation of Sahel-Saharan Music.” Paper, Society for Ethnomusicology Southern California and Hawai‘i Chapter annual meeting, California State University, Fullerton, Feb 18. *Honorable Mention, Ki Mantle Hood Student Paper Prize.*
- 2015 “Tuareg Music and the Negotiation of Nomadic Identities in the Sahara.” Paper, Society for Ethnomusicology Southern California and Hawai‘i Chapter annual meeting, University of San Diego, Feb 28.
- 2012 “For Better Ethnomusicology and a Better World, Archive It!” Panelist, Society for Ethnomusicology Southern California and Hawai‘i Chapter annual meeting, Loyola Marymount University, Feb 25.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, SMU

Introduction to Music in World Societies • Spring 2024 (x2), Fall 2023 (x2)

Introduction to Music in History and Culture • Spring 2024, Fall 2023

Introduction to Graduate Studies • Spring 2024, Fall 2023

Adjunct Assistant Professor, BU

Music of Africa • Spring 2023 (in person), Spring 2021 (hybrid synchronous)

Africa Today: The Beat of Popular Culture • Fall 2020 (hybrid synchronous)

Teaching Fellow, UCLA

Culture and Society • 2018

Jazz in American Culture • 2013, 2015

African American Musical Heritage • 2014

Chicano/Latino Music in the US • 2014

Introduction to Music: History, Culture, Creativity • 2012–13

- 2003–11 Private Instructor, Scottish highland bagpipe and saxophone
- 2007–09 Teaching Assistant, Janney Elementary School Band, Washington, DC
- 2007 Instructor, “Saxophone at Strathmore” summer program, Levine School of Music, Washington, DC

EDITORSHIPS

- 2011–22 Editorial Board, *Ethnomusicology Review*
- 2014 Managing Editor, Sounding Board, *Ethnomusicology Review*
- 2013 Reviews Editor, *Ethnomusicology Review*
- Manuscript reviewer for: *Ethnomusicology*, *International Journal of African Historical Studies*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2023 Digital Media and Metadata Specialist, “Digital Preservation of Fuuta Jalon Scholars’ Arabic and Ajami Materials in Senegal and Guinea.” Endangered Archives Programme Grant EAP1430, British Library, BU.
- 2019–23 Administrative Coordinator, African Ajami Manuscript Digitization Projects, BU
- “Ajami Literature and the Expansion of Literacy and Islam: The Case of West Africa.” National Endowment for Humanities Collaborative Research Grant. <https://sites.bu.edu/nehajami/>.
- “Digital Preservation of Dagbanli Ajami and Arabic Manuscripts of Northern Ghana.” African Ajami Library, BU Libraries. <http://hdl.handle.net/2144/32937>.
- 2018–23 Grant Manager, African Studies Center, BU
- US Department of Education, Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Programs (\$4.6m)
- National Endowment for Humanities, Collaborative Research Grant (\$250k)
- 2015 Graduate Student Researcher, Hausa musical and poetic meter project, Russell Schuh, Department of Linguistics, UCLA
- 2009 Intern, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution
- 2009 Intern, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022 “Terrier F1RSTS” First-Generation Student Advocacy Training, BU
- 2018 “Choose to Manage” Management Training, BU
- 2014–15 Coordinator, “Fowler Out Loud” concert series, Fowler Museum, UCLA
- 2012–14 Assistant Music Curator, “Tonight in the Lounge” pre-show speaker series, Center for the Art of Performance, UCLA
- 2012 Photography/Participatory Video Consultant, Rain for the Sahel and Sahara, Niger
- 2008 Summer study abroad, Slovenia, “From Polka to Eurovision: Folk and Popular Music of Central Europe” program, University of California, Davis

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Professional Organizations

- 2023–24 Chair, Association of African Studies Programs
- 2021–22 Vice Chair, Association of African Studies Programs
- 2017–20 Social Media Editor, African Music Section, Society for Ethnomusicology
- 2017 Alumni Panelist, US Fulbright Sub-Saharan Africa Pre-Departure Orientation, Washington, DC
- 2016 Applicant Interviewer, Fulbright Visiting Student Program, US Embassy, Niger
- 2012–14 Web Editor, Society for Ethnomusicology Southern California and Hawai‘i Chapter

Campus Committees

- 2021–23 Inaugural Member, Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Pardee School of Global Studies, BU
- 2020–23 Member, Campus Review Committee, Fulbright US Student Program, BU
- 2013, 14–15 Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Executive Committee, UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture

Conferences and Seminars

- 2022–24 Co-Organizer, Association of African Studies Programs annual spring meetings. Howard University, Washington, DC (2024) and on Zoom (2022, 2023).
- 2020–23 Co-Organizer, Walter Rodney Seminar Series. African Studies Center, BU.
- 2022 Organizer, “LGBTQIA+ Activism in Africa and the Diaspora: Transnational Perspectives on Community and Solidarity,” Learn More Series webinar. Office of Diversity & Inclusion and African Studies Center, BU, Oct 19.
- 2022 Co-Organizer, “Education in Morocco: An Evolving Landscape,” Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad Pre-Departure Orientation. BU, Jun 9-11.
- 2020–21 Member, Organizing Committee, Second International Colloquium on African

Studies. Zoom, Mar 24-26.

2018–19 Co-Chair, Local Arrangements Committee, African Studies Association 2019 annual meeting. Boston, MA, Nov 20-23.

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

- American old time music* Performed banjo and sang with UCLA Old Time String Band, additional study at Passim School of Music (Cambridge, MA).
- Irish traditional music* Performed tin whistle and *bodhrán* (frame drum) in Los Angeles-area sessions and with the UCLA Irish Music Ensemble.
- Jazz* Performed saxophone and flute, wrote arrangements, and led combos at AU; performed throughout Washington, DC area. Jazz piano lessons at AU.
- Middle Eastern music* Performed *ūd* (fretless lute), sang, and transcribed music for Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble and UCLA Music of the Near East Ensemble. Studied Arab *maqam* (modal) theory through graduate coursework with A.J. Racy.
- Scottish highland bagpipe* Over 20 years of experience as soloist and in bands including Central Coast Pipes & Drums, Monterey Bay Pipe Band, and UCLA Irish Music Ensemble.
- West African music* Played various percussion instruments, sang, and danced with UCLA Music and Dance of Ghana Ensemble; privately studied *gurimi* (Hausa plucked lute) and calabash (hand percussion) in Niger.
- Western art music* As tenor saxophonist, finalist in 2007 American University Concerto Competition; performed with AU Saxophone Quartet at Woodrow Wilson House and International Navy Saxophone Symposium. Classical piano lessons at AU.

LANGUAGES

- French Advanced reading, writing, and speaking
- Hausa Intermediate reading, writing, and speaking
- Arabic (MSA) Novice reading, writing, and speaking
- Spanish Intermediate reading, novice writing and speaking

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- African Studies Association
- Association of African Studies Programs
- International Council for Traditional Music and Dance
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Society for Ethnomusicology
- West African Research Association