EM Abstracts for 64.2 (in order of publication)

Attending to the Nightingale: On a Multispecies Ethnomusicology
Michael Silver

Abstract. Posthumanism, now in the mainstream of the humanities and humanistic social sciences, poses a challenge to ethnomusicology, a discipline inherently focused on the human and social aspects of music. Drawing from a historiography of birds in the ethnomusicological scholarship and the author's research on music and birds in Brazil, this article proposes an approach to ethnomusicology that emphasizes nonhuman factors and their own properties and effects as a method for better understanding music as a meaningful human phenomenon.

Resumo. O pós-humanismo, hoje no centro das correntes das ciências humanas e sociais, coloca um desafio à etnomusicologia, área intrinsecamente focada nos aspectos humanos e sociais da música. Partindo de uma historiografia das aves realizada no campo etnomusicológico e da pesquisa do autor sobre música e aves no Brasil, o presente artigo propõe uma abordagem etnomusicológica que dá ênfase a fatores não humanos e suas propriedades e efeitos característicos como um método para entender melhor a música como um fenômeno humano significativo.

Ethnomusicology beyond #MeToo: Listening for the Violences of the Field
Catherine Appert and Sidra Lawrence

Abstract. Responding to an increasing sense of urgency about harassment and assault during ethnographic fieldwork in the era of #MeToo, this article offers a lesson plan for effecting systemic change in the discipline of ethnomusicology. We show how disciplinary assumptions about the field where harassment occurs reify colonizing histories of racial othering, reinscribe heteronormativity, and alternately conflate or erase specific types of violences. We identify feminist scholarly genealogies that provide alternate models for theorizing in and through personal experience. This analytical work cannot and must not be absent from the important questions of how we practically approach and prepare students for fieldwork in ethnomusicology.

Circulation, Value, and Exchange in the Movement of Music
Timothy Taylor

Abstract. This article is an attempt to move beyond the common metaphor of "flows" to describe how music moves in an era commonly thought of as globalized. "Circulation" seems to be a term in frequent usage these days, referring to people as well as goods, an idea has a long history going back to Marxist ideas about the movement of money and is still useful with respect to cultural goods such as music. Drawing on Marx and anthropologists who have studied value and exchange, this article argues that things circulate because they have value, and circulation therefore manifests as constant exchanges—of time, money, goods, and more—that constantly (re)make social life and relations. Radio serves as a case study in this article, especially as it plays an important role in the indie rock scene in southern California. Returning to classic theories of the audience as commodity from Dallas Smythe—which are still useful if released from a strict Marxian framework into broader conceptualizations of value—I argue that Smythe's conception is predicated in the idea of exchange, and that Smythe's insights can be extended and updated from radio and other broadcast media to the circulation of digital media today.

Blackbirds in the Archive: Genealogy and Media in a Century of Georgian Folk Song
Brian Fairley

Abstract. This article examines early recordings of Georgian folk music and their use by present-day singers through the dual lens of ethnography and media archaeology. One song in particular, recorded in 1907 and re-created in concert in 2009, demonstrates a complex negotiation between changing ideals of vocal timbre and the desire to be faithful to all aspects of the original recording, even mistakes or idiosyncrasies. Throughout, the figure of Anzor Erkomaishvili looms large: founder of the most famous ensemble in Georgia, archivist in search of old records, and elegiac narrator of a family saga at the heart of Georgian music history.