

# Kelli Smith-Biwer

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## **Professional**

- 2025 Assistant Professor of Musicology (Limited-Term)  
University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)
- 2023–25 Assistant Professor of Instruction  
Ohio University (Athens, OH)

## **Education**

- 2023 Ph.D. in Musicology  
University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, NC)  
Dissertation: *The Hi-Fi Man: Masculinity, Modularity, and Home Audio in the U.S. Midcentury*  
Advisor: Mark Katz
- 2018 M.A. in Musicology  
Michigan State University (East Lansing, MI)  
Thesis: *Discrimination, Authenticity, and Masculinity in Online Music Countercultures*  
Advisor: Kevin Bartig
- 2012 B.A. in Music Education  
Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti, MI)  
Honors: Magna Cum Laude

## **Peer-Reviewed Publications**

- 2025 “‘I Want My Stuff Really Separate’: Modular Masculinity and U.S. Midcentury Hi-Fi Culture.”  
In *Instruments, Interfaces, Infrastructures: Thinking Across Musical Media*. Ed. Landon Morrison. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.
- 2022 “‘The Silent Partner’: Tonearms and Modular Masculinities in U.S. Midcentury Hi-Fi Culture.”  
*Journal for the Society of American Music* 16, no. 3 (2022): 319–42.

## **Grants and Awards**

- 2018–23 Thomas S. Royster Fellowship  
UNC-Chapel Hill Graduate School
- 2021–22 Arts Everywhere Music Technology Fellowship  
UNC-Chapel Hill Music Department and Arts Everywhere
- 2022 Exploratory Research Grant  
Hagley Museum and Library
- 2019 James W. Pruett Summer Research Fellowship  
The Library of Congress and UNC-Chapel Hill Music Department
- 2019 Kenan Graduate Student Activities Fund Award  
UNC-Chapel Hill Music Department
- 2018 Somers Excellence in Teaching Award

Michigan State University Center for Integrative Studies in the Arts & Humanities

- 2017 Membership and Professional Development Travel Grant  
American Musicological Society
- 2016–18 Arts and Humanities University Research Fellowship  
Michigan State University Graduate School
- 2017 Hollander Fund Research Grant  
Michigan State University College of Music

**Conference Presentations**

- 2025 “The Push-Button Problem”  
Annual national meeting of the American Musicological Society, November 6–9, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2025 “The Push-Button Problem in Midcentury Hi-Fi Culture”  
Music, Sound, and Media Interest Group Lightning Round at the annual meeting of the Society for American Music, March 19–23, Tacoma, WA.
- 2023 “‘I Will Tell You Who You Are’: Marketing and Masculinity in Midcentury Hi-Fi Magazines”  
Bi-annual international meeting of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music, June 26–30, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2023 “‘I Want My Stuff Really Separate’: Modular Masculinity and U.S. Midcentury Hi-Fi Culture”  
Instruments, Interfaces, Infrastructures: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Musical Media, May 11–13, Harvard University Department of Music, Cambridge, MA.
- 2022 “Tangled Technologies: Audio Cables and Midcentury Scientific Masculinity”  
Annual national meeting of the American Musicological Society, November 10–13, New Orleans, LA.
- 2020 “Modularity and Masculinity in *High Fidelity* Magazine”  
Annual national meeting of the American Musicological Society, November 7–14, virtual.
- 2020 “‘The Silent Partner’: Tonearms and Sexuality in Midcentury Home Audio Advertising”  
UNC-KCL Joint Graduate Music Student Conference, July 21–23, virtual.
- 2019 “Visualizing #WAFGate: Mapping Gendered Rhetoric in the Online Audiophile Community”  
South Central Graduate Music Conference, September 20–21, Duke University, Durham, NC.
- 2019 “#WAFGate: The Wife Acceptance Factor and Exclusion in the Online Audiophile Community”  
Annual national meeting of the Popular Cultures Association, April 16–20, Washington, D.C.
- 2017 “Excavating User-Generated Content in the Online Indie Music Community”  
Annual meeting of the Midwest Popular Cultures Association, October 18–22, St. Louis, MO.

- 2017 “The Problem with ‘Pitchfork’: Intellectualism and Discrimination in Online Indie Criticism”  
Bowling Green State University Graduate Conference, February 24–25, Bowling Green, OH.

### **Professional Activities**

- 2024 Keynote address at the Ohio University CLICK Electronic Music Festival  
Invited by Robert McClure. Delivered a keynote talk titled “The Push-Button Problem in Midcentury Hi-Fi Culture” to an audience of student and professional electronic music composers.
- 2024 AI-Enhanced Course Design Institute, Ohio University  
Received funding to participate in a six-week summer faculty institute that explored innovative approaches to teaching with AI through. Collaborated with faculty across disciplines to develop a new AI-inclusive syllabus and final project for my general education History of Rock Music class. My work in this institute was recognized at the Fall 2024 Ohio University Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2022 Guest Lecture for Royster Society of Fellows, UNC-Chapel Hill  
Invited by Tori Eckstrand. Presented dissertation research to an audience of interdisciplinary graduate students and faculty.
- 2022 Media Design for UNC-Chapel Hill Opera Workshop Presentation of *Ordo Virtutum*  
Technical lead, in collaboration with director Marc Callahan, composer Allen Anderson and visual artist Tama Hochbaum. Designed the technical infrastructure for a multi-media performance of Hildegard von Bingen's *Ordo Virtutum*. Production included lighting, custom projection design, and dynamic sound cuing. Shows ran at UNC Music Department and the Raleigh Contemporary Art Museum. *Ordo Virtutum* was the winner of the Division I National Opera Association 2021-2022 Production Competition.
- 2021 Video and Sound Editing Professional Development Workshops, UNC-Chapel Hill  
Organizer and instructor. Developed and taught a series of virtual workshops to orient music students and faculty to production applications in the Adobe Suite. Attendees learned to make content for remote teaching, conference presentations, and creative projects.
- 2021 Guest Lecture for “Music, Culture, and Technology,” UNC-Chapel Hill  
Invited by Mark Katz. Lead an undergraduate special topics seminar on advertising, masculinity, and the gendering of home audio equipment.
- 2021 Research Assistant, UNC-Chapel Hill

Research assistant to Mark Katz. Assisted with research and fact-checking *Music and Technology: A Very Short Introduction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2022).

- 2020 “Vinyl—Gender—Trouble” Workshops, UNC-Chapel Hill  
Co-organizer, with Diane Steinhaus and Andrea Bohlman. Designed, organized, and taught workshops on handling records and audio equipment. Sessions also included discussions about the gendered biases inherent in the advertising and marketing of sound playback devices.
- 2020 Research Assistant to the Director of Graduate Admissions, UNC-Chapel Hill  
Research Assistant to DGA, Andrea Bohlman. Coordinated in-person and virtual prospective graduate student visits by helping with travel planning, organizing housing and meals, and arranging meetings with faculty and current students.
- 2018 Michigan State University Electronic Music Workshop, Michigan State University  
Founder and director. Established an electronic music performance group, recruited graduate student performers, selected repertoire, commissioned work, organized rehearsals, and performed several concerts in the music department and local venues.
- 2017 “Out and About with EMF” Artist Talk, The New School  
Performer and collaborator, with Lyn Goeringer. Assisted with visiting artist talk. Taught class on cityscapes and making sound art with electromagnetic frequencies (EMF) at The New School in New York City, NY. Designed and built EMF listening devices for guided sound walks.

### **Teaching Experience**

Assistant Professor of Instruction, Ohio University

- Spring 2025 MUSC 1240 101 and 103: History of Rock I (online)  
General education, 180-student total across two sections
- Spring 2025 MUSC 6340 101: Post Romantic and Contemporary Music  
Graduate music, 10-student discussion course
- Spring 2025 MUSC 6900 103: Special Topics - Music, Technology, and Culture  
Graduate music, 10-student discussion course
- Fall 2024 MUSC 6340 105: Gender and Music  
Graduate music, 10-student discussion course
- Fall 2024 MUSC 1240 101: History of Rock I  
General education, 150-student lecture
- Fall 2024 MUSC 1240 1002: History of Rock I (online)  
General education, 80-student online course
- Fall 2024 MUSC 2240 102: History of Rock II (online)  
General education, 50-student online course
- Spring 2024 MUSC 1240 101 and 103: History of Rock I (online)  
General education, 180-student total across two sections

- Spring 2024 MUSC 6340 101: Post Romantic and Contemporary Music  
Graduate music, 6-student discussion course
- Spring 2024 MUSC 6900 101: Special Topics - Gender and Music (experimental)  
Graduate music, 10-student discussion course
- Fall 2023 MUSC 1240 101: History of Rock I  
General education, 150-student lecture
- Fall 2023 MUSC 1240 1002: History of Rock I (online)  
General education, 80-student online course
- Fall 2023 MUSC 2240 102: History of Rock II (online)  
General education, 30-student online course

Graduate Research Consultant, UNC-Chapel Hill

- Fall 2022 MUSC 254: Music History I, Antiquity to 1750  
Professor: Anne MacNeil  
Developed and advised the culminating final project, including assignment design and one-on-one work with students to meet learning objectives. Included a community engagement element wherein students recorded podcasts and shared them via QR codes with the general UNC student population.

Summer 2022 MUSC 286: Music as Culture, Frank Ocean

- Professor: Michael Figueroa  
Collaborated with Prof. Figueroa; worked closely with a small group of students to build listening and analytical skills through the music of hip-hop artist, Frank Ocean. Developed a media-based final project and consulted with students to encourage rigorous critical engagement with Ocean's lyrical, musical, and visual corpus.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, UNC-Chapel Hill

- Spring 2021 MUSC/WGST 188: Introduction to Women and Music  
Professor: Anne MacNeil
- Fall 2020 MUSC 141: Survey of Western Music History  
Professor: Evan Bonds  
Three recitation sections of 15 students each
- Fall 2019 MUSC 147: Introduction to Music of the Americas  
Professor: Juan Álamo

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Michigan State University

- Spring 2018 IAH 241A: Music and Society of the Modern World  
Professor: Kevin Bartig  
Four recitation sections of 25 students each
- Fall 2017 IAH 241A: Music of Africa  
Professor: Sarah Long

Four recitation sections of 25 students each

Spring 2017    MUS 212: History of Western Music Since 1750  
Professor: Michael Largey

Fall 2016       MUS 211: History of Western Music to 1750  
Professor: Marcie Ray

**Department Service**

2024–2025	Music History Representative School of Music Curriculum Committee, Ohio University
2024–2025	School of Music Representative Visiting Artists Scholarship Committee, Ohio University
2023–2025	School of Music Representative College of Fine Arts Facility Project Learning and Faculty Spaces Advisory Committees, Ohio University
2021–2023	Co-chair Graduate Music Student Forum, Music Department, UNC-Chapel Hill
2020–2021	Conference Co-organizer South Central Graduate Music Student Consortium Conference at UNC-Chapel Hill
2019–2020	Student Representative Faculty-Student Committee, Music Department, UNC-Chapel Hill