

RYAN THOMAS SKINNER, PH.D.
Curriculum Vitae

Assistant Professor of Music and
African American and African Studies
The Ohio State University

Phone: 614-292-9441 / Fax: 614-292-1102
Email: skinner.176@osu.edu
Website: www.ryanskinner.org

EDUCATION

Columbia University – New York, NY
Ph.D., Ethnomusicology (2009)
Carleton College – Northfield, MN
B.A., French and Francophone Studies (2000)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

2015-16 ACLS Charles A. Ryskamp Fellowship
2015-16 American Swedish Institute Malmberg Scholarship
2015-16 American Scandinavian Foundation Grant
2013-15 Research and Creative Activities Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, The
Ohio State University
2014 AMS 75 PAYS, American Musicological Society, Book Subvention
2014 Distinguished Scholar Award for Research, School of Music, The Ohio
State University
2013-14 Arts and Humanities Grant-In-Aid manuscript preparation grant, The Ohio
State University
2012 Quadrant Visiting Scholar, Institute for Advanced Studies, University of
Minnesota
2010-12 New Faculty Research Grant, The Ohio State University
2009 Distinction for Ph.D. Thesis, Columbia University
2009 Independent Book Publishers Association Benjamin Franklin Award
(winner, multicultural literature)
2009 Moonbeam Children's Book Awards (silver medal, book with music)
2009 Midwest Book Awards (finalist, child/young adult fiction)
2009 National Indie Excellence Awards (finalist, children's fiction)
2008-9 Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Writing Fellowship
2008-9 Whiting Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Columbia University
2008 Summer Research Grant, Dept. of Music, Columbia University
2007-8 Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Dept. of Music, Columbia University
2006-7 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Research Fellowship
2006-7 Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Field Research
Fellowship
2006-7 FLAS Fellowship for Arabic language study, Columbia University*
2005-6 Columbia University Graduate Study Fellowship, Dept. of Music
2005 Columbia University Summer Research Grant, Dept. of Music
2005 Institute of African Studies Leitner Family Summer Travel Grant

* This fellowship was declined.

2004-5	Columbia University Graduate Study Fellowship, Dept. of Music
2003-4	FLAS Fellowship for Bamana language study, Indiana University [†]
2000-1	Fulbright-IIE Fellowship for research in Mali
2000	Departmental Honors in Francophone Studies, Carleton College
2000	Distinction for Senior Thesis, Carleton College

BOOKS

Bamako Sounds: The Afropolitan Ethics of Malian Music. The University of Minnesota Press (2015): www.bamakosounds.com

Sidikiba's Kora Lesson. Beaver's Pond Press (2008): www.sidikibaskoralession.com

PUBLICATIONS: PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

"A Pious Poetics of Place," re-printed book chapter from *Bamako Sounds: The Afropolitan Ethics of Malian Music* (University of Minnesota Press) for the edited volume, *Approaches to the Qur'an in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Oxford University Press, in contract)

"An Afropolitan Muse," *Research in African Literatures* 46/2: 15-31 (2015)

"Money Trouble in an African Art World: Copyright, Piracy, and the Politics of Culture in Postcolonial Mali," *IASPM@Journal: Journal of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music* (Special Issue on "Digital Nations: Copyright, Technology, and Politics") 3/1: 63-79 (2012); this essay also appears in *Postcolonial Piracy: Media Distribution and Cultural Production in the Global South*, eds. Lars Eckstein and Anja Schwarz (Bloomsbury Academic Press, 2014)

"Cultural Politics in the Post-Colony: Music, Nationalism, and Statism in Mali, 1964-1975," *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* 82/4: 511-534 (2012)

"Artists, Music Piracy, and the Crisis of Political Subjectivity in Contemporary Mali," *Anthropological Quarterly* 85/3 (Special Issue on "Pirates and Piracy, Broadly Conceived"): 723-754 (2012)

"Civil Taxis and Wild Trucks: The Dialectics of Social Space and Subjectivity in *Dimanche à Bamako*," *Popular Music* 29/1: 17-39 (2010)

PUBLICATIONS: EDITOR-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

"*Faso and Jamana: Provisional Notes on Mande Social Thought in Malian Political Discourse, 1946-1979*," co-authored with Brandon County, in *Mande Mansa: Essays in Honor of David Conrad*, eds. Stephen Belcher, Jan Jansen, and Mohamed N'Daou (Münster: LIT Verlag, 2008)

"Celebratory Spaces Between Homeland and Host: Politics, Culture, and Performance in New York's Malian Community," in *Migrations and Creative Expressions in Africa and the African Diaspora*, eds. Toyin Falola, Niyi Afolabi, and Adérónké Adésolá Adésànyà (Carolina Academic Press, 2008)

"Bamako Grooves," *Mixed Magazine* 2: 68-69 (2007)

"Determined Urbanites: Diasporic *Jeliya* in the 21st Century," *Mande Studies* 6: 139-162 (2004 [2006])

[†] This fellowship was declined.

PUBLICATIONS: REVIEWS AND ONLINE ESSAYS

- Review of *Hip Hop Africa: New African Music in a Globalizing World* (Eric Charry [ed.], Indiana University Press 2012), *Research in African Literatures* 44/4: 170-171 (2013)
- Review of *Musical Echoes: South African Women Thinking in Jazz* (Carol Ann Muller and Sathima Bea Benjamin, Duke University Press 2011), *Research in African Literatures* 44/3: 201-202 (2013)
- Sound Review of *Bush Taxi Mali* (Sublime Frequencies 2004), *The Journal of American Folklore* 124/493: 214-215 (Summer 2011)
- Review of *Griots and Griottes: Masters of Words and Music* (Indiana University Press, 2007), *African Arts* 43/2: 92-93 (2010)
- “Notes on Islam and Popular Musical Expression in West Africa,” Online essay for the *Muslim Voices: Arts and Ideas* festival in New York City, Published May 2009 (www.muslimfestival.org)

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- “Afropolitanism and Africanist Ethnomusicology in the 21st Century,” presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Pittsburgh, PA, 14 November 2014
- “Resonant Projects: Music, War, and Ethics in Contemporary Mali,” presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Indianapolis, IN, 14 November 2013
- “From Ambiance to Authenticity: Popular Culture and Cultural Policy in Bamako, Mali, 1956-1966,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Musicological Society for the panel “Cross-Border Encounters in the Global South: A New Look at Cold War Cultural Diplomacy” (sponsored by the Cold War and Music Study Group) in Pittsburgh, PA, 8 November 2013
- “The Ethics of Ambiance, the Morality of the State: Popular Music and Political Society in Bamako, 1956-1966,” presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association in Washington D.C., 14-17 November 2011
- “In the Name of God: Islam and the Interpellation of (im)moral subjects in Malian Popular Music,” presented at a workshop and conference on Islam and the Quran in Sub-Saharan Africa, hosted by the Institute for Ismaili Studies (York University) in Toronto, Canada, 19-21 May 2011
- “Artists, Piracy, and the Politics of Personhood in Postcolonial Mali,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in New Orleans, LA, 21 November 2010
- “Teaching World Music: Music Education and Global Humanism,” presented at the “Music Education: A Vision for the Future” conference at Helwan University, Faculty of Music, in Cairo, Egypt, 11 February 2010
- “Artists, the Nation-State, and the ‘Use’ of Cultural ‘Value’ in Postcolonial Mali,” presented for the panel “Music, Ethics, and Value,” at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Mexico City, 22 November 2009
- “The Ethics of *Ambiance*: Sound, Sociability, and the Global Imagination in Bamako, Mali,” presented for the panel “Public Sounds, Public Spaces,” at the annual meeting

of the American Anthropological Association in San Francisco, CA, 21 November 2008

“Artists, National Belonging, and State Patronage in Postcolonial Mali,” presented at the “1968: A Global Perspective” conference at the University of Texas at Austin, TX, 11 October 2008

“*Nyamakalaw* and *Dabakalaw*: Labor and the Meanings of ‘Independence’ in Mali’s Première Région Économique, 1953-1968,” co-written with Brandon County and presented at the Seventh International Conference on Mande Studies in Lisbon, Portugal, 24-27 June 2008

“Making *Mali Kunkan*: Performance, Piracy, and the Production of Musical Liveness in Contemporary Bamako,” presented for the panel, “Who’s Listening? The Politics of Aurality in Urban Spaces,” at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Columbus, OH, 27 October 2007

“The Aesthetics of *Malidenya*: Popular Music and Nationalist Narratives in Mali and the Soudan Français (1946-2006),” co-written with Brandon County and presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association in San Francisco, CA, 17 November 2006. This paper was presented again at the New York Historians of Africa Workshop at Princeton University, NJ, 29 January 2007

“Between Home and Host-Country: Politics, Culture, and Performance in New York’s Malian Community,” presented at the “Movements, Migrations, and Displacements in Africa” conference at the University of Texas at Austin, TX, 24 March 2006

“Celebratory Spaces between Homeland and Host: Memory, Work, and Play in New York’s Malian Communities,” presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Atlanta, GA, 20 November 2005

PUBLIC LECTURES AND COLLOQUIA

“An Afropolitan Muse,” The Ohio State University (Musicology Lecture Series), 13 October 2014

“Afropolitanism and the Study of Popular Culture in Africa Today,” presented for the “Celebrating Africans in Atlanta” conference at Georgia State University, 12 September 2014

“Music as Biopolitical Culture in Contemporary Mali,” University of Pittsburgh (Department of Music), 16 October 2013

“The Art and Ambivalence of Afropolitan Patriotism: Making Malian Music in Times of Celebration and Crisis,” The University of Minnesota (Institute for Advanced Studies and Quadrant Visiting Scholars Program), 11 October 2012

“Artists, Music Piracy, and the Crisis of Political Subjectivity in Contemporary Mali,” Carleton College, 10 October 2012

“Kora Connections: Music and Culture in the Mande World,” Macalester College, 9 October 2012

“Copyright, Piracy, and the Artist: Music and the Politics of Culture in Postcolonial Mali,” The University of California at Santa Barbara (Interdisciplinary Humanities Center), 1 June 2012

“Music and the Politics of Culture in Mali: A Postcolonial History,” Ohio University (International Studies Forum), 18 May 2012

- “Encountering Afropolitanism: Music, Mbembe, and Mali in an African World,” The Ohio State University (AAAS Brown Bag Lecture Series), 13 January 2012
- “In the Name of God: Islam and the Interpellation of (im)moral subjects in Malian Popular Music,” The Ohio State University (Musicology Lecture Series), 23 May 2011
- “Artists and the Aesthetics of Personhood in Bamako, Mali,” The Ohio State University (School of Music and Department of African American and African Studies), 19 February 2010
- “Malian Popular Music: Mande *Jeliya*, Aesthetics and Itineraries,” University of Texas at Austin (Dept. of Music), 21 April 2009
- “La musique malienne d’aujourd’hui: formes, esthétiques, directions,” University of Stockholm, (Institutionen för franska, italienska, och klassiska språk), 26 March 2009
- “Mande *Jeliya* in the 21st Century,” Baylor University (Dept. of Music), 20 February 2009
- “The Mande of West Africa: A Culture in Transition,” Carleton College (Dept. of Romance Languages), 14 November 2008
- “The Good, The Bad, and The Artist: The Ethics of Aesthetics in Bamako Popular Music,” Texas A&M (Dept. of Performances Studies), 23 February 2008
- “Living (or ‘Getting By’) in Bamako: An Ethnomusicological Encounter,” Columbia University (Center for Ethnomusicology), NY, 21 September 2007
- “Modibo Made Airplanes His Shoes: The Postcolonial Context of Jeli Fa-Digi Sisòkò’s *Son-Jara* Epic,” Columbia University (African Civilizations Core Curriculum Lecture), Spring 2004 through Fall 2006
- “Civil Taxis and Wild Trucks: The Political Poetics of Personhood in *Dimanche à Bamako*,” Columbia University (Center for Ethnomusicology), 14 October 2005
- “*An Ka Wuli Ka Fasobaara*: Migrant Communities and the Aesthetics of Malian Nation-Building, 1960-2005,” Carleton College (Dept. of Romance Languages), 16 May 2005

TEACHING AND RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

2010-present: Assistant Professor of Music and African American and African Studies (AAAS), The Ohio State University

Courses Taught

- Intro to African American and African Studies (AAAS, undergrad survey)
- Afropop: Popular Music and Culture in Africa (AAAS, undergrad survey)
- African Popular Culture (AAAS, grad seminar)
- African American Musical Traditions (MUSIC, undergrad survey)
- African Music: Ideas, Forms, Trajectories (MUSIC, grad seminar)
- Introduction to Ethnomusicology (MUSIC, grad/undergrad)
- Theories and Methods in Ethnomusicology (MUSIC, grad seminar)
- Fieldwork in Ethnomusicology (MUSIC, grad seminar)
- Existential Ethnomusicology (MUSIC, advanced grad seminar)
- Mande Kora (21-string West African harp) Ensemble (MUSIC, grad/undergrad)

2009-10: Adjunct Professor of Music, Dept. of Performing and Visual Arts, The American University in Cairo (Egypt)

Courses Taught

- World Music (undergrad survey)
- Introduction to Music (undergrad survey)

2006: French Instructor, Austin International School in Austin, TX

2005-6: Assistant to the Director, Center for Ethnomusicology, Columbia University

2004-6: Private Kora (21-stringed African harp) Instructor, Columbia University

2003-6: Guest Lecturer for *African Civilizations*, Columbia University

2005: Teaching Assistant, *Music and Language*, Columbia University

2004: Teaching Assistant, *Music Humanities*, Columbia University

2002-3: Board member of the Society of Folk Music and Dance in Sweden

2002-3: Kora instructor, Studieförbundet Vuxenskolan in Stockholm, Sweden

2001-3: French and English Teacher at Tallbohovskolan in Jakobsberg, Sweden

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Co-convener of the “Music and Sound” working group in the Humanities Institute at The Ohio State University, 2014-2016

Co-convener of the “Performance/Politics” working group in the Humanities Institute at The Ohio State University, 2012-2014

Chair of sub-committee on “Performing and Visual Arts” for the African Studies Association annual meeting in Baltimore, MD, 2013.

Member of the Musicology Area in the School of Music (SOM), The Ohio State University, 2010-present

Member of the Faculty Committee, SOM, The Ohio State University, 2011-2013; served as Faculty Committee Secretary, 2012-2013

Member of the Graduate Studies Committee, Department of African American and African Studies (AAAS), The Ohio State University, 2010-present

Member of Hiring Committee in Comparative African Diaspora Studies, AAAS, The Ohio State University, 2012-2013

Article reviewer for the journals *Ethnomusicology*, the *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, the *Journal of Musicological Research*, and *MUSICultures*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Performance and public lectures at elementary schools, community libraries, non-profit organizations, and urban markets in the Columbus area, 2010-present

SELECTED SPECIAL PROJECTS

Featured performer for the “Music in the Atrium” concert series at the Grandview Heights Public Library, 14 March 2013

Scholarly guide for Afropop Worldwide’s nationally syndicated *Hip Deep* radio program, “Mande music in New York City,” broadcast in two parts, February and March 2009

Member of the group *Two Rivers*, whose self-produced album *Bafilabèn* was released in November 2008: www.bafilaben.com

Director of the Mande Kora Ensemble at The Ohio State University, 2010-present

LANGUAGES

English: fluent

French: fluent
 Swedish: fluent
 Bamana: advanced proficiency
 Arabic: beginner

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2013-16 Ethnographic study of Afro-Swedish public culture in Stockholm, Malmö, and Göteborg Sweden
 2010-12 Archival, oral historical and ethnographic research in Bamako, Mali
 2009-10 Study of modal theory (*maqamat*), Arab music history, and contemporary Egyptian music in Cairo, Egypt
 2008 Ethnographic and archival fieldwork on popular music, postcolonial history, and personhood in Bamako, Mali
 2007 Documentary Research with *La Symphonie de la Kora*, on tour with Festival Mundial, The Netherlands
 2006-7 Ethnographic and archival fieldwork on popular music, postcolonial history, and personhood in Bamako and Kita, Mali
 2005 Preliminary fieldwork on sound and sociability in Bamako and Kita, Mali
 2005 Arabic Language Study at the Arabic Language Institute in Fez, Morocco
 2003-4 Fieldwork among Malian and Guinean communities in Harlem and the Bronx, New York City
 2002-3 Research among Senegambian communities in Stockholm, Sweden
 2000-1 Study of kora pedagogy and performance in Bamako, Mali

RESEARCH INTERESTS

World Music, Popular Music
 Africanist Ethnomusicology
 Morality, Ethics, and Aesthetics
 Popular Culture, Public Culture
 Intellectual Property and Piracy
 Subjectivity, Identity, and Personhood
 Social Thought and Theory
 Postcolonial Studies
 Diaspora and Migration Studies
 (Post)Nationalism and Citizenship
 Critical Race Theory

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Society for Ethnomusicology
 American Anthropological Association
 African Studies Association
 Mande Studies Association
 International Association for the Study of Popular Music (USA)