

CALL FOR PAPERS

POPULAR MUSIC METHODOLOGIES CONFERENCE —————
MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY, LONDON, UK ——— 18-19 JUNE 2026

*Following the publication, in 2025, of **The Intellect Handbook of Popular Music Methodologies**, edited by Mike Dines, Shara Rambarran and Gareth Dylan Smith, a hybrid conference will be held at Middlesex University in June 2026 to continue the discussion. The Popular Music Methodologies Conference will address the diverse ways we study, interpret and engage with popular music methodologies, bringing together researchers, scholars, practitioners and students across the disciplines and field that enable us to reflect on the tools, theories, and practices that currently shape the research of popular music.*

Popular Music Studies resists easy categorization, drawing upon a broad range of research methodologies, from ethnography, archival research and oral history to computational analysis, performance studies, and a wide variety of practice-based research. Within this set of activities, the application of approaches from sociology, cultural studies, critical race theory, sound studies, gender and queer theory and global media studies continue to transform how popular music may be understood. To address such diversity in methodologies, the conference aims to create an inclusive space where these can be interrogated.

To continue the vibrant and critical conversation about the evolving methodologies of popular music studies, we invite you to join us in shaping this dynamic field further. We therefore welcome papers, panels, and alternative-format presentations on topics including, but not limited to:

- Innovations in methods for studying popular music in digital and global contexts
- The intersections of theory and practice in popular music research
- Creative, practice-based, and interdisciplinary approaches
- Methodological challenges in oral history, (online) ethnography, videography, video analysis and archival work
- Ethics, access, and positionality in popular music scholarship

Specific topics may address:

- Popular music and AI
- Platformisation
- Zoo-musicology
- Eco-semiotics
- Gaming
- Gender/queer studies
- Digital performance
- Popular music and archaeology
- Artistic research and practice-based research
- Sustainability and climate change

We propose to publish the conference proceedings alongside plans to establish an academic network to foster scholarly collaboration in popular music methodologies.

Abstracts of **250 words** for individual papers (20 minutes) and **500 words** for panels, roundtables or workshops (60 minutes) should be submitted by **1st February 2026** to **m.dines@mdx.ac.uk**. Please also include a short biography (**150 words max**).

DR. MIKE DINES

Middlesex University, London, UK

DR. SHARA RAMBARRAN

University of Brighton, UK

PROFESSOR MICHAEL AHLERS

Leuphana University, Germany

PROFESSOR ALETHEA DE VILLIERS

Nelson Mandela University, South Africa

DR. EULÀLIA FEBRER-COLL

*Universidad Internacional de la Rioja (UNIR),
Spain*

DR. BRIAN ANDREW INGLIS

Middlesex University, London, UK

PROFESSOR MICHAEL KAHR

*JAM MUSIC LAB Private University for Jazz and
Popular Music, Austria*

PROFESSOR HILLEGONDA RIETVELD

London Southbank University, UK

DR. HÜSEYİN SERBES

Middlesex University, London, UK

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SIMONE TOSONI

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

CARSTEN WERNICKE

Leuphana University, Germany

PROFESSOR WOLF-GEORG ZADDACH

Macromedia University, Germany