Lessons in Cultural Humility: Teaching Music History Globally

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“The Narrative” (i.e. “The Problem”)

- Standard “Music History” in postsecondary music courses is a narrative originating in the 19th century that traces music history through the evolution of genres and styles as evinced through “masterworks” by “master composers.”
Some problems...

- Eurocentric
- Canonic
- Evolutionary
- Embedded
- White Supremacist
Some solutions

- Centres and Peripheries
- Gender, Race, Class
- Omissions
- Silences
Some more solutions

- Interdisciplinarity!
- Performing arts history
- Global and local histories
- Entangled histories
A couple more (I keep trying...)

- Historiography
- Knowledge production
- “... analyzing the power relations in knowledge production reveals that knowledge and ideologies are not neutral. Similarly, those involved in the knowledge production, including faculty and students in the classroom, are not neutral” (Kishimoto 2018 546).
Globally Engaged Taxonomy

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Cultural Humility is at the Core