

F25.30: The Ethnobotany of Music: An Insight Into Native American Music

Overview

The importance of music as a foundation of any culture is reinforced by the use of music in specific activities, events, rituals, etc. For Native American communities, music not only accompanies everyday activities, ceremonies, local festivities, etc., but it also represents one of the foundations of their cultural identity. The fabrication and use of instruments have also an environmental component since most instruments are fabricated with the use of natural materials such as plants and animal fibers. Production of the relevant material (plants) for the fabrication of local instruments is being affected by various factors. Amongst these factors climate change and the changing patterns in the local weather, which ultimately also have the potential to affect the production of music. This project will use conventional ethnographic as well as Indigenous methodological approaches to focus on documenting the importance of Traditional Ecological Knowledge of native american peoples of Northern Arizona regarding traditional and local instruments, their fabrication, and the local perspectives on the effects of climate change on music production.

What the student will DO and LEARN

The students involved will support and learn about the process of developing a collaborative social science research project. More specifically, the student will learn about Ethnobiological theory and practice, collaborative approaches to research with local and Indigenous communities, and ethical components for implementing culturally appropriate and locally beneficial research. She/he will contribute with bibliographic reviews, development and discussion of the methodology used, implementation of fieldwork (pending other funding), analysis of material, results, and the development of dissemination material for both, the local context and the academic public. The student will become part of the research team in all aspects of the research. The aim is to provide a student with a complete experience with the research process.

Additional benefits

This internship is tied with activities in my EFECT lab, in the Department of Anthropology. The lab offers a space for conversations, dialogue, and training on different aspects of research that are not necessarily taught in the classroom. Students and faculty involved with the lab, participate in weekly meetings where we share and discuss our own experiences with research and more. This particular project will also focus heavily on the ethics of implementing a collaborative project with Native American populations, therefore, there is a space for the interns to learn and engage in the process of collaborating respectfully and in culturally appropriate ways with Native American communities. The project also aims to work on the elaboration of a scientific paper and conference presentations collaboratively between all project members.

Additional qualifications

preference with some experience with Anthropological fieldwork, and ethnographic methods (i.e Anthropology major or minor)

Time commitment

6 hrs/week for 30 weeks