

# Benjamin Krakauer, PhD

email: benjamin.krakauer@temple.edu

## EDUCATION

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- 2014 Doctor of Philosophy in Music (Ethnomusicology)  
**University of Texas at Austin**, Austin, TX  
*Dissertation:* Negotiations of Modernity, Spirituality, and Bengali Identity in Contemporary Bāul-Fakir Music  
Advisor: Stephen Slawek
- 2010 Master of Arts in Music (Ethnomusicology)  
**Tufts University**, Medford, MA
- 2003 Bachelor of Arts in Music  
**University of Virginia**, Charlottesville, VA

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2015-2018 **Temple University** Philadelphia, PA  
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Boyer College of Music and Dance
- 2014-2015 **Emory University** Atlanta, GA  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Music
- 2013 **University of Massachusetts Boston** Boston, MA  
Lecturer, Performing Arts Department
- Middlesex Community College** Lowell, MA  
Lecturer, Humanities and Social Sciences Division
- 2010-2012 **University of Texas at Austin** Austin, TX  
Assistant Instructor (Lecturer), Butler School of Music  
Teaching Assistant, Butler School of Music
- 2009-2010 **Tufts University** Medford, MA  
Teaching Assistant, Department of Music  
Adjunct Performance Faculty, Department of Music

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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“A ‘Traditional’ Music Scene and its Fringes: Experimental Bluegrass of 1970s New York City.” *American Music* 36/2 (Summer 2018): 163-193.

“On the Recent Diversification of Bāul-Fakir Musical Repertoire: Spiritual Music in a Crowded Marketplace.” *Asian Music* 47/2 (Summer/Fall 2016): 4-47.

“The Ennobling of a ‘Folk Tradition’ and the Disempowerment of the Performers: Celebrations and Appropriations of Bāul-Fakir Identity in West Bengal.” *Ethnomusicology* 59/3 (Fall 2015): 355-379.

“Bāñlār Bāul-Fakirdēr Gunkīrtāñ o Abmūlyāyan” [Celebrations and Denigrations of Bengali Bāul-Fakirs]. *Bhabnagar* [Dhaka] 3/3 (October 2015): 365-384.

# Benjamin Krakauer, PhD

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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“Ābdul Gafur Hālir Surer Bhuban” [Abdul Gafur Hali’s World of Song]. Foreword to *Ābdul Gafur Hālir Nātak-Samagra*, by Nasir Uddin Haider. Chittagong: Ābdul Gafur Hālir Academy. 2015. (A foreword to a collection of theatrical works written by Abdul Gafur Hali, a celebrated Sufi songwriter from Chittagong)

“Gāner Khonje Bānglādeśe” [Seeking Music in Bangladesh]. *Prothom Alo*. April 14, 2015. (A report on my field research in Bangladesh for the Dhaka-based national newspaper)

Consultant and Contributor, *Baul Archive*. [www.baularchive.com](http://www.baularchive.com). 2013-Present. (Advise on video content; write notes to accompany videos; conduct interviews with Bāul-Fakir musicians; write proposal for performance DVD)

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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*Caging an Unknown Bird: Folk Revival and Persecution in Contemporary Bengal*. (Manuscript proposal currently under review)

## REVIEWS

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Book review of *Folklore, Religion and the Songs of a Bengali Madman: A Journey Between Performance and the Politics of Cultural Representation*, by Carola Erika Lorea. *History and Sociology of South Asia* 12/1 (December 2017): 1-3.

Film review of *Banjo Romantika: American Bluegrass & the Czech Imagination*, by Lee Bidgood and Shara K. Lange. *Journal of the Society for American Music* 9/3 (August 2015): 378-380.

Book review of *Music, Time and Place: Essays in Comparative Musicology*, by Martin Clayton. *Asian Music* 45/2 (Summer/Fall 2014): 129-131.

Book review of *Ritual Music and Hindu Rituals of Kerala*, by Rolf Killius. *Asian Music* 43/2 (Summer/Fall 2012): 162-164.

Book review of *Theorizing the Local: Music, Practice, and Experience in South Asia and Beyond*, Edited by Richard K. Wolf. *Asian Music* 43/1 (Winter/Spring 2012): 137-139.

CD review of *Throw Down Your Heart: Tales From the Acoustic Planet Vol. 3, the Africa Sessions*, by Béla Fleck, *African Music Journal* 8/3 (Summer 2009): 176-177.

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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U.S. Student Fulbright Award, Fulbright IIE. 2012-2013.

Society for Asian Music Small Grant, Society for Asian Music. 2012.

Graduate Teaching Scholars Award, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Texas at Austin. 2012.

Graduate Dean’s Prestigious Fellowship Supplement, University of Texas at Austin. 2012.

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Fellowship. 2012.

Graduate Professional Development Award, University of Texas at Austin. 2011-2013.

Bluegrass Scholarship Prize for Best Conference Paper by Graduate Student or Successful MA/PhD Candidate, International Bluegrass Music Association. 2011.

## INVITED TALKS

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“Boundary Maintenance and Shifting Aesthetics in 1970s Bluegrass Music.” Music Studies Colloquium Series, Temple University, December 9, 2016.

“A ‘Traditional’ Music Scene and its Fringes: Experimental Bluegrass of 1970s New York City.” Berklee College of Music, Boston, March 4, 2016.

# Benjamin Krakauer, PhD

“Appropriations of a Folk Tradition and the Disempowerment of the Performers: Bāul-Fakir Music Culture in Contemporary Bengal.” South Asia Institute Seminar Series, University of Texas at Austin, February 11, 2016.

“Appropriations of a Folk Tradition and the Disempowerment of the Performers: Bāul-Fakir Music Culture in Contemporary Bengal.” Music Studies Colloquium Series, Temple University, January 29, 2016.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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“A ‘Traditional’ Music Scene and its Fringes: Experimental Bluegrass of 1970s New York City.” International Association for the Study of Popular Music – US Chapter Meeting, Nashville, March 10, 2018.

“Strategic Representations of Bengali Baul-Fakirs as Political Scapegoats, National Culture Bearers.” Society for Ethnomusicology 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, Denver, October 28, 2017.

“Bāul-Fakir Music in an Islamic Context.” Conference on the Music of South, Central and West Asia, Harvard University, Cambridge, March 6, 2016.

“Innovations in Bluegrass Music during the Nineteen Seventies: Negotiations of Musical Aesthetics and Social Values.” American Musicological Society, Mid-Atlantic Chapter Fall 2015 Meeting, Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia, October 17, 2015.

“Innovations in Bluegrass Music during the Nineteen Seventies: Negotiations of Musical Aesthetics and Social Values.” Embracing the Margins: Counter-Mainstream Sensibilities in Popular Music, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 27, 2015.

“Musical Analysis of Bāul-Fakir Music.” Society for Ethnomusicology 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, November 15, 2014.

“Participatory Bāul-Fakir Music at the Border.” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Santa Fe, November 6, 2014.

“Professionalization and the Persistence of Communal Music-Making: Bāul-Fakir Music in Contemporary West Bengal.” Society for Ethnomusicology 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, November 15, 2013.

“Professionalization and the Persistence of Communal Music-Making: Bāul-Fakir Music in Contemporary West Bengal.” South and Central Asia Fulbright Conference, Kochi, Kerala, February 26, 2013.

“Negotiations of Professional and Personal Identities of Bāul Musicians in West Bengal.” South Asia by the Bay Conference at Stanford University, May 11, 2012.

“The Effects of Cosmopolitan Patronage on Performers of Bāul Song in West Bengal.” Rabindranath Tagore and the Bauls Conference at Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal, March 24, 2012.

“Globalization and the Emergence of Individualized Musical Idiom: A Case Study of Andy Statman.” Society for Ethnomusicology & Congress on Research in Dance Joint Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, November 18, 2011.

“Globalization and the Emergence of Individualized Musical Idiom: A Case Study of Andy Statman.” American Musicological Society Southwest Chapter and Society for Ethnomusicology Southern Plains Chapter Spring Meeting, University of Texas at Austin, April 16, 2011.

## CONFERENCE PANELS CHAIRED

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“Musical Protests in North and South America: the 1960s and 1970s.” Society for Ethnomusicology 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Austin, December 3, 2015.

# Benjamin Krakauer, PhD

“Intracultural and Intercultural Folklore Across South Asian Borders II.” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Santa Fe, November 6, 2014.

## RESIDENCIES

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Banjo residency, American Roots Music Program at Berklee College of Music, Boston, November 4-5, 2013.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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2015- **Temple University**

2018 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Boyer College of Music and Dance  
Philadelphia, PA

**History of Pop Music, World Music, American Popular Music, Exploring Music (Western Art Music Appreciation), Music in American Society, Aural Theory**

- Design syllabus, lectures, assignments, quizzes, and exams for sections of 3 to 24 students
- Provide detailed feedback on weekly response papers and scaffolded term paper assignment as part of writing-intensive course
- Facilitate students’ critical examination of music and its relationship to the politics of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, social class, and national identity

2014- **Emory University**

2015 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Music  
Atlanta, GA

**Music Cultures of the World, American Music, Music in Film, Music and Identity, Music of India**

- Designed syllabi, lectures, assignments, quizzes, and exams for classes of 3 to 15 students
- Served as advisor for independent study project on hip-hop dance
- Served as reader on senior honors thesis on Japanese koto music
- Provided detailed feedback on response papers and essays as part of writing-intensive courses
- Facilitated students’ critical examination of music and its relationship to the politics of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, social class, and national identity

2013 **University of Massachusetts Boston**

Lecturer, Performing Arts Department  
Boston, MA

**World Music**

- Designed syllabus, lectures, assignments, and exams for class of 25 students
- Provided direction and feedback on students’ ethnographic projects in the Boston area

**Middlesex Community College**

Lecturer, Humanities and Social Sciences Division  
Lowell, MA

**Cultural Anthropology**

- Designed syllabus, lectures, assignments, and exams for classes of 25 and 30 students
- Provided direction and feedback on students’ ethnographic projects conducted in Lowell, MA

2011- **University of Texas at Austin**

2012 Lecturer, Butler School of Music  
Austin, TX

**History of Rock Music**

- Designed syllabus, lectures, assignments, and exams for class of 260 students
- Utilized music, debate, and writing activities to engage students in a large lecture hall

# Benjamin Krakauer, PhD

2010-  
2011 **University of Texas at Austin**  
Teaching Assistant, Butler School of Music  
Austin, TX

## **History of Rock Music**

- Facilitated six weekly discussion sections of 20 students each; refined teaching technique through leading the same discussion with six different groups
- Provided grades and feedback on essays and weekly writing assignments

2009-  
2010 **Tufts University**  
Teaching Assistant, Department of Music  
Medford, MA

## **Introduction to World Music, Music as Culture**

- Provided grades and feedback on quizzes, tests, and essays
- Facilitated exam review sessions

## **Tufts University**

Adjunct Performance Faculty, Department of Music  
Medford, MA

## **Individual Banjo Instruction**

- Introduced students to techniques and repertoire of bluegrass, old-time, and contemporary banjo styles

2005-  
2007 **University of Virginia**  
Adjunct Performance Faculty, McIntire Department of Music  
Charlottesville, VA

## **Individual Banjo Instruction**

- Introduced students to techniques and repertoire of bluegrass, old-time, and contemporary banjo styles

## PEER-REVIEW SERVICE

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*Ethnomusicology*

*Religion and the Arts*

*Folklore and Folkloristics*

*Ethnomusicology Forum*

*Yearbook for Traditional Music*

## LANGUAGES

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English, Bengali, Spanish

# Benjamin Krakauer, PhD

## PERFORMANCE AWARDS

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- 2003 Second Place, Merle Watson Festival Banjo Competition  
Finalist for Best Bluegrass Album, Independent Music Awards (with Old School Freight Train)
- 2002 First Place, Rocky Grass Banjo Competition  
Second Place, Rocky Grass Band Competition (with Old School Freight Train)
- 2001 Second Place, Merle Watson Festival Banjo Competition  
Second Place, Telluride Band Competition (with Old School Freight Train)

## SELECTED PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

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- 2000-present Banjoist, Guitarist, Fiddler  
*Session musician and recording artist*
- 2005-2006 Banjoist  
*David Grisman with Old School Freight Train*
- 2000-2006 Banjoist, Composer, Arranger  
*Old School Freight Train*
- 2007-2011 Participant in University World Music Ensembles  
*Tufts University West African Music and Dance Ensemble, Tufts University Javanese Gamelan Ensemble, University of Texas at Austin Javanese Gamelan Ensemble, University of Virginia Klezmer Ensemble*

## SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY (AS MUSICAL PERFORMER)

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- 2016 Ben Krakauer with Paul Kowert, Nick Falk, and Duncan Wickel. *Poodles and Other Suns*. Streaming at <https://www.benkrakauer.com/musician.html>
- 2012 Arko Mukherjee and Anna Tanvir. *Crossover*. Independent Release.
- 2010 Matt Brown. *My Native Home*. 5-String Productions FSP09002.  
Ari and Mia Friedman. *Unruly Heart*. Independent Release.
- 2009 Eric Robertson and the Boston Boys. *Listen*. Independent Release.
- 2007 Sarah Jarosz, Alex Hargreaves, Dominick Leslie, Sam Grisman, Ben Krakauer, Ian Fleming, and Tatiana Hargreaves. *Changing Face of Bluegrass*. Festivalink FEST 0143.
- 2006 Old School Freight Train. *Live at Ashland*. Independent Release.
- 2005 Old School Freight Train. *Run*. Produced by David Grisman. Acoustic Disc Records ACD 61.  
Old School Freight Train. *Pickin' On Beck: The Bluegrass Tribute*. CMH Records CMH 8995.  
Old School Freight Train. *Pickin' On John Mayer: Volume Two*. CMH Records CMH 8969.  
Old School Freight Train. *Blue Safari: The Bluegrass Tribute to Air*. CMH Records CMH 8890.  
Old School Freight Train. *The Bluegrass Tribute to Radiohead*. CMH Records CMH 8871.  
Old School Freight Train. *Pickin' On Coldplay*. CMH Records CMH 8856.  
Old School Freight Train. *Pickin' On Ben Harper*. CMH Records CMH 8819.
- 2004 Old School Freight Train. *Pickin' On Wilco*. CMH Records CMH 8862.
- 2002 Old School Freight Train. *Old School Freight Train*. Courthouse Records CR 0202.

## SELECTED VIDEOGRAPHY (AS MUSICAL PERFORMER)

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- 2009 *The Mosque in Morgantown*. Directed by Brittany Huckabee. Original Music by Kareem Roustom. Version One Productions ACR 0620.
- 2008 *Fiddle Masters Concert Series: Volume 3*. The Violin Shop VS 1168.

# Benjamin Krakauer, PhD

## MUSIC WORKSHOP TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- July 2005-present Shasta Music Summit  
Mt. Shasta City, CA  
*Banjo, Fiddle, and Guitar Instruction; Combined Instrument Instruction; Ensemble Masterclasses*
- Weeklong workshop for advanced and professional string musicians in bluegrass, old-time, Celtic, jazz, Texas style, and new acoustic music
  - Teach bluegrass, old-time, and new acoustic repertoire and technique
  - Teach jazz harmony, improvisation, arranging, composition, rhythmic displacement
- January 2019 Falling Waters Music Camp  
Ithaca, NY  
*Banjo Instruction*
- A three-day workshop in bluegrass, old-time, Celtic, and new acoustic music for beginner, intermediate, and advanced students
  - Teach bluegrass and new acoustic repertoire and technique
- May 2018 The Banjo Summit  
Fort Collins, CO  
*Banjo Instruction*
- A three-day workshop in progressive banjo styles for intermediate, advanced, and professional banjo players
  - Taught jazz harmony, improvisation, rhythmic displacement
- April 2018 Julian Family Fiddle Camp  
Julian, CA  
*Banjo Instruction*
- A five-day workshop for beginner and intermediate musicians in bluegrass, old-time, Celtic, and Texas style music
  - Taught bluegrass repertoire and technique
- February 2017-2018 Tristan and Tashina Clarridge's Whidbey Island Camp  
Whidbey Island, WA  
*Combined Instrument Instruction; Ensemble Masterclasses*
- A five-day workshop for advanced and professional string musicians in bluegrass, old-time, Celtic, jazz, Texas style, and new acoustic music
  - Taught bluegrass, old-time, and new acoustic repertoire and technique
  - Taught jazz harmony, improvisation, arranging, composition, rhythmic displacement
- February 2016 Evelyn Idzerda and Tashina Clarridge's Oregon Camp  
Summit, OR  
*Banjo Instruction; Combined Instrument Instruction*
- A weeklong workshop for advanced and professional string musicians in bluegrass, old-time, Celtic, jazz, Texas style, and new acoustic music
  - Taught bluegrass, old-time, and new acoustic repertoire and technique
  - Taught jazz harmony, improvisation, arranging, composition, rhythmic displacement
- April 2006-2007 Tristan and Tashina Clarridge's Corvallis Camp  
Corvallis, OR  
*Banjo Instruction*
- A weeklong workshop for advanced and professional string musicians in bluegrass, old-time, Celtic, jazz, Texas style, and new acoustic music
  - Taught bluegrass, old-time, and new acoustic repertoire and technique