

Department of Contemporary Music Studies

Discipline Profile (Updated April 2006)

NATURE OF THE DISCIPLINE

The Department of Contemporary Music Studies (DCMS) is dedicated to a range of academic approaches in both research and teaching. Given the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary music studies, it is possible for research to be undertaken in a broad range of fields using a variety of methodologies. These may involve, but are not limited to:

- Musicology
- Ethnomusicology and Ethnology
- Textual analysis and cultural theory
- Empirical studies of social/geographical/political/religious groupings and their relationship to cultural production
- Policy, industry, and institutional analysis
- Production, performance and/or installation of audio-visual media

The DCMS is strongly committed to excellence in research and teaching. All members of staff, irrespective of their level of appointment, participate in the department's teaching, and are also expected to demonstrate significant achievement in research. All members of staff, irrespective of their level of appointment, attend department meetings and undertake academic administration.

QUALIFICATIONS

Associate Lecturer

An Associate Lecturer would be expected to have a BA (Hons), and to have made significant progress towards the completion of a postgraduate degree (normally a PhD) or equivalent.

Lecturer

A Lecturer would be expected to have a BA (Hons), and have or be close to completion of a postgraduate degree (normally a PhD) or equivalent.

Senior Lecturer

A Senior Lecturer would be expected to have been awarded a PhD.

Associate Professor

An Associate Professor would be expected to have been awarded a PhD.

Professor

A Professor would be expected to have similar qualifications to an Associate Professor and to have a recognised international academic profile.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

The forms in which scholarship and research are disseminated are by refereed publication, including: journal articles, books, monographs and/or edited anthologies (from reputable publishers). Serving as editor or the editorship of refereed journals or other periodicals with a sound reputation in the field is also included in scholarly research and publication. Scholarship is also disseminated through presentation of conference and seminar papers, and radio/television/film interviews and the like. Informed audio or audio-visual productions that have been researched, produced and/or performed for academic purposes, reflect the dissemination of knowledge in the discipline. The initiation of successful projects such as journals, regular conferences or research initiatives in fields where these are lacking, should also be seen as significant contributions to the emerging field of contemporary music studies.

Generally speaking, research in contemporary music studies is an individual practice, although collaborative work is possible. Frequency of publication varies greatly according to the nature of the material, the genre or style in which it appears, and differing degrees of publishing opportunities. An original book on a relevant topic, recognised within the Australian academic community (or beyond), should be considered equivalent to the publication of several separate journal articles.

Associate Lecturer

An Associate Lecturer would be expected to have averaged one article-length paper (or equivalent) during each year of full-time employment. They should be able to show evidence of an active research and publication program.

Lecturer

A Lecturer would be expected to have produced a considerable body of published work (4 to 6 refereed articles or equivalent). They would have averaged one article-length paper plus conference paper or relevant production during each year of full-time appointment.

Senior Lecturer

A Senior Lecturer would usually be expected to have a substantial number of publications in refereed journals and/or books. A Senior Lecturer is expected to have published scholarly papers and/or other publications at the rate of at least one per year of fulltime employment. A Senior Lecturer is expected to have contributed scholarly papers to academic conferences and to have edited journals and/or anthologies. Senior Lecturers should be contributing to the development of the discipline by research that is innovative, ground-breaking or substantial. They should have developed a long-term research programme (ie 3-5 years), which may include applying for external grants, developing international collaborations, evidence of future publications, or the like.

Associate Professor

An Associate Professor would usually be expected to have a significant body of scholarly publication, usually at the rate of at least one refereed article per year and/or one book

(possibly co-authored) per 3-5 year period. An Associate Professor would be expected to actively contribute to the discipline by presenting research papers at relevant conferences at the (average) rate of 2 per year. Associate Professors should be developing a national and/or international profile, based on such indicators as peer review, invitations to publish and/or speak at conferences and seminars, or citation as appropriate. They will have obtained external grants and should show participation in research-based activities, eg reviewing grant applications, reading manuscripts or proposals for publishers, conference organisation, or serving on the Editorial Board of journals.

Professor

A Professor would usually be expected to show evidence of major standing, authority and leadership in the academic field. This authority and standing should be manifested by a considerable list of well-regarded publications in high quality, refereed journals, as well as substantial monographs (and possibly anthologies) in presses of recognised standing. Further levels of achievement would include: the initiation and co-ordination of group research projects; participation in and organisation of major conferences or equivalent events; and success in gaining major external grants. Professors should be a source of advice, direction and encouragement for the research careers of other department members, and be seeking to raise the department's research profile in the university, the academic world, and the wider community.

TEACHING

Members of staff should be able to demonstrate levels of teaching skills and performance by means of appropriate, recognised methods of evaluation. In such a rapidly developing field as contemporary music studies, the development of new courses and new approaches to analysing musical phenomena is considered highly desirable. Current teaching loads for all ranks of research active staff are expected to be the national average of 8-10 contact hours per week, except where special research weighting has been granted.

Associate Lecturer

An Associate Lecturer should usually be expected to demonstrate satisfactory levels of teaching skills and performance. Evidence for this might include various student and peer assessment, as well as the acquisition of formal teaching skills. An Associate Lecturer would be able to demonstrate their ability to conduct appropriate and well-structured lectures, tutorials, seminars and/or workshops. They will be able to engage in all levels of teaching responsibilities (preparation, face-to-face teaching, assessment and administration).

Lecturer

A Lecturer should usually be expected to demonstrate a good level of teaching skills and performance. They would engage in all the responsibilities of unit design, convenorship, materials preparation, and face-to-face teaching. Lecturers would be able to teach at Honours level, would be expected to supervise Honours theses, and normally be engaged in postgraduate supervision.

Senior Lecturer

In addition to the expectation of Lecturers, Senior Lecturers should be able to take full responsibility for the design and delivery of undergraduate units; show evidence of effective supervision at Honours and postgraduate levels; contribute to the proposing, planning, and design of undergraduate and Honours units in line with the department's strategic plan.

Associate Professor

An Associate Professor would be expected to exhibit a high level of teaching skills and performance through contributions to learning programs at undergraduate, Honours and postgraduate levels. They would usually be expected to play a major role in attracting, supervising and mentoring postgraduate research students; initiate opportunities to establish new units and programs of study; be able to supervise large numbers of casual or part-time staff; and advise junior staff about teaching design, delivery and development, where appropriate.

Professor

A Professor would be expected to demonstrate substantially the same teaching and performance skills and experience as an Associate Professor. In addition, a Professor would be expected to demonstrate leadership within the development of particular areas of education and training. They would also mentor junior staff about teaching techniques and development.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY

All department members are expected to be involved in the day-to-day running of the department, which includes giving academic advice to students, supporting and advising general staff, attending and contributing to department meetings, and generally fostering a collegial environment.

Associate Lecturer

An Associate Lecturer would be expected to attend and contribute to departmental and divisional meetings. Additionally, an Associate Lecturer would contribute to at least one aspect of discipline administration, such as timetable, handbook, publicity material, library ordering etc.

Lecturer

In addition to the above, a Lecturer would be expected to have experience in academic administration. Service on one of the Division's major committees or equivalent work on a University committee is expected. Lecturers are expected to take responsibility for the administration of whole units, from design and material production to assessment and the finalisation of results.

Senior Lecturer

A Senior Lecturer should be capable of acting as Head of Department (HOD) in at least a temporary capacity. This entails knowledge of the whole range of courses and units offered at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and the ability to supervise the admission of students at all levels of study. A Senior Lecturer would be expected to have had responsibility for significant areas of undergraduate or postgraduate teaching and administration for at least two semesters, and to have experience in academic administration. Senior Lecturers should represent the department at divisional and university level (subject to opportunity) in committees and administrative work.

A Senior Lecturer would be expected to demonstrate active involvement with professional associations and committees, in collaboration with fellow professionals at other higher education institutions and involvement in conference organisation and planning.

Associate Professor

In addition to the above, Associate Professors would be expected to have experience acting as HOD for at least two semesters. In addition, editorial work for journals, consultancies, and so on, is clear evidence of community involvement, as is public events organisation, and expert contributions to advisory boards of relevant discipline, government and non-government institutions. If not HOD, Associate Professors should provide advice and support to the HOD.

Professor

As the most senior level of appointment, a Professor should be an inspiration to the department, and one of its main guardians of academic and professional standards. They would be expected to should managerial and leadership skills of the highest order in the research, teaching and/or administration work of the DCMS, the Division and the University. A Professor would have substantial experience as HOD and serve effectively on a range of university committees. It may be expected of a Professor that they would have demonstrated concern for the careers of postgraduates and other staff through mentoring relationships.

In addition to the sort of community service expected of Associate Professors, a Professor would be expected to be able to represent the discipline outside of the university, at national and (where appropriate) international levels.