

The first order equates to the practice turn: here music produces its own socialities in performance, in musical ensembles, in the musical division of labour, in listening. Second, music animates imagined communities, aggregating its listeners into virtual collectivities or publics based on musical and other identifications. Third, music mediates wider social relations, from the most abstract to the most intimate: music's embodiment of stratified and hierarchical social relations, of the structures of class, race, nation, gender and sexuality, and of the competitive accumulation of legitimacy, authority and social prestige. Fourth, music is bound up in the large-scale social, cultural, economic and political forces that provide for its production, reproduction or transformation.

—Born, pp. 232.

- Born suggests we should not be separating these levels of social relations but analysing across them. Do you agree?
- Is the social necessary to popular music?

I suggest...that the biggest contributing factor to musicology's "chaotic conceptualisation of musical structuration" is the widespread lack of engagement with the tools, techniques, workflows, and critical vocabulary of recording production, and with the audible aesthetics of recorded sound. No student of historical musicology could ever graduate without having at least a basic proficiency in music theory and analysis, ear training and piano performance, a pedagogical convention that directly results in the perplexing kinds of melodic, rhythmic and harmonic analyses Tagg notes comprise the bulk of popular music analysis. I argue that an equivalent baseline for popular music studies would include the ability to understand recorded music theory and analysis, ear training skills geared towards hearing production techniques (also called "reverse-engineering" the recording process), and a basic practical knowledge of how recording work, studio musicianship and production/arrangement is done.

—Bates, p.18

- Why do you think Bates considers these skills necessary? Do you think they are? Why or why not?
- (Do you possess them yourself? Do you think it matters?)