

Dr Javier Rivasjavier.rivas_rodriguez@kcl.ac.uk | [Website](#)

Javier Rivas' research interests lie at the intersection of music education, performance, and community music; the ethnography and theory of sound and listening; and twentieth- and twenty-first-century musical, artistic, institutional, and auditory cultures, with a particular focus on Spain and the United Kingdom.

EDUCATION

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| PhD
2021-2026 | King's College London , Music, Anthropology, and Education.
Dissertation: <i>The Averted Ear: Listening, Social Relations, and Culture Change at ESMUC</i> .
Supervisors: Dr Gavin Williams, Prof Martin Stokes. |
| MMus
2019-2020 | King's College London , Musicology and Ethnomusicology (Distinction). |
| BA
2014-2018 | University of Oviedo , Musicology (1 st Class, SGAE End of Degree Award). |

PUBLICATIONS

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| 2025 | [Co-authored with Esther Cavett] "It's like you're an activist': Sustainable Teaching Practices in a Music Outreach Project in London", <i>International Journal of Community Music</i> , 17: 383–402, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1386/ijcm_00114_1 |
| 2022 | [Co-authored with Esther Cavett] "Voices from Southwark: Reflections on a collaborative music teaching project in London in the age of COVID-19", <i>International Journal of Community Music</i> 14: 169-189, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1386/ijcm_00043_1 |
| 2021 | "A view from below: Some thoughts on musicology and EDI work as acts of care", <i>Ethnomusicology Forum</i> , 30(1): 63-81, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/17411912.2021.1938624 |
| 2020 | "Música, Cine y Memoria: <i>Buenaventura Durruti, anarquista</i> , y la movilización de la tradición" ["Music, Film, and Memory: <i>Buenaventura Durruti, anarquista</i> , and the Mobilization of Tradition"]. In <i>Del Cine Mudo a los Videjuegos. La Creación Sonora en el Audiovisual [From Silent Cinema to Videogames: Sound Design in Audiovisual Media]</i> edited by Jordi Roquer, Daniel Torras and Lidia López. Alicante: Investigación y Publicación I+P. |

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Lecturer (HPL; previously Graduate Teaching Assistant), 2021-Present
Department of Culture, Media, and Creative Industries, **King's College London**

- BA module 5AAIC013 Issues in the Creative Industries
- BA module 5AAIC012 Managing Cultural Projects

- BA module 5AAIC001 Diversity Matters
- BA module 4AAIC003 Culture and Identity: Key Concepts and Debates
- BA module 4AAIC004 Cultural Production in a Changing World

Department of Music, King's College London

- MMus module 7AAMM025 Ethnomusicology and Social Theory
- MMus module 7AAMM103 Topics in 19th-Century Music
- BMus module 6AAMS357 Topics in 19th-Century Music
- BMus module 5AAMS289 Studies in Music of the 20th-21st Centuries
- BMus module 5AAMS376 Anthropological Methods in Performance and the Arts
- BMus module 4AAMS163 Issues and Topics in Music 3 (Music after 1900)

Visiting Researcher and Lecturer, 2022-Present

Department of Cultural and Music Studies, **Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya (Catalonia School of Music)**

- BMus module Seminari de Musicologia [Musicology Seminar]
- BMus module Etnomusicologia II [Ethnomusicology II]

Graduate Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer, 2021-2022

Anthropology Department, **University College London**

- BSc module ANTH0006 Researching the Social World

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2025. Associate Fellowship, Higher Education Academy (AFHEA), **Advance HE**

SELECTED HONORS

- 2026 Seminar Leader of the Year Award, **King's College London**
- Nomination for the 2026 King's Education Award, **King's College London**
- Nomination for the 2025 Seminar Leader of the Year, **King's College London**
- **British Forum of Ethnomusicology (BFE)** Fieldwork Grant, 2023
- **Society for Education, Music, and Psychology Research (SEMPRE)** Gerry Farrell Award, 2022
- **Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) – London Arts and Humanities Partnership (LAHP)** Research Studentship, 2021-2025
- **FPU Fellowship, Spanish Ministry of Education**, 2020-2021 (declined in favour of other funding)
- **King's College London** Experience Research Award, 2020
- Scholarship for Postgraduate Studies **Mutua Madrileña Foundation**, 2019 – 2020
- SGAE End of Degree Award, **University of Oviedo**, 2018

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Summer 2026-Present. Chair, Programme and Organising Committee, SEMPRE 2027 Spring Conference, **King's College London**.

Winter 2025 – Present. Conference Secretary, **Society for Education, Music and Psychology Research (SEMPRE)**

Autumn 2025 – Present. Trustee, **Lucille Graham Trust**

Spring 2025 – Present. Executive Manager (previously Trustee), **Water City Music**

Autumn 2019 – Present. Project Manager/Lead for the King's Music Academy, **King's College London**

Autumn 2021 – Present. Committee Member, **Music Department, King's College London**

- Music PGR (Postgraduate Research) Student Representative (2025-Present)
- Programme and Organising Committee Member, **British Forum of Ethnomusicology Annual Conference at KCL** (2025-2026)
- Co-Chair, PGR (Postgraduate Research) Reading Group (2021-2022)
- Committee Member. Music Colloquium Committee (2024-2025)
- Chair, UNC-KCL Graduate Conference (2025-2026)

Autumn 2021 – Spring 2023. Rising Voices in Ethnomusicology Staff Contributor, **Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM)**

Winter 2020 – Summer 2021. Committee Member. XII International Symposium “Musical Creation in the Soundtrack”. Planning Committee, **Spanish Musicological Society**

INVITED TALKS

2027 (forthcoming). “Dwelling in Sound: The Poetics of the King's Music Academy,” co-presented with Esther Cavett, Graduate Research Colloquium Series, **University of Oxford**, 3 June 2027

2027 (forthcoming). “Dwelling in Sound: The Poetics of the King's Music Academy,” co-presented with Esther Cavett, Music Colloquium Series, **King's College London**, 17 March 2027

2025. “‘It's like you're an activist': Sustainable teaching practices in a music outreach project in London,” co-presented with Esther Cavett, Graduate Research Colloquium Series, **University of Oxford**, 10 June 2025

2025. “Some Notes on Literacy, Aurality, and Social Justice in Community Music and Outreach,” Oxford Seminar in Music Theory and Analysis (OSiMTA), **University of Oxford**, 3 June 2025

2025. “‘It's like you're an activist': Sustainable Teaching Practices in a Music Outreach Project in Southwark,” co-presented with Esther Cavett, Music Colloquium Series, **King's College London**, 29 January 2025

2020. “The Latent Politics of Music,” Graduate Colloquium Series, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, **King's College London**, 2 November 2020

2020. “The King’s – St. George Academy: A report on progress by members of the team,” co-presented with Esther Cavett, Rhys Sparey and Jonathan Davies, Music Colloquium Series, **King’s College London**, 11 September 2020

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS

2026. “We create systems of non-listening’: Towards an Anthropology of Sound Studies.” 2026 UNC-KCL Graduate Student Music Conference, **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**. Chapel Hill, 17–18 April 2026
2025. “Alterinstitutionality, Transversality, and the Negation of Hierarchy in Higher Music Education.” SIBE 2025, **Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya (ESMUC)**. Barcelona, 6-9 November 2025
2025. “Thoughts and Practices from the Alter Institution.” MiU 25: Music Education in Development – Learning in Community. **Norwegian University of Science and Technology**. Trondheim, 13–14 October 2025
2025. “It’s like you’re an activist’: Sustainable teaching practices in a music outreach project in London,” with Esther Cavett. SEMPRE Spring Conference. **Royal Northern College of Music**, Manchester, 9-10 April 2025
2025. “Audit as Audibility: Critical Pedagogies and Audit Culture in Higher Music Education,” as part of the panel “Futures of Ethnomusicology: The Politics of Inclusion, Care, and Decolonisation” with Thomas Hilder, Shyr Ee Tan, and Fiorella Montero-Diaz. British Forum for Ethnomusicology. **University of Cambridge**, 3-6 April 2025
2023. “An Anthropology of Academic Change: The Catalonia School of Music.” A la Escucha de Nuestro Presente: XVII SIBE Conference 2023, XII IASPM-Spain y IV ICTM-Spain, **University of Granada**, 2-4 November 2023
2023. “Auditory Culture in Higher Music Education.” MiU23: Utfordringer og muligheter innen musikk og utdanning. **DMMH, Queen Maud University College**, 26-27 October 2023
2023. “Listening to the ‘Unsaid’: Auditory Culture, Agency, and Resistance in Music Studies.” Thirteenth International Doctoral Workshop in Ethnomusicology, **Center for World Music at the University of Hildesheim and Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media**, 20 – 23 June 2023
2023. “Digital Pedagogies and Music Outreach Work in the Age of COVID-19.” RILM Global Digital Music Studies. **The Graduate Center, City University of New York**, 13-14 April 2023
2022. “Keeping Change under Control: The Catalonia College of Music. On Democratic Ways of Teaching Music in Higher Education.” MiU22: Explorative Perspectives in Music and Education. **Nord University**, 26-27 October 2022
2021. “The Crisis of Care: Ethnomusicology in the Time of Austerity.” SIBE-Iberian Society for Ethnomusicology + 2021, **University of Aveiro**, 20-23 October 2021

2021. “A Student-Teacher Perspective: Decolonial Encounters in the Music Classroom.” 2021 Teaching Music History Conference, **AMS Pedagogy Study Group**, 14 – 25 June 2021
2020. “No hay tanto pan: Neoliberalism, Austerity, and Dissent in Silvia Pérez Cruz’s Protest Songwriting”. 2020 BFE One-Day Conference (Ethnomusicology and Music Enterprise in Catastrophic Times), **University of Lincoln**, 7 November 2020
2020. “Beyond Diversity: Inclusive Teaching and Critical Pedagogy in SOAS and King’s College”. Study Day on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Music Higher Education, **City, University of London**, 24 January 2020

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- Spanish (native)
- Galician (native)
- English (full professional proficiency; Cambridge C2 Proficiency)
- Portuguese (intermediate)
- Catalan (intermediate)

ACADEMIC REFEREES

Dr Gavin Williams, Lecturer in Music, King’s College London
gavin.williams@kcl.ac.uk

Prof Martin Stokes, King Edward Professor of Music, King’s College London
martin.stokes@kcl.ac.uk

Prof David Irving, ICREA Research Professor, Institució Milà i Fontanals–CSIC, Barcelona
david.irving@icrea.cat

Dr Joseph Browning, Senior Lecturer in Music, City – St George’s University of London
joseph.Browning@citystgeorges.ac.uk

PROFESSIONAL REFEREES

Dr Esther Cavett, Senior Research Fellow, King’s College London
esther.cavett@kcl.ac.uk

Dr Natalie Wreyford, Senior Lecturer in Culture, Media and Creative Industries
natalie.2.wreyford@kcl.ac.uk

Michael Bochmann, Artistic Director, Water City Music
mpbbochmann@icloud.com