

Theodore Barker Gordon  
ted.gordon@baruch.cuny.edu

## EMPLOYMENT

- 2020–           Assistant Professor of Music  
                  Department of Fine & Performing Arts  
                  Baruch College, City University of New York
- 2018–2020    Mellon Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow  
                  Visiting Researcher, Computer Music Center  
                  Department of Music, Columbia University

## EDUCATION

- 2018           Ph.D., History and Theory of Music, University of Chicago  
2017           M.A., History and Theory of Music, University of Chicago  
2008           B.A. (with distinction), Humanities, Yale University

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

American music; experimental music; popular music; critical organology; science & technology studies; queer theory; feminist theory; psychoanalytic theory

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book

- In progress    *The Composer's Black Box: Cybernetics & Instrumentality in Postwar American Music*  
                  [~88,000 words]

### Articles and Chapters

“Sound is God’: Pandit Pran Nath, La Monte Young, and the Politics of Tradition” (~15,000 words, submitted to the *Journal of the American Musicological Society*; Revise & Resubmit)

“Composing, Performing, Listening: the Early Electronic Music of Pauline Oliveros,” in *Performing Indeterminacy* (eds. Martin Iddon, Philip Thomas, and Emily Payne), Cambridge University Press. (Invited submission, Under Review.)

### Book Reviews

- 2019           Invited Review of Jennifer Iverson, *Electronic Inspirations: Technologies of the Cold-War Musical Avant-Garde* (Oxford University Press, 2018), *Current Musicology*, No. 104 (Spring 2019), 179–185

Interview

- 2019 "What Makes a Song Songy? Interview with Glenn Kotche & Steven Rings." *Portable Gray*, Vol. 1 No. 2 (Spring 2019), 38-43

Online Essays

- 2020 "New Sounds in Electronic Music," Library of Congress National Recording Registry
- 2018 "Diffracting the San Francisco Tape Music Center." *Sonic Circulations* blog, Emily MacGregor/J.P.E. Harper Scott, editors
- 2017 "Electric Music Box." Theorizing the Contemporary, *Cultural Anthropology* website, December 19, 2017
- 2017 "Does 'Music Trump Politics'? Dennis Prager and the Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra". *Musicology Now!* Blog. American Musicological Society, September 19, 2017
- 2017 "Don't Call it a Synthesizer: Remembering Donald Buchla's Modular Electronic Music System." *Musicology Now!* Blog, American Musicological Society, February 17, 2017
- 2016 "Unboxing the Buchla Model 100." *Performing Arts Blog*, Library of Congress, January 14, 2016

Liner Notes

- 2019 "Blue" Gene Tyranny & Peter Gordon, *Trust in Rock*, Unseen Worlds, UW18
- 2018 Jacqueline Humbert & David Rosenboom, *J. Jasmine: My New Music*, Unseen Worlds, UW16

**EXHIBITIONS**

- 2019 Exhibition Texts: "Sounding Circuits: Audible Histories," New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, New York, NY, Seth Cluett, curator. January–March 2019

**AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2019 Columbia University Center for Science and Society Course Development Grant [for "Music and the Electrical Imaginary" seminar, Fall 2019]
- 2018 Leonardo Abstracts Service (LABS) Top-Ranked Thesis Abstract, for

Gordon - C.V. (3)

- “Bay Area Experimentalism: Music and Technology in the Long 1960s”  
[Published in *Leonardo* Volume 52, Issue 5, October 2019]
- 2018–20 Mellon Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship, Columbia University
- 2017–18 Stuart Tave Teaching Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 2015–18 Lowell C. Wadmond Fund for Travel & Research, University of Chicago
- 2017 New York Public Library Short-Term Research Fellowship
- 2016–17 Field Trip/Field Notes/Field Guide Fellowship, Art/Science/Culture Initiative,  
University of Chicago

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2020 “Echolocating the Human”, Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Meeting
- 2020 Invited Keynote Presenter: Northwestern New Music Conference (NUNC!),  
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, April 24–26, 2020 [Canceled]
- 2020 “Interspecies Feedback in Alvin Lucier’s *Vespers*.” CIRCULATIONS: Symposium  
on Live Audio Feedback in Art, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, February 28,  
2020
- 2020 Invited Colloquium Presenter: “No Ideas But In Things? Cybernetics and  
Materiality in Alvin Lucier’s Early Electronic Music.” Columbia University  
Department of Music Colloquium Series, New York, NY, February 21, 2020
- 2019 “The Anonymous Artists of America and the Buchla Modular Electronic Music  
System.” American Musicological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA,  
November 2019
- 2019 “Diffracting Cybernetics at the San Francisco Tape Music Center.” Recursions:  
Music & Cybernetics Conference, University of Edinburgh, Scotland. October 25,  
2019
- 2019 Respondent: New Materialist Approaches to Sound Conference, Columbia  
University, New York, NY, October 19th, 2019
- 2019 “Music in the Cybernetics Moment.” Sonic Circulations Conference, Kings  
College London, London, UK, June 24, 2019
- 2018 Invited Paper: “Living on the Earth: The Experimental World(ing) of Ramón  
Sender.” After Experimental Music Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY,  
February 2018
- 2017 “Excavating Pauline Oliveros’s Expanded Instrument System.” American  
Musicological Society Annual Meeting, Rochester, NY, November 10, 2017

Gordon - C.V. (4)

- 2017 "Pandit Pran Nath, Mysticism, and Music in the San Francisco Bay Area." Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, October 26, 2017
- 2017 "Improvisation and Indeterminacy in the Music of Pauline Oliveros." Performing Indeterminacy Conference, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK, June 30, 2017
- 2017 "The Patchwork Girl: Pauline Oliveros and Technologies of Self." Sixth International Conference on Music and Minimalism, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, June 21-25, 2017
- 2017 "'The Composer's Black-Box': Cybernetics, Creativity, and Technology at the San Francisco Tape Music Center," Society for American Music Annual Conference, Montreal, QC March 2017
- 2016 "Opening Buchla's Box: Rethinking Experimentation in Electronic Music in the Early 1960s." Periods and Waves: A Conference on Sound and History, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, April 29, 2016
- 2015 "Laurie Anderson's Cyborg Voice: Technology, Gender, Desire." Graduate Students in Music Conference, City University of New York, NY, April 18 2015
- 2014 "Sound is God: La Monte Young and Pandit Pran Nath in New York." American Musicological Society Annual Conference, Milwaukee, WI, November 2014
- 2014 "Jankélévitch, Foucault, and the Ethics of the Ineffable." The 4th Annual Conference of the Royal Musical Association Music and Philosophy Study Group, Kings College, London, UK, June 27-28, 2014
- 2014 "High in the Custerdome: Steely Dan's Split Libido." Sound and Affect: Voice, Music, World, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, April 19, 2014
- 2013 "Abjection, l'informe(lle), and Fantasy in Helmut Lachenmann's *Pression*." American Musicological Society Midwest Chapter Meeting,, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, October 5 2013

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

- 2019 Invited Moderator: Joan La Barbara and Morton Subotnick. "Dream Dance: The Art of Ed Emschwiler." Lightbox Film Center, Philadelphia, PA. December 5, 2019
- 2019 Invited Public Talk: "Cybernetics, Modularity, Subjectivity." Synth Library Prague/ZVUK, Prague, Czech Republic, July 3, 2019
- 2019 Invited Public Talk: "Cybernetics, Modularity, Subjectivity." Ableton AG, Berlin, Germany, June 27, 2019

2019 Invited Public Talk: "The Political and Social Legacies of Bay Area Experimentalism." Indexical performance series, Santa Cruz, CA, June 7, 2019

## COURSES TAUGHT

### Baruch College

2020 Music in Civilization, Fall 2020  
Electronic Music, Fall 2020

### Columbia University

2020 Music Humanities (Masterpieces of Western Music), Spring 2020  
2019 Music and the Electrical Imaginary (Seminar), Fall 2019  
[Center for Science and Society Course Development Grant]  
Music Humanities (Masterpieces of Western Music), Spring 2019  
2018 Music Humanities (Masterpieces of Western Music), Fall 2018

### University of Chicago

2018 A History of Electronic Music in Ten Instruments, Spring 2018  
[Stuart Tave Teaching Fellowship]  
Included in Media Arts & Design Minor  
2017 Introduction to Western Art Music, Spring 2017  
2016 Introduction to Western Art Music, Spring 2016

### University of Chicago (Teaching Assistant)

2018 Introduction to Western Art Music (Prof. Seth Brodksy), Winter 2018  
2017 VoiceGrooveSong (Profs. Steven Rings & Glenn Kotche), Winter 2017  
2016 Breathing Matters: The Poetics and Politics of Air (Profs. Jennifer Scappettone, Judd Morrissey, Caroline Bergvall), Winter 2016  
2015 Introduction to Western Art Music (Prof. Martha Feldman), Fall 2015  
Music in Western Civilization (Prof. Robert Kendrick), Spring 2015  
Music in Western Civilization (Prof. Anne Robertson), Winter 2015

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

2020 *Cultural Critique* (1 article)  
2020 *Journal of Utopian Studies* (1 article)  
2020 *Feminist Review* (1 article)  
2019 *Journal of the American Musicological Society* (1 article)  
2019 *Contemporary Music Review* (1 article)  
2017 *Organized Sound* (1 article)

2013– Webmaster, AMS Music and Philosophy Study Group

## MEDIA COVERAGE

2019 Newspaper Review: Matthew Guerrieri, “With analog Music Easels, Eternal Now paints a serendipitous aural landscape,” *The Washington Post*, November 11, 2019

2019 Radio Interview: Interviewed about *The Composer’s Black Box* by Eve Essex, “How to Tell a Sound,” Cashmere Radio, Berlin, Germany, October 7, 2019

## CREATIVE WORK

### Recordings

Forthcoming *The Eternal Now* (Ted Gordon/Marcia Bassett, Buchla Music Easels). YEW Records, 2020

Forthcoming *The Chicagoland Electric Music Box Association*, (Ted Gordon/Matthew Mehlan). Shinkoyo, 2020

### Performances (Selected)

2019 “The Eternal Now” (Ted Gordon/Marcia Bassett Buchla Music Easel Duo, with stroboscopic projections by Jeffrey Perkins)  
Rhizome, Washington DC, November 10, 2019  
Diffusions Festival, Red Room Gallery, Baltimore, MD, November 9, 2019  
Pageant : Soloveev Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, November 7, 2019  
Emily Harvey Foundation, New York, NY, August 11, 2019  
The Schoolhouse, Brooklyn, NY, May 18, 2019

2019 Ted Gordon/Michelle Yom/Marc Hannaford/Erica Dicker/Paul Feitzinger quintet. Muchmore’s, Brooklyn, NY, March 6, 2019

2018 Ted Gordon (Buchla Music Easel) / Daniel Wyche (guitar, electronics) at Cafe Mustache, Chicago, IL, August 2 2018

2017 Improvisation with Sophie Reichert (movement) for “Not Reading”: University of Chicago English Department Graduate Conference, Logan Center for the Arts, Chicago IL, November 3, 2018

2017 Live electronics and media environment for *Smokepenny Lyrichord Heavenbred*, with Jennifer Scappettone, Judd Morrissey, and Abraham Avnisan at the “Ordinary Media” Symposium, Northwestern University, Evanston IL, May 18, 2017

Gordon - C.V. (7)

- 2017 Ted Gordon/Aaron Zarzutzki/Peter Maunu/Daniel Wyche at Beat Kitchen (Splice Series), Chicago IL, March 8, 2017
- 2016 Ted Gordon/Matthew Mehlan duo (as "The Chicagoland Electric Music Box Association"), with IE, Matthew Sage. Public Access, Chicago IL, October 1, 2016
- 2016 Ted Gordon (Buchla Music Easel) / Daniel Wyche (guitar, electronics) at Elastic Arts Foundation, Chicago IL, May 26, 2016
- 2016 Performing in Suzy Bielak & Fred Schmalz's "Fourth Horizon" installation with Seth Parker Woods, Adam Visa, Tim Stine, and William Mazzarella. Experimental Sound Studio, Chicago, IL, May 15, 2016
- 2016 "Bay Area Experimentalism in the Long 1960s: A Recital". (Compositions by Oliveros, Young, Sender, Riley, Subotnick, on electronics, piano, Buchla Easel, etc.) Logan Center for the Arts, Chicago, IL, March 12, 2016
- 2016 Performing reconstruction of "Ushas / Xmas Me" by Ramon Sender on the Buchla Music Easel at the Hungry Brain, Chicago IL, March 9, 2016
- 2016 Performing *26' 1.1499"* (arranged for viola) at Northwestern University with Jason Rosenholtz-Witt, lecture by Ben Piekut. Evanston, IL, March 2, 2016
- 2016 Live sound installation for "The Data That We Breathe", with Caroline Bergvall, Judd Morrissey, and Jennifer Scappetone, 6018 North, Chicago IL, February 28, 2016
- 2015 Regards, Gallery, responding to installation by Matthew Metzger. Solo improvised electronics, Chicago, IL, April 25, 2015
- 2013 Ted Gordon (viola) / Alejandro Acierro (sine waves) duo. Elastic Arts Foundation, Chicago IL, November 22, 2013

**RESEARCH LANGUAGES**

German (intermediate); Spanish (intermediate); French (reading)

**ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS**

American Musicological Society  
Society for Ethnomusicology  
Society for American Music  
Society for Minimalist Music

**REFERENCES**

upon request