

**OSTS Lecture, Winter 2025, 2nd Term
February 10th to March 17th**

Course L ***Cultural Appropriation and Sacred Song (Zoom Class)***

Lecturer Anneli Loepp Thiessen

Descriptor

Cultural appropriation is a growing topic of concern, but discerning how to sing across cultural difference remains complicated. What is the line between cultural borrowing and stealing, sharing and appropriation? This course will help participants explore differences between cultural appreciation and appropriation in order to empower justice-oriented congregational singing.
(49 words)

Outline

Week 1: What is culture? What is cultural appropriation?

Week 2: Singing across cultural difference

Week 3: Singing with Indigenous neighbours

Week 4: Teaching global song

Week 5: Reparations and congregational song

Bibliography

Week 1: Özlem Sensoy and Robin DiAngelo, “Culture and Socialization” in
Is Everyone Really Equal? An Introduction to Key Concepts in Social Justice Education
(New York: Teachers College Press, 2017), 35–49.

Ligaya Mishan, “What Does Cultural Appropriation Really Mean?,”
The New York Times, September 30, 2022.

Week 2: Swee Hong Lim, “We’re All ‘Bananas and Coconuts’:
Congregational Song in the Global South,” *International Journal of Practical Theology* 23,
no. 1 (2019):
136–56.

Hilary Seraph Donaldson, "Toward a Musical Praxis of Justice: A Survey of Global and Indigenous Canadian Song in the Hymnals of the Anglican, Presbyterian, and United Churches of Canada through Their History" 63, no. 2 (2012): 18-.

Week 3: Johnson, Sarah Kathleen; Katie Graber; and Anneli Loepp Thiessen. 2023. Guide to Voices Together Songs and Resources with Connections to Indigenous Communities in Canada and the United States. Harrisonburg: MennoMedia.

Week 4: Explore: <https://www.breakintosong.ca>; <https://www.musicthatmakescommunity.org/>

Marissa Glynias Moore, "'We Just Don't Have It' Addressing Whiteness in Congregational Voicing," in *Studying Congregational Music: Key Issues, Methods, and Theoretical Perspectives*, ed. Andrew Mall, Monique Ingalls, and Jeffers Engelhardt, Congregational Music Studies Series (New York, NY: Routledge, 2021), 156-73.

Week 5: Brian Hehn, "Reparations and Congregational Song," *Reformed Worship*, accessed February 4, 2024.

Bio

Anneli Loepp Thiessen is a PhD candidate in the Interdisciplinary Music Research program at the University of Ottawa, where her dissertation examines women's experiences as songwriters and worship leaders in the contemporary worship music industry. She is published in several academic journals, including *The Hymn*, *Journal of Contemporary Ministry*, *Religions*, and *Worship*. Anneli was a committee member for the 2020 Mennonite hymnal *Voices Together*, and is co-director of Anabaptist Worship Network.