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## Biography

David Dennen is currently a PhD candidate in ethnomusicology at the University of California, Davis. He received his BA from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, where he concentrated on ethnomusicology, cultural studies, and performance. David has been a musician for many years, primarily as a flutist and songwriter. He has trained in Western art and popular forms of music and has also studied Hindustani flute performance under Professor Mohini Mohan Patnaik of Odisha, India.

Currently David is working on his dissertation, a history of “Odissi songs” (romantic-devotional songs usually dealing with the divine love of Radha and Krishna) in Odisha. This project explores the 17<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> century contexts in which these songs were primarily written, the lyrical and musical content of these songs, and the ways they have been received and transmitted over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Of special consideration is the 20<sup>th</sup> century development of “Odissi music,” a local alternative to the Hindustani and Karnatak traditions.

David’s other ongoing projects include:

- A series of essays on the music of Jon Hassell, a 20–21<sup>st</sup> century American musician whose work developed in reaction to modernist music, minimalism, jazz, and various non-Western musics. In the context of Hassell’s music David has explored issues of genre, sensuality, environment, cross-culturalism, and technology.
- An “imaginology” of US children’s literature, focused mainly on the books of Dr. Seuss and Crockett Johnson. This project studies the connections between children, adults, and imagination in US culture, and the function and representation of imagination in literature.

David’s studies in Western critical theory and philosophy greatly inform all of his research. He has been particularly influenced by the writings of Theodor W. Adorno and Emmanuel Levinas, which have refined David’s thinking about ethics in art, research, and education. His historiographic method draws from Nietzsche and Michel Foucault. One of David’s overriding concerns is with the ethics of interpretation: how we—and how we might better—interpret our histories, our cultural practices, and each other.

Further information about his projects can be found on his website at <http://www.oaidweb.com/>.