

RGC Reference LU33000017

<i>please insert ref. above</i>

**The Research Grants Council of Hong Kong
Prestigious Fellowship Scheme under the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel
Completion Report**

(for completed projects only)

Part A: Project and Award Holder

1. Project Title

Musicophilia and Publicness in Mumbai: A New Approach to Cultural Analysis

2. Award Holder and Academic Department/Unit Involved

Name/Post	Unit/Department/Institution	Contact Information
NIRANJANA Tejaswini / Professor & Head	Department of Cultural Studies / Lingnan University	tniranjana@ln.edu.hk 2616-7429

Part B: The Report

5. Workplan

5.1 Workplan as per original application

1. Completion of research interviews and library work
2. Completion of draft monograph and submission to Duke University Press
3. Publication of two journal articles
4. Commissioning of project website

5.2 Revised workplan

Date of approval from the RGC: NA

Reasons for the change: _____

- 1.
- 2.
3.

5.3 Realisation of the workplan

(maximum 2 pages; please state how and to what extent the work as stated in the workplan has been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

I am delighted to report that all the activities planned for the grant period were successfully completed. I had proposed to complete my research interviews and some additional library work in 2018, on the topic of musical publics in Mumbai city and the emergence of a new Indian idea of the interiorized subject of Hindustani music. As I drafted the monograph based on this research, I was able to finesse the relationship between subjectivity and sociality as mediated by music.

I came up with the concept ‘metropolitan unconscious’ to capture the collective histories of the migrants who had brought Hindustani music to Mumbai in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as the diverse population of the city that moved there to live and work, and be entertained. I have argued that through listening to and appreciating the music, and even learning it in the mushrooming music schools across the city and through individual discipleship, the inhabitants of Mumbai became ‘performing subjects’, displaying their modern identities by yoking their contemporary lives to a sense of the past.

This argument was elaborated over the 300 pages of the manuscript: beginning with an Introduction where I laid out the key concepts informing the research, followed by 5 chapters and an Afterword. Chapter 1 provided the historical background for the rise of Hindustani music in Mumbai; Chapter 2 explored the spaces of music (for both performance and pedagogy) in the native town; Chapter 3 dwelt on the ‘excessive subject’, the person madly in love with music; Chapters 4 and 5 discuss the means by which musicophilia was secured – through new pedagogies suited to the non-traditional learner. The Afterword shows how the research was taken into the space of the gallery, even as it underpinned the documentary film, *Phir se samm pe aana* (Returning to the first beat), directed by Surabhi Sharma, premiered at the Mumbai International Film Festival.

In the grant period, the manuscript was submitted to Duke University Press, went through two rounds of peer reviews, has been copyedited and designed, and is scheduled to be out in February 2020.

Here is a link to the advertisement for the forthcoming book:

<https://www.dukeupress.edu/musicophilia-in-mumbai>

6. Dissemination plan

6.1 Dissemination plan as per original application

1. Publication of monograph
2. Publication of two journal articles
3. Setting up a project website
4. Presentation of findings at an international conference

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6.2 Revised dissemination plan

Date of approval from the RGC: NA

Reasons for the change: _____

- 1.
- 2.
3.

6.3 Realisation of the dissemination plan

(maximum 2 pages; please state how and to what extent the output as stated in the dissemination plan has been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

Publication of monograph: The book monograph, titled MUSICOPHILIA IN MUMBAI: PERFORMING SUBJECTS AND THE METROPOLITAN UNCONSCIOUS, is forthcoming from Duke University Press in February 2020.

Journal Articles: An additional two articles have been published in the prestigious international peer-reviewed journal *Cultural Studies*:

“Musicophilia and the lingua musica in Mumbai”, 2018, 32, 2, p. 261-285, 25 p.

“Deewaana (The Mad One): The Lover of Music”, 2019, 33, 5, p. 749-777, 29 p.

Book Website: In this period, I also worked with a web designer to put up the book website. The architecture of the website is complete, but I will need another two months to upload all the material from my research. The prototype is available at:

<https://mumbaimusicophilia.wordpress.com/introduction/>

By the time the monograph is published in February 2020, the remaining website work will also be completed.

Presentation of findings: I presented the findings of my research at the Association of Cultural Studies conference in Shanghai (August 2018) and at the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies conference in Dumaguete (August 2019). I have also given talks based on the research at Stanford University, University of California Santa Cruz, and UCLA in May-June 2019.

7. **Other impact** (*e.g. award of patents or prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, knowledge transfer, etc.*)