

# Appendix B: Keyword Frequencies in AMS Annual Meeting Abstracts, 1969–2025

For: Special Commission · By: Yu Guo

This appendix examines how often certain keyword families appear in abstracts from American Musicological Society (AMS) annual meetings held between 1969 and 2025.

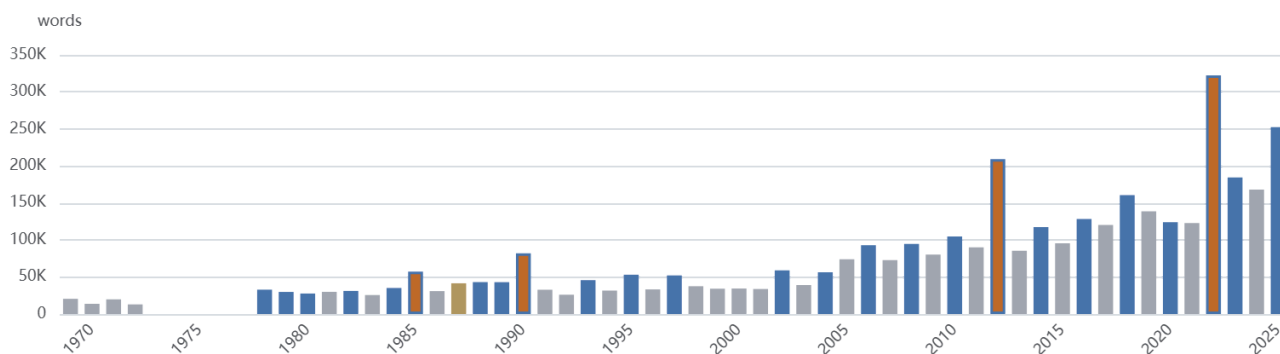
## Data and Method

The data came from archived abstracts from past AMS annual meetings, downloadable as PDF files from [amsmusicology.org/past-annual-meetings](https://amsmusicology.org/past-annual-meetings). Each file generally contains the full set of abstracts for one meeting. From these files we constructed a searchable corpus and computed keyword frequencies. We proceeded in two steps:

1. We downloaded each available meeting PDF and converted it to text.<sup>1</sup> The AMS archive page contains no links for the 1973–1977 meetings, so those years appear as gaps in the charts. From the extracted text, we created one *meeting document* for each available meeting. A meeting document contains the full text of the meeting PDF (including program material outside the abstracts) except for the 2000 Toronto meeting, which brought together fourteen societies and required special treatment.<sup>2</sup> We normalized each meeting document before counting (but did not divide it into individual abstracts, so we cannot report the percentage of abstracts containing a match).<sup>3</sup> The resulting **52 meeting documents from 1969 to 2025** contain about **4.0 million words**, distributed as follows:

| Period    | Meetings | Words     | Words / meeting |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1969–1979 | 6        | 130,074   | 21,700          |
| 1980–1989 | 10       | 365,744   | 36,600          |
| 1990–1999 | 10       | 428,796   | 42,900          |
| 2000–2009 | 10       | 637,780   | 63,800          |
| 2010–2019 | 10       | 1,251,039 | 125,100         |
| 2020–2025 | 6        | 1,174,669 | 195,800         |

*Word totals count all normalized text in the meeting documents. The first row groups 1969 with the 1970s to avoid a one-meeting row, and the final row ends at the corpus endpoint, 2025. Meeting counts reflect the missing files for 1973–1977. The documents' average length increased about ninefold, from about 22,000 words in the 1970s to about 200,000 in the 2020s. Frequencies per 10,000 words account for this growth; raw match counts do not.*



Words in the meeting documents by year. The missing years (1973–77) appear as a gap. Colors identify meeting documents that include a partner society's program: ■ Ethnomusicology (SEM), ■ Music Theory (SMT), ■ both, and ■ another society (CMS, CBMR); grey bars identify the remaining documents. The family charts use the same colors.

2. For each keyword family and each meeting document, we searched the text with a case-insensitive regular expression designed to match related terms and phrases.<sup>4</sup> We report frequency as matches per 10,000 words.

We also grouped the meetings into twelve periods of up to five years, with the final period ending in 2025.<sup>5</sup> In the table beside each chart below, the `meetings` column gives the number of meetings in each period. For each keyword family shown, the table also reports three measures:

- **n**: the total number of matches in that period (of up to five years).
- **/10k**: n divided by the total number of words in that period, then multiplied by 10,000. Within that period, meetings with more words therefore have more weight.
- **mean**: the average of the individual meetings' matches per 10,000 words in that period. Within that period, each meeting therefore has equal weight.

## Joint Meetings

The AMS often meets jointly with sister societies.<sup>6</sup> The meeting document for a joint meeting may include a partner society's program, which changes the vocabulary being measured. The effects of the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM) and the Society for Music Theory (SMT) are most visible. At the four joint meetings whose documents include the SEM program (1985, 1990, 2012, and 2022), ethnomusicology vocabulary appears several times more often than usual. The chart below uses selected ethnomusicology terms to identify these years.<sup>7</sup>

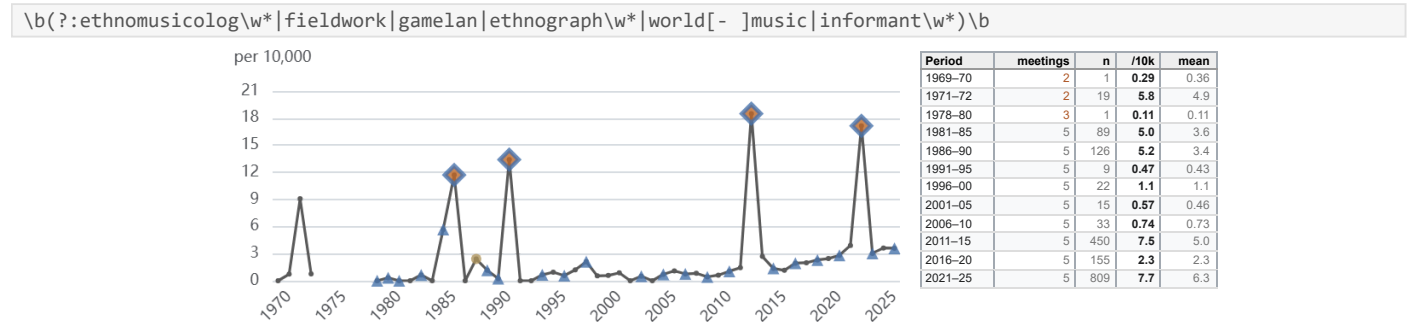
At meetings held jointly with SMT (most even years since 2000, plus 2023 and 2025, and several earlier years), music-theory terms are more common. This produces alternating high and low annual rates in the analytic family. Most joint PDFs, including 2025, do not identify each session by society, so their meeting documents include both AMS and partner-society sessions. Although the 2020 program does identify sessions, its meeting document likewise includes the full program for consistency. Appendix D.7 analyzes the 2025 meeting separately and includes only papers classified as AMS rather than SMT.<sup>8</sup>

The 2012 and 2022 meetings were joint with both societies and differ most from the rest of the corpus. The 2022 text contains 322,000 words, six times the median, and supplies about 30 percent of the words for 2021–25. The 2022 and 2025 meetings together supply more than half of that period's words. Differences between years may therefore arise partly from

the composition and size of joint meetings rather than from changes in the AMS's program alone. We note when a finding depends only on joint years.

## Corpus Composition: Ethnomusicology Terms

This chart plots the selected ethnomusicology terms described under Joint Meetings. These terms, including fieldwork, ethnography, gamelan, and world music, usually occur fewer than four times per 10,000 words; the four largest spikes correspond to the meeting documents identified above.



## Do joint meetings explain the changes?

Joint-meeting documents may include papers from partner societies, whose vocabulary could distort the AMS trends. Because most PDFs do not label sessions by society, we cannot remove those papers individually. Instead, for each of the keyword families analyzed below, we calculated its frequency (matches per 10,000 words) for 1969–99 and 2000–25 using only documents without partner-society programs. This left 13 of 26 documents in the first period and 13 of 26 in the second. We then checked whether the frequency rose or fell in the same direction as in the full corpus. Every family did. The analytic and Schenkerian rates were lower in the restricted set, as expected after removing documents that include the Society for Music Theory's program. This is not a significance test, but it suggests that joint meetings alone do not explain the changes.

| Family                          | All 1969–99 | All 2000–25 | No partner program 1969–99 | No partner program 2000–25 | Same direction |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Canonical composers             | 60.6        | 27.4        | 63.5                       | 31.9                       | yes            |
| Concert-hall repertoire         | 48.9        | 38.7        | 54.3                       | 45.6                       | yes            |
| Symphony                        | 7.8         | 4.5         | 9.3                        | 6.1                        | yes            |
| Opera                           | 20.3        | 23.1        | 22.7                       | 28.5                       | yes            |
| Analytic vocabulary             | 41.8        | 21.6        | 25.2                       | 12.2                       | yes            |
| Schenkerian vocabulary          | 3.5         | 1.2         | 0.7                        | 0.4                        | yes            |
| Manuscripts and sources         | 18.2        | 5.2         | 19.3                       | 6.4                        | yes            |
| Chant and liturgy               | 11.7        | 5.6         | 13.5                       | 7.1                        | yes            |
| Early music                     | 22.1        | 9.6         | 27.7                       | 11.3                       | yes            |
| Modern and contemporary         | 7.4         | 11.9        | 7.1                        | 13.1                       | yes            |
| Jazz                            | 4.4         | 7.7         | 3.0                        | 7.3                        | yes            |
| Popular music                   | 4.9         | 12.5        | 3.4                        | 10.7                       | yes            |
| Screen media                    | 3.1         | 13.4        | 3.9                        | 14.5                       | yes            |
| Gender and feminism             | 2.8         | 8.0         | 2.7                        | 6.4                        | yes            |
| Women, bare words               | 7.4         | 13.1        | 7.3                        | 12.7                       | yes            |
| Race, scholarly vocabulary      | 0.3         | 3.0         | 0.3                        | 2.9                        | yes            |
| Race, bare words                | 1.0         | 5.6         | 1.2                        | 5.9                        | yes            |
| Queer                           | 0.0         | 2.8         | 0.1                        | 1.5                        | yes            |
| Gay, lesbian, LGBT, transgender | 0.2         | 1.2         | 0.0                        | 0.8                        | yes            |
| Decolonial                      | 0.0         | 0.6         | 0.0                        | 0.3                        | yes            |
| Justice and activism            | 0.5         | 4.3         | 0.6                        | 3.9                        | yes            |
| Indigenous (bare word)          | 0.5         | 2.0         | 0.5                        | 1.6                        | yes            |
| Sound and listening             | 1.8         | 12.9        | 1.2                        | 11.3                       | yes            |
| Embodiment and affect           | 2.9         | 6.9         | 2.2                        | 5.7                        | yes            |
| Transnational and global        | 1.1         | 5.7         | 0.7                        | 4.6                        | yes            |
| Artificial intelligence         | 0.2         | 0.7         | 0.0                        | 0.4                        | yes            |

Matches per 10,000 words. We compare two broad periods because only one document without a partner-society program falls in 1986–90.

## Findings

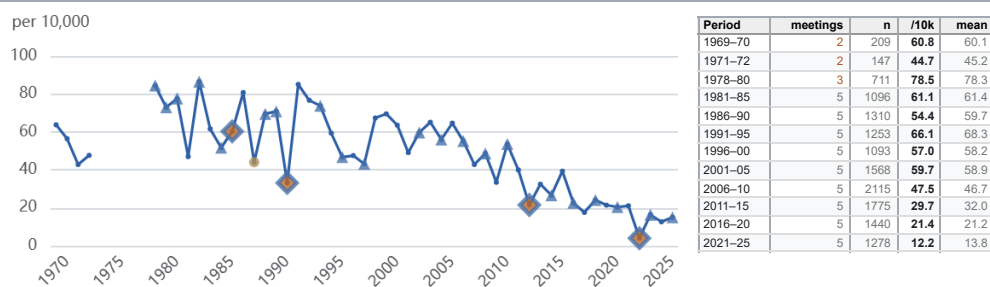
Each chart shows annual matches per 10,000 words. The adjoining table groups the same counts into periods of up to five years and reports the number of meetings, total matches (n), a pooled rate weighted by meeting size, and the simple mean of the annual rates (see step 2 above). Because each chart has its own y-axis, compare changes within a chart, not across charts. Lines break for the missing years 1973–77. Markers identify meeting documents that include partner-society programs: an orange diamond for the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM), a blue triangle for the Society for Music Theory (SMT), an orange diamond outlined in blue for both, and a tan dot for another cosponsor. Search patterns wrap only after an alternation bar (); spaces within them are literal.

### B.1 Canonical Composers and Repertoire

Names of composers in the traditional Western art-music canon and terms for concert-hall repertoire and forms.

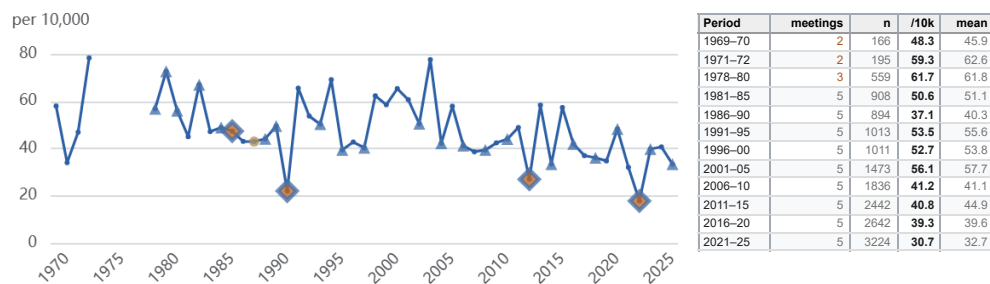
Mentions of canonical composers decreased from about 54 per 10,000 words in 1986–90, after a high of 79 in 1978–80, to 12.2 in 2021–25. The later rate is about one-quarter of the 1986–90 rate.

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Canonical composers</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Description</b>    | Names of nineteen central Western art-music composers (Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, ..., Schoenberg, Webern, Berg), including possessive forms. We exclude standalone "Berg" when it refers to the printer Johann vom Berg, the composer Josef Berg, the scholars Darrell M. Berg or Wesley Berg, cited authors ("Berg and Eger", "Berg and Seeber"), the New York Public Library's Berg Collection, compound surnames, Prenzlauer Berg, Van den Berg, or a German place-name prefix. |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \b(?:Bach Mozart Beethoven Haydn Handel Schubert Brahms Wagner Verdi Puccini Chopin Liszt Mahler Debussy Ravel Stravinsky Schoenberg Webern (?!vom Van den Darrell Darrell M\. Wesley Prenzlauer Prie Josef Roch Mengel- Thal- Sam- prefix ")Berg(?:!(?:and &)(?:Neuber Eger Seeber)),(?:Darrell Wesley) \ (Montanus\) Collection of the New))\b(?:['"]s)?                                                                                                                        |



Concert-hall terms show no steady pattern from the 1970s through the mid-2000s, ranging from about 37 to 62 matches per 10,000 words (61.7 in 1978–80, 37.1 in 1986–90, and 56.1 in 2001–05). The rate is 30.7 in 2021–25, the lowest rate in the series and about half the 1978–80 rate.

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Concert-hall repertoire</b>                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Description</b>    | Terms for concert-hall repertoire and forms: symphony, opera, concerto, sonata, chamber music, art music, orchestral, oratorio, cantata, lied/lieder, madrigal, and string quartet.               |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \b(?:symphon\w* operas? operatic\w* operagoer\w* operagoing concerto\w* sonata\w* chamber[- ]music art[- ]music oratorio\w* cantata\w* lied lieder madrigal\w* string[- ]quartet\w* orchestral)\b |

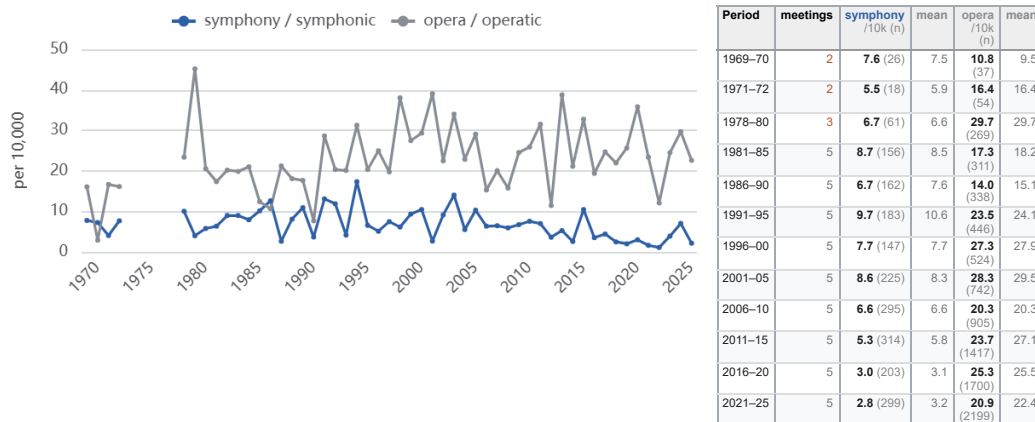


Symphonic terms ranged from about 5.5 to 9.7 per 10,000 words through 2005, then decreased in every period to 2.8 in 2021–25. The later rate is about one-third of the peak. Opera terms do not show the same decline. Except in 1969–70, their rate remains between 14 and 30 and is 20.9 in 2021–25.

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Symphony</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Description</b>    | Symphony and its derivatives (symphonies, symphonic, symphonist) in any context, including names of performing organizations. About one-fifth of the 2021–25 matches have "Orchestra" or "Philharmonic" nearby, compared with 3 of 89 matches in 1969–79. |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \bsymphon\w*\b                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Opera</b>                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Description</b>    | Opera and its derivatives (operas, operatic, operagoer(s), operagoing), counted separately for comparison with symphony. Both families also contribute to the concert-hall count above. |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \b(?:operas? operatic\w* operagoer\w* operagoing)\b                                                                                                                                     |

The two series count symphony and opera terms in the same meetings and periods.

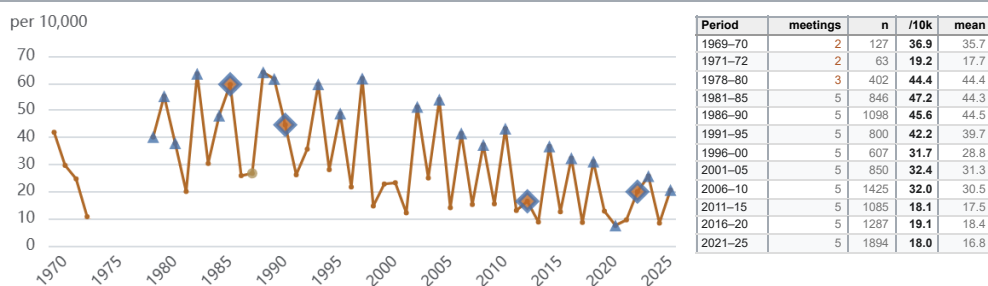


## B.2 Music-Theoretic Analysis

Terms used in tonal and post-tonal analysis, including Schenkerian vocabulary. They occur more often when the meeting document includes the Society for Music Theory's program, as discussed under Joint Meetings.

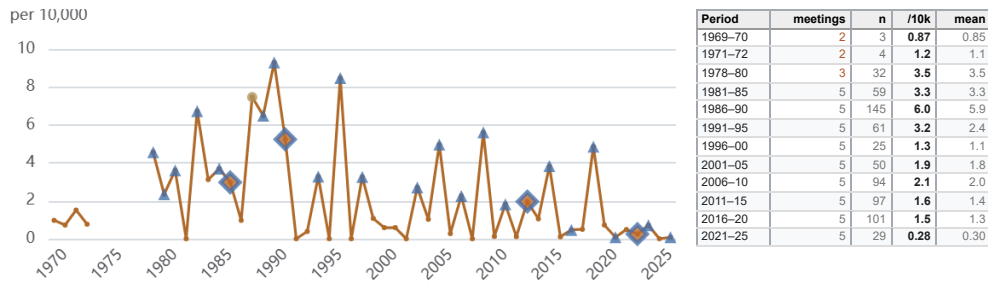
Analytic terms decreased from 45.6 per 10,000 words in 1986–90 to 18.0 in 2021–25. Most parts of the family decreased, and fugue, pitch-class, and twelve-tone terms decreased most. Annual rates are usually higher at meetings held jointly with the Society for Music Theory. The level therefore depends partly on which societies took part, although the downward direction does not.

| Keyword family | Analytic vocabulary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description    | Terms used in analysis: voice-leading, counterpoint, tonal/atonal, serialism, twelve-tone/dodecaphony, pitch-class, set theory, neo-Riemannian, Tonnetz, prolongation, sonata form, fugue, harmony, chromatic/diatonic, cadence, and motive. The family combines general descriptions of Western music (harmony, tonal, chromatic) with more specialized terms (set theory, Tonnetz, prolongation). It therefore measures analytic language, not the amount of analytic scholarship. |
| Pattern        | <code>\b(?:voice[- ]?leading counterpoint contrapuntal atonal\w* tonal\w* serial(?:isms? ists?)? twelve[- ]?tone dodecaphon\w* pitch[- ]?class(?:es?)? set[- ]?theor\w* neo[- ]?Riemannian Tonnetz prolongation\w* sonata[- ]?forms? fugues? fugal motiv(?:at)\w* harmon\w* chromatic\w* diatonic\w* cadenc\w*)\b</code>                                                                                                                                                             |



Schenkerian terms reached a high of 6.0 per 10,000 words in 1986–90 and decreased to 0.28 in 2021–25. Joint meetings account for part of this difference: four of the five meetings in 1986–90 were joint, three of them with the Society for Music Theory. Among meeting documents without a partner-society program, the rate was 0.7 in 1969–99 and 0.4 in 2000–25 (see “Do joint meetings explain the changes?” above). The recent low rate does not result from a lack of SMT meetings. Three of the five meetings in 2021–25 were joint with SMT and account for about seven-tenths of the period's words.

| Keyword family | Schenkerian vocabulary                                    |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Description    | Schenker and its derivatives (Schenkerian, Schenkerians). |
| Pattern        | <code>\bSchenker\w*\b</code>                              |

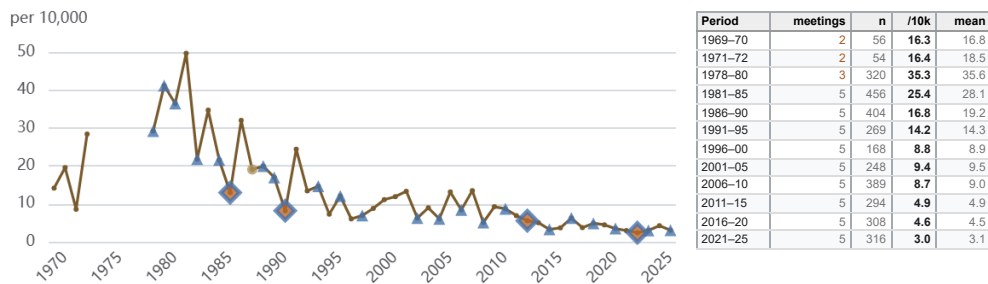


### B.3 Sources and Sacred Music

Terms used in manuscript and source studies, chant, and liturgy. Both families occur often in early meetings and become less frequent over time.

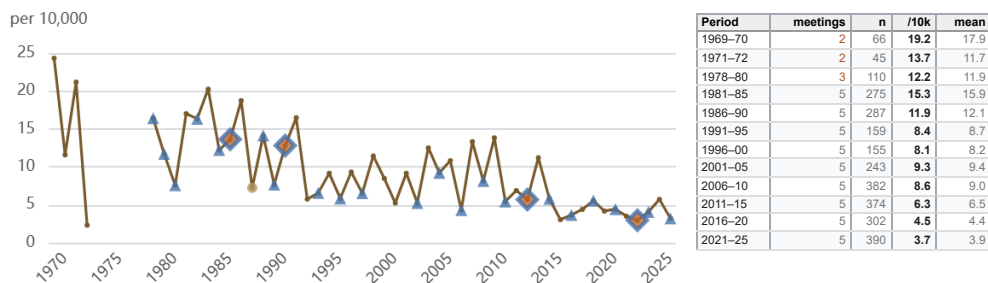
Source-study terms occur about 16 times per 10,000 words in the earliest meetings, reach 35.3 in 1978-80, and decrease to 3.0 in 2021-25. The rate decreases in all but one period after 1978-80, remaining near 9 from 1996 through 2010. The recent rate is about one-eleventh of the peak.

| Keyword family | Manuscripts and sources                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description    | Terms used in source studies and philology: manuscript(s), autograph(s), watermark(s), copyist(s), holograph(s), and sketchbook(s). The narrower holograph pattern excludes holographic and holographically, which produce non-manuscript matches. |
| Pattern        | \b(?:manuscript\w* autograph\w* watermark\w* copyist\w* holographs? sketchbook\w*)\b                                                                                                                                                               |



The rate for chant and liturgy terms is 19.2 per 10,000 words in 1969-70, ranges from 12.2 to 15.3 over the next three periods, and decreases to 3.7 in 2021-25. The recent rate is about one-fifth of the earliest rate. The decrease was not steady: the rate remained near 8 to 9 from the early 1990s through 2010, then fell by more than half, from 8.6 in 2006-10 to 3.7 in 2021-25.

| Keyword family | Chant and liturgy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description    | Liturgy/liturgical/liturgist, plainchant, plainsong, and the noun chant(s). "Chant" includes Byzantine, Jewish, and Buddhist chant as well as football and protest chants; these uses occur mostly in later joint meetings. We do not count the verb forms "chanting" and "chanted." Plainchant and plainsong also contribute to the Early music family below. |
| Pattern        | \b(?:liturg\w* plainchant plainsong chants?)\b                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

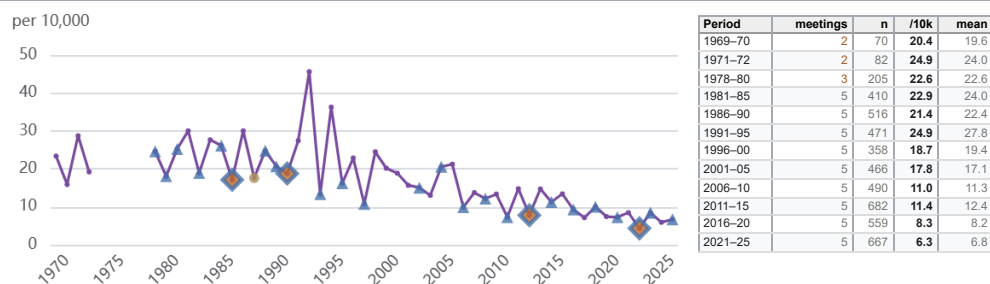


### B.4 Historical Periods

Terms for historical periods commonly used to organize musicological research.

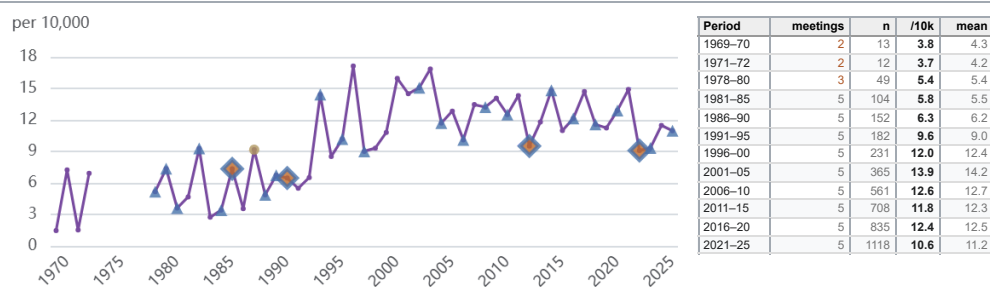
Early-music terms decreased from 21.4 per 10,000 words in 1986–90 to 6.3 in 2021–25.

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Early music</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Description</b>    | Medieval, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, early music, ars nova/antiqua, plainchant/plainsong, Gregorian, troubadour/trouvère, and motet. We exclude "Harlem Renaissance" (28 matches, nine in 2025) because it names the twentieth-century Black cultural movement rather than the European period. |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \b(?:medieval Middle[- ]Ages (?<!Harlem )Renaissance Baroque early[- ]music ars nova ars antiqua plainchant plainsong Gregorian troubadour\w* trouvère\w* motet\w*)\b                                                                                                                                   |



Modern and contemporary terms increased from 6.3 per 10,000 words in 1986–90 to about 12–14 during the 2000s and 2010s, then decreased to 10.6 in 2021–25.

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Modern and contemporary</b>                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Description</b>    | Modernism(s)/modernist(s), twentieth-century, twenty-first-century/21st-century, avant-garde, contemporary music, postmodern, and new music.                                          |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \b(?:modernisms? modernists? twentieth[- ]?century 20th[- ]?century twenty[- ]?first[- ]?century 21st[- ]?century avant[- ]?garde contemporary[- ]music postmodern\w* new[- ]music)\b |

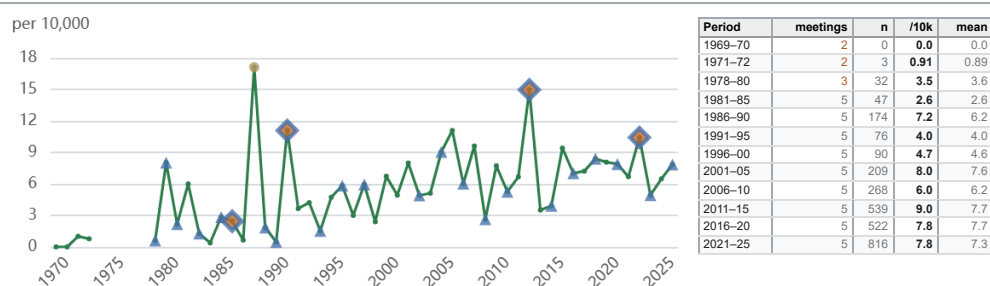


## B.5 Genres and Media

Terms for jazz, popular music, and screen media.

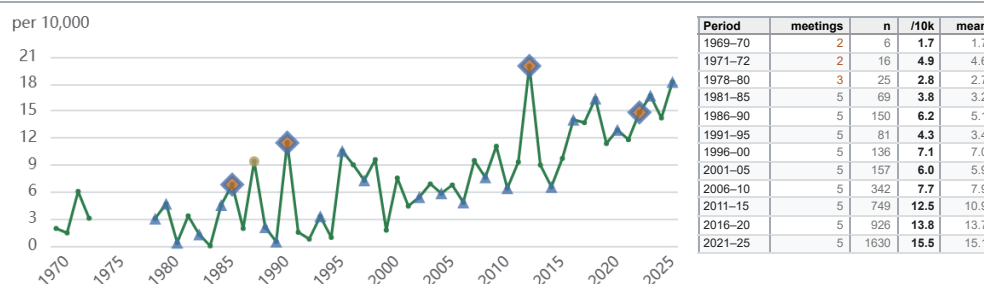
Jazz appears only three times in 1971–72, then increases to about 7 per 10,000 words in 1986–90. After a decrease in the 1990s, the rate remains between about 6 and 9 and is 7.8 in 2021–25.

|                       |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Jazz</b>                      |
| <b>Description</b>    | The word "jazz," in any context. |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \bjazz\b                         |



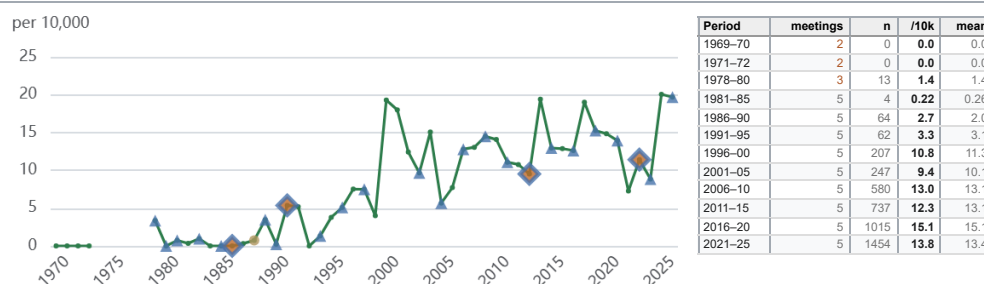
Popular-music terms increased from 6.2 per 10,000 words in 1986–90 to 15.5 in 2021–25, about two and a half times the earlier rate.

| Keyword family | Popular music                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description    | Popular-music genres other than jazz: hip-hop, rap, rock music/rock and roll, pop/popular music, blues, gospel, soul music, country music, folk music/folk song(s), reggae, R&B/rhythm and blues, funk, disco, techno, house music, and EDM/electronic dance. We use phrases where needed to avoid unrelated matches and exclude three non-genre uses of "prosperity gospel" and "social gospel." |
| Pattern        | <code>\b(?:hip[- ]?hop brap\b rock[- ]music rock[- ]and[- ]roll pop[- ]music popular[- ]music bb blues\b (?&lt;!prosperity social)gospel soul[- ]music country[- ]music folk[- ]music folk[- ]?songs? reggae R&amp;B rhythm[- ]and[- ]blues bfunk\b disco techno house[- ]music electronic[- ]dance bEDM\b)\b</code>                                                                              |



Screen-media terms are rare before the mid-1990s. The rate increases to 15.1 per 10,000 words in 2016–20 and is 13.8 in 2021–25.

| Keyword family | Screen media                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description    | Film music, film/cinema, soundtrack, screen music/studies/media, television/TV, movies, video games, and anime. About half the recent rate comes from the word "film," which may appear in passing. The narrower terms soundtrack, video game, movie, and anime also increase from near zero. |
| Pattern        | <code>\b(?:film[- ]music films? filmic cinema cinematic soundtrack\w* screen[- ](?:music studies media) television btv\b video[- ]game\w* videogame\w* anime movie\w*)\b</code>                                                                                                               |



## B.6 Identity, Diversity, and Justice

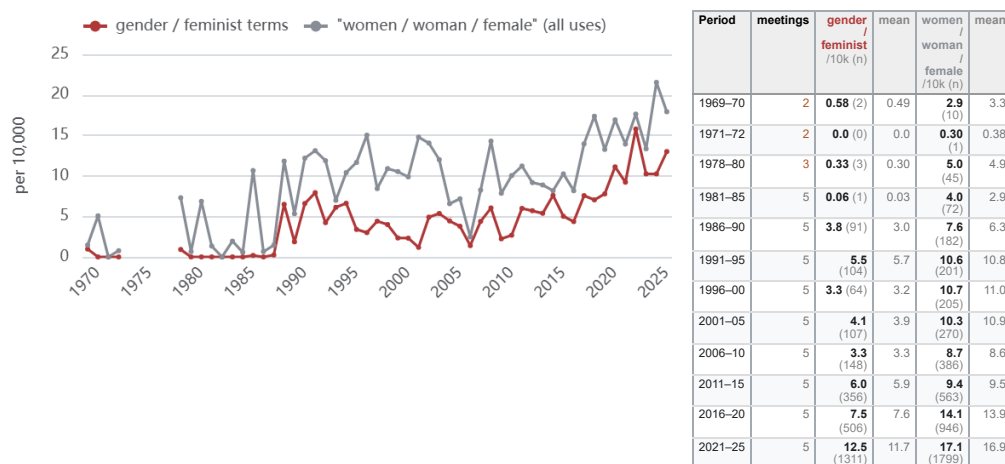
We count terms for gender, race, sexuality, and social justice separately because they change at different times.

Gender and feminist terms first become common around 1990. The rate is 3.8 per 10,000 words in 1986–90 after earlier rates near zero. It changes little through the 2000s, then increases to 12.5 in 2021–25. The initial rise around 1990 precedes the later increases in race and justice terms below. The words "women," "woman," and "female" are more frequent throughout and occur earlier. Their rate is 5.0 in 1978–80, when the gender and feminist rate is 0.3, and 17.1 in 2021–25.

| Keyword family | Gender and feminism                                                                                     |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description    | Gender (including genders, gendered, gendering), feminism(s), feminist(s), masculinity, and patriarchy. |
| Pattern        | <code>\b(?:gender(?:ed ing s)? feminis(?:ms ts)? masculinit\w* patriarch\w*)\b</code>                   |

|                       |                                                                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Women, bare words</b>                                          |
| <b>Description</b>    | The bare words "women," "woman," and "female(s)" in all contexts. |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \b(?:women woman female(s))\b                                     |

The first series counts gender and feminist terms. The second counts every use of "women," "woman," and "female," including demographic uses.

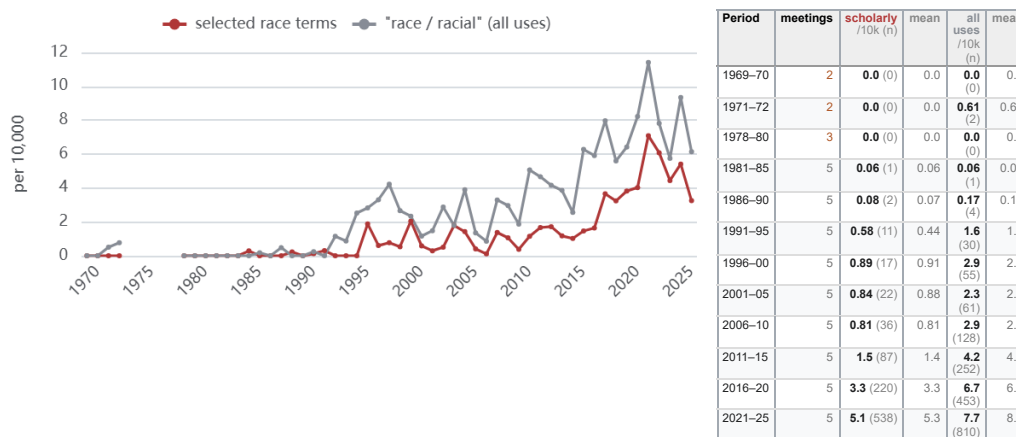


The selected race terms are nearly absent before the mid-1990s and increase to 5.1 per 10,000 words in 2021–25, mostly after 2015. The words "race" and "racial" are more frequent but also occur in other contexts.

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Race, scholarly vocabulary</b>                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Description</b>    | Racism(s), racist(s), antiracist, racial justice, critical race, racializ-/racialis- stems (racialized, racialised, racialism, racialist), whiteness, blackness, and racial formation. |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \b(?:racisms? racists? antiracis\w* anti-racis\w* racial[- ]justice critical[- ]race raciali[sz]\w* whiteness blackness racial[- ]formation)\b                                         |

|                       |                                                                  |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Race, bare words</b>                                          |
| <b>Description</b>    | The bare words "race," "racial," and "racially" in all contexts. |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \b(?:race racial racially)\b                                     |

The first series counts selected scholarly terms. The second counts every use of "race" and "racial," including uses in other contexts.



"Queer" is nearly absent before the mid-1990s and increases to 5.3 per 10,000 words in 2021–25. The three joint meetings supply this increase; across the 2021 and 2024 meetings, which the AMS held alone, the rate was 2.1. The comparison terms

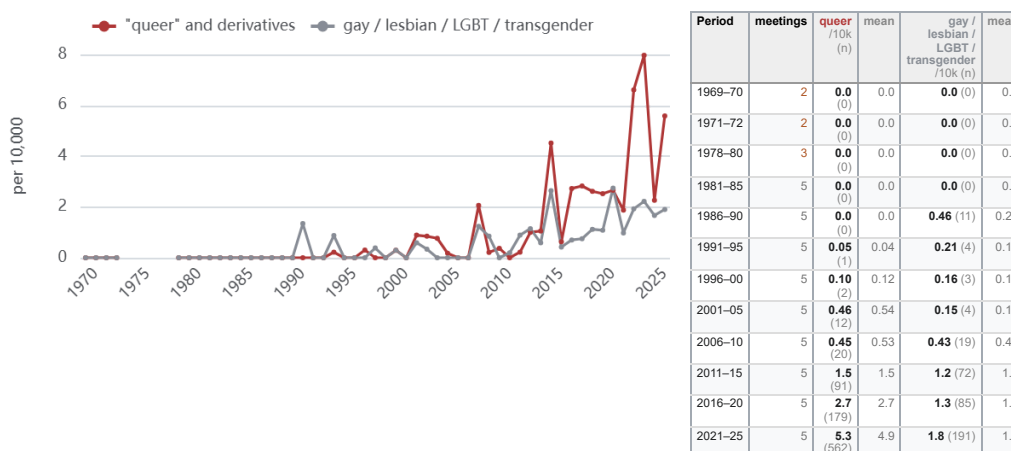
gay, lesbian, LGBT, and transgender follow a similar pattern at a lower rate of 1.8 in 2021–25. The main exception is eleven uses of "gay" at the 1990 meeting in papers on gay artists and sensibility.

|                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Queer</b>               |
| <b>Description</b>    | Queer and its derivatives. |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \bqueer\w*\b               |

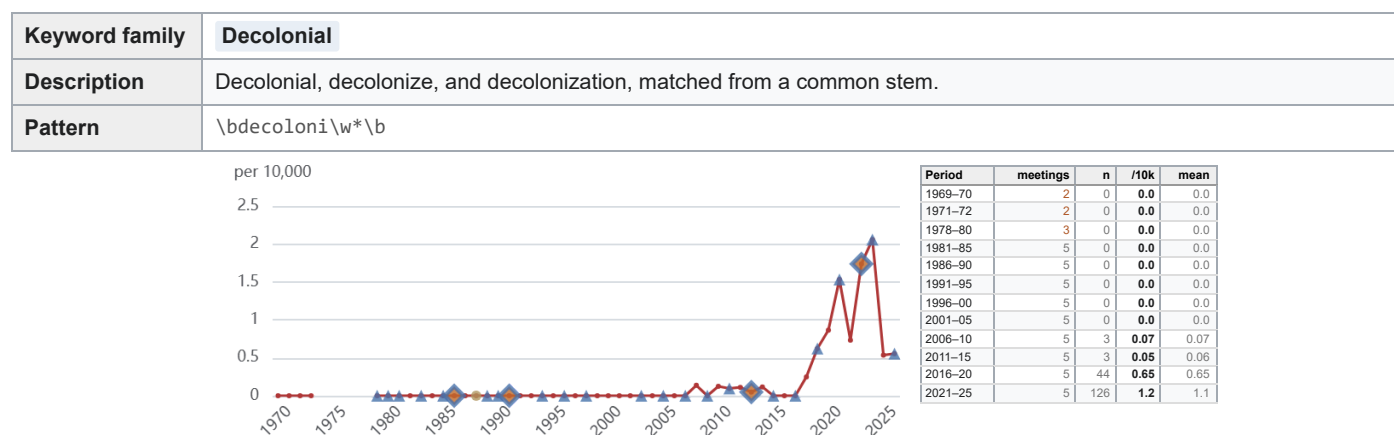
  

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Gay, lesbian, LGBT, transgender</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Description</b>    | Gay, lesbian(s), LGBT/LGBTQ+, and transgender. We count standalone "gay" only in lowercase because every cited person surnamed Gay appears with a capital letter. This excludes those names but also misses capitalized uses in paper titles and session headings. The (?-i:) group makes this term case-sensitive. |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \b(?: (?-i: gay)   lesbian\w*   LGBTQ?\w*   transgender\w*)\b                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

The first series counts the "queer" stem; the second counts gay, lesbian, LGBT, and transgender.

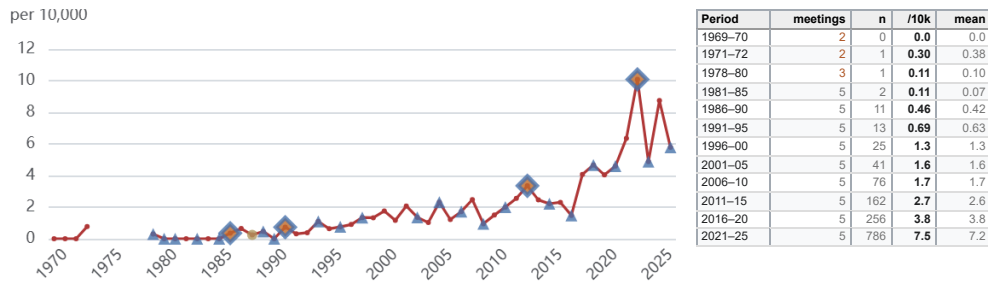


Decolonial terms are nearly absent before 2016 and increase to 1.2 per 10,000 words in 2021–25. The three joint meetings supply this increase; across the 2021 and 2024 meetings, which the AMS held alone, the rate was 0.62.



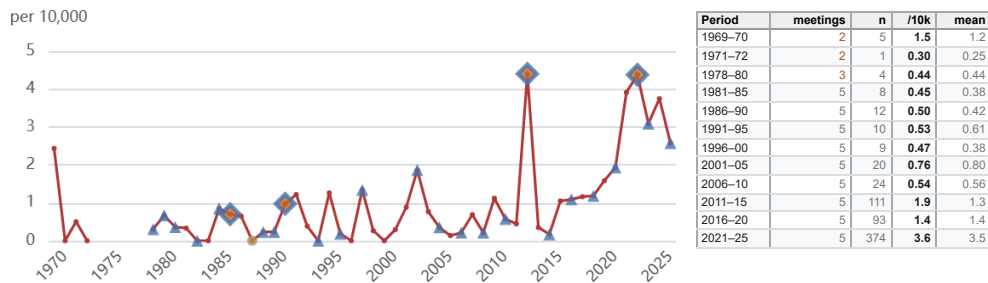
Justice and activism terms increase from 0.46 per 10,000 words in 1986–90 to 7.5 in 2021–25, with most of the change after 2010.

|                       |                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Justice and activism</b>                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Description</b>    | Social/racial justice, injustice, activism, liberation/liberatory, solidarity, oppression, marginalization, and inequality/inequity.                  |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \b(?:social[- ]justice racial[- ]justice injustice activis\w* liberation liberatory solidarity oppress\w* marginali[sz]\w* inequalit\w* inequit\w*)\b |



"Indigenous" remains below 0.8 per 10,000 words in every period after 1970 through the 2000s, then increases to 3.6 in 2021–25. The two highest annual rates occur at the 2012 and 2022 meetings held jointly with the Society for Ethnomusicology. Part of the increase therefore reflects the societies meeting together. The case-insensitive search also includes generic uses such as "indigenous to the Abbasid Caliphate" and "indigenous genres," so this is not a count of references to Indigenous peoples or Indigenous studies.

|                       |                                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Indigenous (bare word)</b>          |
| <b>Description</b>    | The word "indigenous," in any context. |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \bindigenous\b                         |

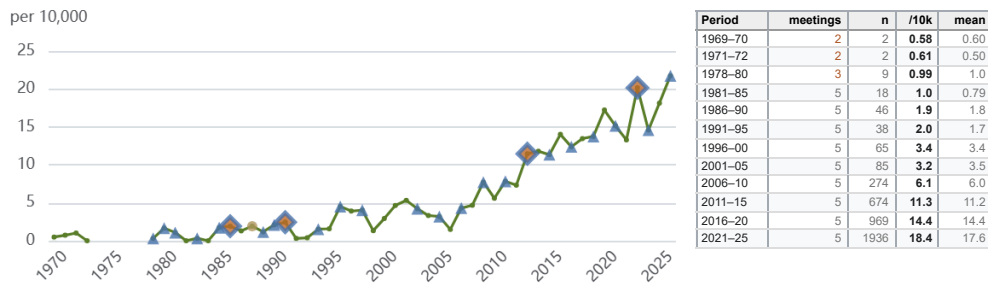


## B.7 Emerging Frameworks

Terms for sound and listening, embodiment and affect, transnational and global approaches, and artificial intelligence. The counts track word use, not membership in a subfield.

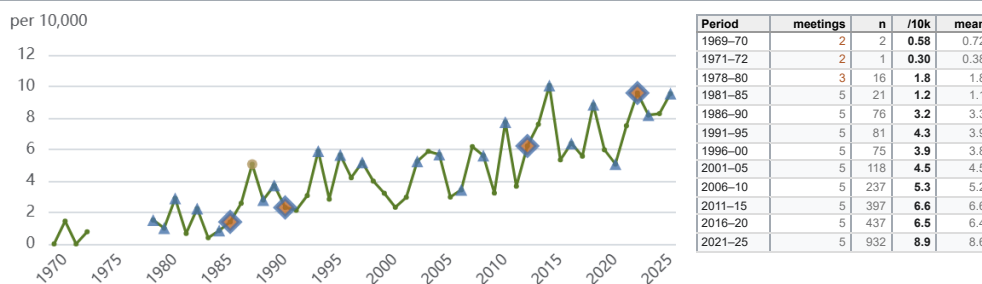
Sound and listening terms increase from 1.9 per 10,000 words in 1986–90 to 18.4 in 2021–25, the largest absolute increase among these families. The change comes mainly from descriptive words rather than the name of a subfield: "sonic" increases about twenty-one times and "listening" about six times.

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Sound and listening</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Description</b>    | Sound studies, soundscape, sound world(s), acoustics, sonic, aurality, auditory, listening, and earwitness. In 2021–25, "sonic" and "listening" account for about seven-tenths of the matches, while "sound studies" accounts for less than 4 percent. The family therefore measures these words, not the size of the subfield. |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \b(?:sound[- ]studies soundscape\w* acoustic\w* \bsonic\b sound[- ]worlds? aurality auditory listening earwitness)\b                                                                                                                                                                                                            |



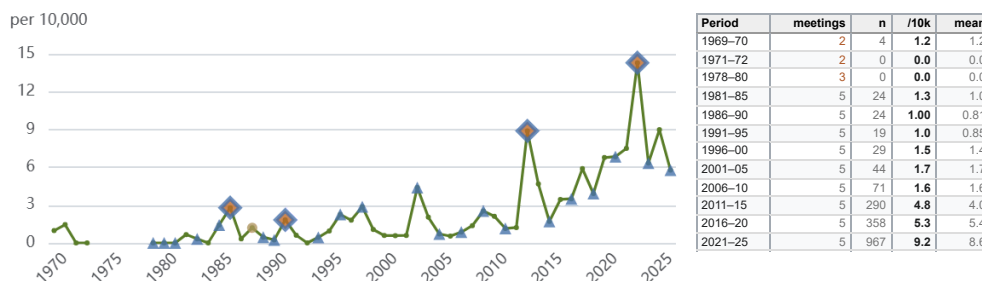
Embodiment and affect terms increase from 3.2 per 10,000 words in 1986–90 to 8.9 in 2021–25.

|                       |                                                                                         |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Embodiment and affect</b>                                                            |
| <b>Description</b>    | Embodiment/embodyed, gesture, corporeal, affect theory, affective, and phenomenology.   |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \b(?:embodi\w* gesture\w* corporeal\w* affect[- ]theory b\baffective phenomenolog\w*)\b |



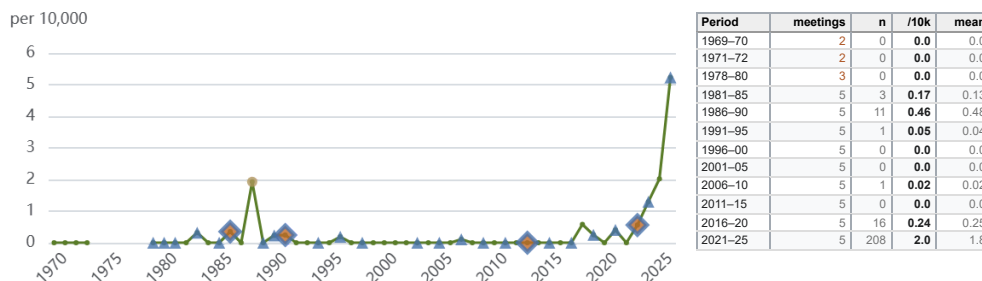
Transnational and global terms increase from about 1.0 per 10,000 words in 1986–90 to 9.2 in 2021–25. Part of the change after 2010 coincides with the 2012 and 2022 joint meetings with the Society for Ethnomusicology, but the increase also appears in meeting documents without a partner-society program.

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Transnational and global</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Description</b>    | Transnational, globalization, global music/history, world music, postcolonial, decolonial, diaspora, non-Western, and cosmopolitan. World music also appears among the selected ethnomusicology terms above, and decolonial terms also contribute to the Decolonial family above. |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \b(?:transnational\w* globali[sz]\w* global[- ]music\w* global[- ]history world[- ]music postcolonial\w* decolon\w* diaspor\w* non[- ]?Western cosmopolitan\w*)\b                                                                                                                 |



Artificial-intelligence terms occur fourteen times from 1982 through 1990 in discussions of expert systems written in Lisp and Prolog, computer-assisted instruction, intelligent tutoring, and a neural-network simulation of music cognition. They occur only twice from 1991 through 2015, then appear again from 2017 and reach 2.0 per 10,000 words in 2021–25.

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Keyword family</b> | <b>Artificial intelligence</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Description</b>    | "Artificial intelligence," machine learning, neural network(s), large language model(s), and the standalone abbreviation AI. We count AI case-sensitively, using the (?-i:) group, so letter pairs inside words do not match. The trailing guard excludes an OCR error in a 1990 session heading. We exclude "deep learning" because its only occurrence refers to pedagogy rather than artificial intelligence. |
| <b>Pattern</b>        | \b(?:artificial[- ]intelligence machine[- ]learning neural[- ]network\w* large[- ]language[- ]model\w* (?-i:AI)(?!\. 1 BACHISGHES))\b                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |



# Limitations

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- Some rates are based on very little text and very few matches. For example, the 1972 PDF has about 13,000 words, and some keyword families have fewer than ten matches. At this scale, a few matches can change the rates substantially. Broad patterns may therefore be more reliable than exact rates in the early decades. Each chart reports the underlying  $n$ .
- The PDFs through 1997 are page scans (24 of 52 meetings and 21 percent of the corpus's words). Text-recognition errors may affect both match counts and word totals, making the early rates less reliable; the direction of any bias is unknown.
- The corpus includes surrounding material in every year and papers from partner societies at some joint meetings. Differences between years may therefore arise partly from changes in the composition of the meeting documents. These effects cannot be cleanly removed. The results describe word use in these documents, not all musicological research, hiring, publication, or curricula.
- Changes in how scholars describe their own work may affect how often certain keywords appear in the abstracts and may not be cleanly separable from changes in what they choose to study.
- The choice of terms included in a keyword family reflects researcher judgment. Other reasonable patterns could produce different results (so the exact patterns are published for inspection).

# Notes

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1. We used optical character recognition (OCR) software (ABBYY FineReader) to extract text from the PDFs. OCR is less accurate for the lower-quality page scans through 1997, especially several early-1980s meetings, so the pre-1998 values are less reliable. The typeset PDFs from 1998 onward, including the three files for the 2000 Toronto meeting and the 2025 PDF, convert nearly cleanly.
2. The 2000 Toronto meeting, *Toronto 2000: Musical Intersections*, was a fourteen-society joint meeting documented in three PDF files. A meeting document containing all three files would have about 211,000 words, mostly from other societies, compared with about 34,000 in each neighboring year. We therefore restricted the meeting document to the 46 sessions tagged AMS. The resulting document has 34,457 words, comparable to 34,226 in 1999 and 33,829 in 2001. The files assign no society to thirteen cross-society sessions, so we omitted them.
3. We rejoined words broken across lines ("Rus- sian" becomes "Russian"), straightened curly quotes, converted en dashes to hyphens, and made sure one space exists on each side of every em dash. We also removed diacritics and collapsed whitespace. Capitalization is preserved.
4. Two inline modifiers, shown as ( ? - i : ) in the published patterns, make the enclosed text case-sensitive. The relevant family descriptions explain their use.
5. The five-year groupings are aligned backward from 2025. Because the corpus begins in 1969 and the archive has no files for 1973–1977, the first three periods contain two meetings (1969–70), two meetings (1971–72), and three meetings (1978–80). From 1981 onward, every period contains five meetings.
6. We identified meeting sites and cosponsors from the AMS record of past annual meetings and checked them against SEM and SMT records and the meeting PDFs. For 1985, the AMS record lists only SEM and the College Music Society (CMS), but the PDF title page also names SMT as a fourth partner ("First Joint Meeting," Vancouver, 7–10 November 1985) and includes abstracts from all four societies. We therefore classify 1985 as joint with SEM, SMT, and CMS. The title page for the 2000 Toronto meeting names fourteen societies, including SEM, SMT, and CMS.
7. The AMS and SEM held concurrent meetings in Chapel Hill in 1971 rather than a single joint meeting. The AMS meeting document includes three sessions sponsored jointly by the two societies. The selected ethnomusicology terms reach 9.1 matches per 10,000 words that year, likely because of those sessions.
8. Appendix D.7 analyzes the same 2025 meeting paper by paper. It uses the online program and includes only papers classified as AMS rather than SMT, a subset of the text included here. The two appendices therefore do not draw their 2025 figures from the same papers.