

Dustin Wiebe C.A.S.T. Researcher in Residence

Localizing Balinese Church Music and Architecture: Reimagining Meanings of Space, Place, and Form

This lecture will review the history of Hindu cosmology as a cornerstone of Balinese art and architecture as a means to understand and interrogate twentieth century developments in localized, Christian artistic expression. More specifically, I will highlight important ideological movements in both global and local Christianities that have enabled such changes to occur. I will employ specific examples of Balinese temple and church music, dance, and architecture as points of intellectual departure.

Hinduism has been a dominant mode of philosophical and cosmological inquiry in Bali since the decline of the Majapahit Empire in the late fifteenth century C.E. Today, Hinduism is practiced by the majority of residents of this Indonesian island and continues to be informed by the animistic practices that predate the fall of this influential empire. Not surprisingly, localized, Hindu frameworks permeate nearly all aspects of aesthetics, form, and meaning in Balinese art, including music and architecture. More recently, small Christian minorities in Bali have begun adopting traditionally Hindu art forms as modes of personal or community expressions of faith and for inclusion in Protestant and Catholic rituals, respectively.

Dustin Wiebe is a scholar, musician, and pedagogue whose research explores the liminal spaces between religious groups as expressed through music and performing arts. In 2017 he completed the PhD in ethnomusicology at Wesleyan University and has taught courses in music at the University of Connecticut and Central Connecticut State University. His research appears in edited volumes and journals including Between Harmony and Discrimination (Brill, 2014), Making Congregational Music Local (Routledge, 2018) and the Yale Journal of Music and Religion (2016). Dustin is also a guitarist, having completed the MM in classical guitar performance at the Eastman School of Music (2007). Currently, he is a researcher in residence at C.A.S.T. in the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Manitoba.

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