

Special announcement

Dear SMPC Community,

One year ago, the board of SMPC made a commitment to our members to work towards becoming an anti-racist organization and to be transparent about our efforts in the process. Today we write with our first annual update, as required by SMPC bylaws. Since affirming our support for the Black Lives Matter movement following the murder of George Floyd, SMPC formed an *ad hoc*, now standing, committee to steer our anti-racism work. The committee now comprises the seven members signed below. The work of the initial committee has additionally spawned the creation of a newly standing Mentorship committee headed by Adena Schachner and Tanushree Agrawal. In our first year of service, we worked to come up with actionable and measurable steps that would ensure our work resulted in structural changes to our organization in addition to providing statements of solidarity for traumatic events that personally affected our membership, such as the Atlanta shootings that targeted Asian and Asian American communities.

Of these steps, we initially committed to the following as outlined in our recent editorial in *Music Perception*.

1. Establish an Anti-Racism Committee, now called the Anti-Racism and Equity Committee
2. Establish an Equity Officer position on the Executive Board
3. Allocate financial resources dedicated to underrepresented groups to help defray costs associated with conferences and research
4. Dedicate a special session at the next SMPC in order to discuss anti-racism and equity within our field
5. Hold an informal Town Hall for our membership to raise and discuss anti-racism and equity within our field
6. Establish a Mentorship Committee
7. Pass a member's Code of Conduct
8. Track membership demographics in order to inform future work by the committee

Of the eight items above, we can now report on items 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8. We have established the Anti-Racism and Equity Committee and the Mentorship Committee, voted on bylaws changes establishing an Equity Officer as part of the Executive Board, and held an open town hall as part of Ohio State's *Future Directions in Music Cognition* conference. We are currently in the final stages of creating a mechanism to track society demographics and establishing a member's Code of Conduct. Development of these latter two items have been informed by contemporary best practices and will be presented for review by the SMPC community before the end of the year.

Our next actions will be regarding items 3, and 4: We are in current discussions in collaboration with the Mentorship Committee about how best to allocate funding to remove financial barriers for underrepresented SMPC members. We are also collaborating with the organizers of the next meeting of SMPC to organize at least one special session on Anti-Racism & Equity in Music Science. The journals *Psychomusicology* and *Auditory Perception & Cognition* have both expressed interest in supporting this session with a venue for publication.

Lastly, we are open to any and all feedback on the activities of the Anti-Racism and Equity committee. Several members have reached out throughout the past year and we have engaged with all of this feedback over multiple committee meetings. We believe we have made progress in the past year, but there is still much work to be done in service to the needs of our community.

Sincerely,

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