

[Members of the Editorial Board Correspondence re. Call for Papers, Nov. 25- Dec. 1, 2019]

Members of the editorial board correspondence re. the wording of the call for responses. Also, see Jackson message acknowledging the need for hiring more black/brown/Latino/Asian male and female music theorists.

From: Timothy Jackson <[REDACTED]>
Date: Fri, Nov 29, 2019 at 2:03 PM
Subject: Re: Framing for call for responses to Ewell paper
To: Walls, Levi <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Slottow, Stephen <[REDACTED]>, Graf, Benjamin <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>, Cubero, Diego <[REDACTED]>, Bakulina, Ellen <[REDACTED]>, Chung, Andrew <[REDACTED]>

Dear Colleagues,

I hate to be the fly in the ointment, but the call does not seem ready to me just yet. And here is why. Interestingly - and very significantly - in his abstract, Ewell says nothing at all about the talk's attack on 1) Schenker, 2) Schenkerians, and 3) Schenkerian methodology.

Indeed, given his abstract, most people would find nothing objectionable in it, and wonder why a call for responses would even be necessary. Most of us would agree that there are too few blacks and women in the field of music theory, and that it is desirable to try to recruit more.

But that is not the reason why the JSS is issuing this call for responses! The call still needs to make explicit *in some way* why JSS, which is focused on "Schenkerian Studies" as implied by its title, would need to "respond" to Ewell's remarks at the SMT at all, especially since the reason is not discernible in his abstract. We can include his

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abstract if you want, but it is what he actually said about Schenker, Schenkerians, and Schenkerian methodology that matters and is the *raison d'être* for the call.

Therefore, we need to make the call draw attention to Ewell's conclusions in the paper he actually delivered, and not his abstract. Here is some language derived from Ewell's talk which might be used in the call: Schenker's concepts of scale degrees and dissonance resolution, and tonal hierarchy are inherently racist. (2:30) Study of Schenker's musical ideas has helped to legitimize harmful stereotypes about blacks and other people of color. (2:32) "Diversity" is a cynical strategy to reinforce inequality. (2:32) Reduce the study of Western music theory to two semesters (this would certainly solve a lot of problems, because then no one would even be able to attempt to study Schenker's ideas, which is apparently the point). (2:34) Schenker's followers (Forte, Oster, Rothgeb, Rothstein, and others) have suppressed the racist statements in translations of Schenker's publications in order to conceal his racist ideology.

THESE are the conclusions that Ewell explicitly draws about Schenker, Schenkerians, and Schenkerian methodology that are at the core of his argument, and the reason why the *Journal* is eliciting responses. If we do not make this point explicit, then we run the risk of appearing reactionary and racist ourselves!

This issue needs to be addressed BEFORE we are ready to go forward.
Best, Tim

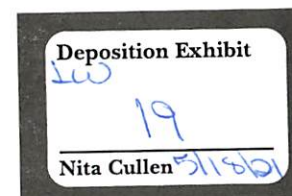
From: Walls, Levi
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 1:00 PM
To: Bakulina, Ellen <[REDACTED]>; Chung, Andrew <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>; Cubero, Diego <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Timothy Jackson <[REDACTED]>; Slottow, Stephen <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>; Graf, Benjamin <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Framing for call for responses to Ewell paper

Dear Drs. Bakulina, Chung, and Cubero,
The JSS is preparing to send out a call for responses to the Ewell paper at SMT. We all thought it would be prudent to get input from other faculty members regarding the specific framing of the call. Please let us know if you have any thoughts on improving the language of the call, especially in regards to inclusiveness and impartiality:

The SMT paper given by Philip Ewell, "Music Theory's White Racial Frame," has inspired a good deal of debate within the Schenkerian community. As a journal dedicated to Schenkerian studies, we find it important to foster these discussions. As part of volume 12, we invite interested parties to submit essay responses to Ewell's paper. The *Journal of Schenkerian Studies* takes no official stance on the issues addressed by Ewell, and we hope to publish a variety of thoughts and

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perspectives. Submissions must adhere to the following guidelines:

Essays should be 1,000 to 3,000 words in length.

In order to leave sufficient time for editorial work, submissions must observe a strict deadline of January 13, 2019.

Any questions or concerns regarding submissions may be directed at the editors ().

Regards,

Levi Walls (with Drs. Jackson, Slottow, and Graf in copy)

From: "Chung, Andrew" < >
 Date: Monday, November 25, 2019 at 1:07 PM
 To: "Walls, Levi" < >, "Bakulina, Ellen" < >
 < >, "Cubero, Diego" < >
 Cc: Timothy Jackson < >, "Slottow, Stephen" < >
 < >, "Graf, Benjamin" < >
 Subject: RE: Framing for call for responses to Ewell paper

Dear Levi + others,

I think it's great that JSS is looking to engage Ewell's SMT talk. What do you think about mentioning very briefly some of the content and context of Ewell's remarks vis-à-vis Schenker? As the CFP stands, it seems to presume that everyone knows what Ewell said, and what tendencies of Schenker's Ewell chose to talk about (most readers probably do understand both of these things). The thing to be careful about, of course, is not to implicitly encourage responses of one kind and discourage responses of another kind.

Cheers,
 Dr. Chung

From: Slottow, Stephen < >
 Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 1:15 PM
 To: Chung, Andrew < >, Walls, Levi < >
 < >, Bakulina, Ellen < >, Cubero, Diego < >
 Cc: Timothy Jackson < >, Graf, Benjamin < >
 < >
 Subject: Re: Framing for call for responses to Ewell paper
 Good idea. One way this could be done is to reproduce Ewell's SMT abstract and link to the SMT reproduction of his slides and video of his talk, which is on both the SMT and his Hunter website. I'm not sure how long it'll stay on the SMT website.
 -sps
 Stephen Slottow

Associate Professor of Music Theory
 University of North Texas

From: Bakulina, Ellen < >
 Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 11:32:30 AM
 To: Slottow, Stephen < >, Chung, Andrew < >
 < >, Walls, Levi < >, Cubero, Diego < >
 Cc: Timothy Jackson < >, Graf, Benjamin < >
 < >
 Subject: Re: Framing for call for responses to Ewell paper

Oh, and change January 13, 2019 to 2020.

-EB

From: Bakulina, Ellen < >
 Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 1:22 PM
 To: Slottow, Stephen < >, Chung, Andrew < >
 < >, Walls, Levi < >, Cubero, Diego < >
 Cc: Timothy Jackson < >, Graf, Benjamin < >
 < >
 Subject: Re: Framing for call for responses to Ewell paper

Yes, good idea to provide link to the recording of Ewell's talk. As far as I know, it will be available on the SMT website until January 15, which is after your January 13 deadline, so there is no problem here.

Could you specify that the paper was part of the plenary session? Right now, it looks like it was a regular SMT paper (which would probably produce less reverberation than a plenary one).

As for encouraging different kinds of responses, the CFP already says "variety of thoughts and perspectives." I think this is quite clear.
 All best,
 -EB

From: Walls, Levi < >
 Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 6:21 AM
 To: Bakulina, Ellen < >, Slottow, Stephen < >
 < >, Chung, Andrew < >, Cubero, Diego < >
 Cc: Timothy Jackson < >, Graf, Benjamin < >
 < >
 Subject: Re: Framing for call for responses to Ewell paper

Hi all,
Thank you all very much for the input. Drs. Jackson, Slottow, and Graf, I'll draft a final version of the call and get it back to you around midday, then we can discuss how to proceed. We should be able to send it out today.
Regards,
Levi Walls

From: Walls, Levi < >
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 12:24 PM
To: Bakulina, Ellen < >; Slottow, Stephen < >; Chung, Andrew < >; Cubero, Diego < >
Cc: Timothy Jackson < >; Graf, Benjamin < >
Subject: Re: Framing for call for responses to Ewell paper
Dear Drs. Jackson, Slottow, Graf, et al.,
I've attached a new version of the call. Let me know if it looks okay, or if there are any other issues that come to mind.
Dr. Bakulina, I believe that was the plan. Dr. Jackson also mentioned sending it to the Sibelius and Estonian academies. We'll have to confirm exactly how/where to send it out.
Regards,
Levi Walls

On Fri, Nov 29, 2019 at 12:55 PM Walls, Levi < > wrote:
Hi all,
Here is a new copy of the call with "Schenkerian community" changed to "theory community" and the January 13 deadline. How/where should we send it out? We previously discussed using the SMT list and possible other places (Estonian and Sibelius academies).
Regards,
Levi Walls

Journal of Schenkerian Studies vol. 12 (2019) Call for Papers
The SMT plenary presentation given by Philip Ewell, "Music Theory's White Racial Frame," has inspired a good deal of debate within the Schenkerian community. As a journal dedicated to Schenkerian studies, we find it important to foster these discussions. As part of volume 12, we invite interested parties to submit essay responses to Ewell's paper. The *Journal of Schenkerian Studies* takes no official stance on the issues addressed by Ewell, and we hope to publish a variety of thoughts and perspectives. Submissions must adhere to the following guidelines: Essays should be 1,000 to 3,000 words in length. In order to leave sufficient time for editorial work, submissions must observe a strict deadline of January 13, 2020. Any questions or concerns regarding submissions may be directed at the editors ().

Please refer to Ewell's abstract, as well as links to the presentation slides and video recording (listed below):

On Nov 26, 2019, at 12:39 PM, Bakulina, Ellen < > wrote:
Looks good to me. Thanks for asking for our opinions!
-EB

From: Cubero, Diego < >
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 2:00 PM
To: Bakulina, Ellen < >
Cc: Walls, Levi < >; Slottow, Stephen < >; Chung, Andrew < >; Timothy Jackson < >; Graf, Benjamin < >
Subject: Re: Framing for call for responses to Ewell paper
Dear Levi and all,
The call looks good. I would make the two following suggestions:
1. There is a passage that reads: "We invite interested parties to submit essay responses to Ewell's paper." I would change it to: "We invite responses to Ewell's paper."
2. I do not like the phrase "Schenkerian community." It is quite exclusive. Think of a way to reword this sentence. I will, too.
2. Extend the deadline at least to February 1st. A month and a half is a pretty short turn around, especially considering that it is the holidays.
Best,
Diego

From: "Graf, Benjamin" < >
Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 at 9:44 AM
To: "Cubero, Diego" < >, "Bakulina, Ellen" < >
Cc: "Walls, Levi" < >, "Slottow, Stephen" < >, "Chung, Andrew" < >, Timothy Jackson < >
Subject: Re: Framing for call for responses to Ewell paper

Dear Diego and all,
I completely agree with point #2, which is now changed to "theory community" (thank you Levi).

As to the deadline-- from an editor's perspective, we really cannot delay the submissions further. There is quite a bit of work that must be done after the submissions come in. For example, the following timeline would be a fair estimate:

Feb 1: collect submissions
Feb 15: editing submissions
Feb 27: revisions complete
March 8: add front/back matter, ads, sign and collect contributor agreement forms
March 15: Karen at UNT Press reads final PDF
March 25: document sent to printers
April/May: we get print copies

Again, from an editor's perspective, it would be best to not delay further. The responses should not be very long, so I hope that we can stick to January 13th.
Best,

Ben

Benjamin Graf, Ph.D.

University of North Texas

Music History, Theory and Ethnomusicology

Office: MU215

From: Slottow, Stephen <[mailto:slottow@unt.edu]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 10:56 AM
To: Graf, Benjamin <[mailto:grafb@unt.edu]>; Cubero, Diego <[mailto:dcubero@unt.edu]>
<[mailto:slottow@unt.edu]>; Bakulina, Ellen <[mailto:ellen.bakulina@unt.edu]>
Cc: Walls, Levi <[mailto:levi.walls@unt.edu]>; Chung, Andrew <[mailto:andrew.chung@unt.edu]>
<[mailto:slottow@unt.edu]>; Timothy Jackson <[mailto:tjackson@unt.edu]>
Subject: Re: Framing for call for responses to Ewell paper
In that case, it may be well to backdate submissions to—say, November 1st, 2019.
That way we'll have them before the call is sent out, which would be convenient
for all concerned, I should think. This would create an alternative time line, which
we could utilize as needed.

-sps

Stephen Slottow

Associate Professor of Music Theory

University of North Texas