Musicology and Ethnomusicology in Colombia

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This talk has the purpose to present to IU’s students the research activities and resources kept by Músicas Regionales (MR), a team of music scholars established at Universidad de Antioquia. MR is Colombia’s oldest academic research team focused on studying local musics. Since 1992, MR has built a documentary collection that comprises diverse primary sources and materials derived from investigation projects carried out by its members, such as sheet music, recordings, videos, and manuscripts, among others. The archive includes field recordings of indigenous and Afrocolombian musics, transcriptions of folk music from the Andean and the Caribbean regions, vinyl records of Colombian popular music, as well as the work of several national composers educated in the Western European musical tradition. MR’s five lines of research will be illustrated through examples taken from significant investigation projects, emphasizing the synergy between academic activities developed by professors and undergraduate and graduate students. Finally, there will be a discussion about the options for students interested in undertaking exchanges and internships with the group.

Carolina Santamaría-Delgado (PhD University of Pittsburgh, 2006) is associate professor in musicology and ethnomusicology at Universidad de Antioquia in Medellín (Colombia). Her research deals with popular music consumption and identity in Latin America, and she has pursued historical research on the production and circulation of genres such as tango, bolero and vallenato through the record industry and the media in Colombia. Coauthor of the prizewinner book Travesías por la tierra del olvido, a transdisciplinary study on Colombian vallenato popstar Carlos Vives (Forthcoming in the Lexington Books’ series Music, Culture, and Identity in Latin America as Journeys across the Land of Oblivion).

A member of Músicas Regionales, Colombia’s oldest academic research team focused on ethnomusicological studies, her interest in decolonial theory and the proximity to key thinkers of the Modernity/Coloniality group has informed her involvement with the curricular design of postgraduate programs in music in Bogotá and Medellín. Currently, Santamaría-Delgado is academic coordinator of the Universidad de Antioquia’s Master of Musics in Latin American and the Caribbean, aimed at including within the academic framework the multiplicity of practices and ways of doing music research in Latin America.

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Free and open to the public