Sean Steele

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Education

2014 – 2025 **PhD, Humanities,** Department of Humanities, York University
Dissertation title: Sacred Psychedelic Rock: Live Music, Religion, and Utopia (forthcoming)

2013 – 2014 **MA, Humanities,** Department of Humanities, York University
Thesis title: Finding the Cosmic Centre: History, Myth, and Religion in Ancient Greece

2008 – 2011 **BA, Philosophy and History,** Concordia University
Graduated with Honours

2004 – 2006 **Diploma, Music Studies,** Vancouver Island University

Research & Teaching Interests

- Religious Studies
- Ethnomusicology
- Ecology and Climate Change
- Holistic Education
- Critical Pedagogy
- Music and Sound Studies
- Cultural Studies
- Deep Time and Artistic Expression
- Interdisciplinary Education
- Alternative Liberal Arts Education

Academic Appointments

2021 – 2022 **Graduate Assistant,** Department of Economics, York University. Toronto, ON.
2018 – 2020 **Teaching Commons Tutor,** Teaching and Learning Centre, York University. Toronto, ON.
2014 – 2020 **Teaching Assistant,** Department of Humanities, York University. Toronto, ON.
2013 – 2014 **Graduate Research Assistant,** Department of Humanities, York University, Toronto, ON.

Teaching and Facilitation

2021 – 2024 **Instructional Designer,** Team Real Talk, Inc. Buffalo, NY.
2022 – 2023 **Outdoor Educator,** Seedlings Outdoor Education. Victoria, BC.

Books Chapters, Special Issues, and Edited Volumes

Steele, Sean. 2024. "The Music of Deep Time." In *Listening as a Shared Social Practice*, edited by Lindsay French and Kate Joransen. Regina, SK: University of Regina Pressbooks. https://opentextbooks.uregina.ca/listeningsharedsocialpractice/chapter/glass-oer-the-music-of-deep-time/.

Refereed Journal Articles

Steele, Sean. 2021. "Speculating on the Liberal Arts: Exploring Possible Futures for Humanities Education". *Arts and Humanities in Higher Education*, 21(3), pp. 1-18. https://doi.org/10.1177/14740222211050551.

Steele, Sean. 2020. "Playing for Keeps: The Diggers, Life-Acting and Guerrilla Theatre in San Francisco's Psychedelic '60s". *ASJ (American Studies Journal)*, Occasional Papers, No. 18. http://op.asjournal.org/playing-for-keeps-the-diggers-life-acting-and-guerrilla-theater-in-san-franciscos-psychedelic-60s/.

Steele, Sean. 2018. "Dreaming of Dissent: Rochdale College and the Failed Dream of Communal Education". *The Journal of Unschooling and Alternative Learning*, 12(23), pp. 1-18. https://jual.nipissingu.ca/2018/06/05/year-2018-volume-12-issue-23/.

Non-Refereed and Invited Contributions

Steele, Sean. 2020. "Tomorrow's Unknown Known Life: What Live-Evil Means to Me". *International Association for the Study of Popular Music Auto-musicology Series.* https://www.iaspm.ca/automusicologiesposts/2020/4/12/tomorrows-unknown-known-life-what-live-evil-means-to-me.

Steele, Sean. 2019. "Venturing in the Slipstream: Why Van Morrison's Astral Weeks Will Always Be a Part of My Life". *International Association for the Study of Popular Music Auto-musicology Series.* https://www.iaspm.ca/automusicologiesposts/2019/3/15/venturing-in-the-slipstream-why-van-morrisons-astral-weeks-will-always-be-a-part-of-my-life.

Reviews

Steele, Sean. 2024. The End(s) of Religion: A History of How the Study of Religion Makes Religion Irrelevant, by Eric Bain-Selbo. *The Journal for the Academic Study of Religion*, 37(1), pp. 141-143. https://doi.org/10.1558/jasr.28255.

Steele, Sean. 2021. Weekend Societies: Electronic Dance Music Festivals and Event Cultures, edited by Graham St John. *Popular Music and Society*, 45, pp. 105-107. https://doi.org/10.1080/03007766.2021.1961193.

Steele, Sean. 2021. Cornell '77: The Music, the Myth, and the Magnificence of the Grateful Dead's Concert at Barton Hall, by Peter Conners. *Popular Music and Society* 44, pp. 481-483. https://doi.org/10.1080/03007766.2021.1927594.

Steele, Sean. 2021. Brian Eno: Oblique Music, edited by David Pattie and Sean Albiez. *Popular Music and Society*, 44, pp. 344-346. https://doi.org/10.1080/03007766.2021.1891657.

Steele, Sean. 2020. Feeling Religion, edited by John Corrigan. *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion*, 33 (1), pp. 97-99. https://doi.org/10.1558/jasr.40444.

Steele, Sean. 2019. Listening For the Secret: The Grateful Dead and the Politics of Improvisation, by Ulf Olsson. *Rock Music Studies*, 6(1), p. 74-75. https://doi.org/10.1080/19401159.2019.1559425.

Steele, Sean. 2017. Of God and Man, by Zygmunt Bauman and Stanislaw Obirek, translated by Katarzyna Bartoszynska and Zygmunt Bauman. *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion*, 30(3), pp. 303-305. https://doi.org/10.1558/jasr.35563.

Steele, Sean. 2017. On the World and Ourselves, by Zygmunt Bauman and Stanislaw Obirek, translated by Lydia Bauman. *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion*, 30(3), pp. 303-305. https://doi.org/10.1558/jasr.35563.

Steele, Sean. 2017. The Relational Dynamics of Enchantment and Sacralization: Changing the Terms of the Religion Versus Secularity Debate, edited by Peik Ingman, Terhi Utriainen, Tuija Hovi & Måns Broo. *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion*, 30 (3), pp. 310-311. https://doi.org/10.1558/jasr.36088.

Conference Proceedings

Steele, Sean. 2024. *Improvising Utopia: Religious Dimensions of the Come Together Music Festival*. Paper presented at the International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM) Conference, Regina, SK, September 28.

Steele, Sean. 2024. *At the Threshold of the Underworld: Deep Time, Myth, Music, and Ecstatic Truth*. Paper presented at the Carleton University's Music & Culture Graduate Student Society Annual Symposium. March 15.

Steele, Sean. 2023. *Thinking in Dialogue: The Inclusive Art of Improvisation*. Paper presented at the International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM) Conference, Université Laval, Quebec City, QC. May 19.

Steele, Sean. 2022. *The Sounds of Time: Mapping the Temporality of an Aging Planet*. Paper presented at the Great Lakes Association for Sound Studies (GLASS) Conference Listening as a Shared Form of Social Practice, University of Regina. Regina, SK. October 7.

Steele, Sean. 2020. *Come Together, Right Now: Contemporary Forms of the Sacred at the Come Together Music Festival*. Paper presented on the WLIH Podcast Episode 13. April 22.

Steele, Sean. 2019. *It Might Be Over Soon: Samples, Looping and the Post-Genre Music of Bon Iver's 22, A Million*. Paper presented at the 2019 International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM) Conference, L'Université du Québec à Montréal. Montréal, QC. May 25.

Steele, Sean. 2018. *Everywhere and Nowhere: Process Theology in Terrence Malick's The Tree of Life*. Paper presented at the 2018 International Conference on Religion and Film, University of Toronto. Toronto, ON. May 5.

Steele, Sean. 2018. *Estimated Prophets: The Grateful Dead, Sacred Secular Sonic Spaces and Improvisational Rock*. Paper presented at the annual Syracuse University Religion Conference. Syracuse, NY. April 13.

Steele, Sean. 2018. *Androids Dream of Electric Humanity: Postmodern Personhood, Micro-Histories, and the Role of Memory in Blade Runner and Blade Runner 2049*. Paper presented at the annual Graduate Program in Humanities Conference, York University. Toronto, ON. February 23.

Steele, Sean. 2017. *Fear and Loathing in Graduate School: Is There a Place for Gonzo Scholarship in the Humanities?*. Paper presented at the annual Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference, Concordia University. Montréal, QC. March 25.

Steele, Sean. 2017. *Playing For Keeps: The Diggers, Community Anarchy, and Guerilla Theatre in San Francisco's Psychedelic '60s*. Paper presented at the annual Context & Meaning Graduate Student Conference, Queen's University. Kingston, ON. January 27.

Steele, Sean. 2016. *So Far East It Went West: The Translation of Zen Direct Experience in Poetry*. Paper presented at the annual Graduate Student Conference in Translation Studies, York University. Toronto, ON. March 5.

Steele, Sean. 2016. *Now and Zen: Exploring the Uses and Abuses of Chan Buddhism in China and America*. Paper presented at the annual Graduate Program in Humanities Conference, York University. Toronto, ON. February 20.

Recent Professional Development

2024 **San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training.** British Columbia Health Services Authority.
Communicating with Clarity and Compassion. The Centre for Collaboration, Motivation and Innovation (CCMI).
Articulate Storyline Essential Training. LinkedIn Learning.
Articulate 360: Interactive Learning. LinkedIn Learning.
Articulate Storyline 360: Advanced Elearning. LinkedIn Learning.

2023 **Learning Articulate Rise.** LinkedIn Learning.
Gamification of Learning. LinkedIn Learning.
Components of Effective Learning. LinkedIn Learning.
Designing The Learner's Journey. LinkedIn Learning.

2022 **Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging.** LinkedIn Learning.
Learning Design Thinking. LinkedIn Learning.

2020 **eLearning @ York University.** York University Teaching Commons.

2019 **Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) Program.** York University Teaching Commons.

2018 **Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW).** York University Teaching Commons.

2017 **Teaching Assistant Certificate in Teaching (TACT) Program.** York University Teaching Commons.

Administrative and Volunteer Service

2023 **Peer Reviewer,** *International Journal for the Study of Popular Music*. April.
Learning Designer, *The Rumie Initiative*. March – October.
Volunteer, *Times Colonist Book Drive*. April 22-23.

2022 – 2023 **Peer Reviewer,** *Teaching and Teacher Education: An International Journal of Research and Studies*. September – January.

Awards & Honours

2020 York University Humanities Department TA Award for Excellence in Teaching

2013 York University Entrance Scholarship

Professional Affiliations

2024 – Present	Member of the Long Now Foundation.
2018 – Present	Member of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM).
2019 – Present	Member of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STHLE).