Dr. Cara Turnbull

Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Arts

Department of Interdisciplinary Arts, Texas Tech University

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EDUCATION

Princeton University
PhD in Music 2025
"Shared Content in Music-Evoked Autobiographical Memories and Prosociality"
MA in Music 2021

Stanford University
MA in Music, Science, and Technology 2019

Ithaca College
BM in Sound Recording Technology & Music Performance 2016

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Arts, Texas Tech University 2026-present
MUTH 1103 Elementary Aural Skills I
IVPA 5314 Arts Research in Contemporary Contexts

Postdoctoral Researcher, Princeton University Music Cognition Lab 2025-2026
Responsible for managing lab equipment/personnel and mentoring undergraduate and graduate research projects

Adjunct Professor of Music History, Montclair State University 2025
MUHS 407 Music in Time, Place and Ideas: 1890 to Present

Course Development Assistant, Princeton University 2023
MUS/PSY 248 Music Cognition
Responsible for the creation of assignments, assessments, and precept lesson materials

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Princeton University
MUS/PSY 248 Music Cognition 2023
HUM/MUS/PSY/CGS 209 Music and Language 2022
Responsible for teaching weekly hourlong discussion sections and grading assignments/exams

Assistant Co-Coordinator, Music Mentoring Program at Princeton 2022-2024, 2026

Graduate Student Mentor, Music Mentoring Program at Princeton 2022-2025

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Stanford University 2019
MUSIC 257 Neuroplasticity and Musical Gaming
Responsible for hosting office hours, maintaining course website, and teaching tutorials

PUBLICATIONS

Jalon, I., Williams, J. A., Christianson, K. E., **Turnbull, C.**, Simmons, G. B., Hasson, U., & Margulis, E. H. (In Press). Constructing Shared Meaning: Stimulus-Specific but Modality-General Responses to Music. *Nature Communications.*

Kubit, B. M., Benson, P., **Turnbull, C.**, Kathios, N., Zhao, Z., Amgalan, B., Rekowsky, O. von, Bauer, I., Carter, N., Margulis, E. H., & Loui, P. (2026). Music-induced spontaneous thought reflects individual differences in creativity. *Cognition*, 276, 106660. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2026.106660

Kim, K., Fram, N., Nerness, B., **Turnbull, C.,** Chander, A., Georgieva, E., James, S., Wright, M., & Fujioka, T. (2024). Performance monitoring of improvisation and score-playing in a turn-taking piano duet: An EEG study using altered auditory feedback. *Psychophysiology*, 00, e14704. https://doi.org/10.1111/psyp.14704

Margulis, E. H., Wong, P. C. M., **Turnbull, C.,** Kubit, B. M., & McAuley, J. D. (2022). Narratives imagined in response to instrumental music reveal culture-bounded intersubjectivity. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119(4), e2110406119. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2110406119

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

Turnbull, C., Kubit, B. M., Jakubowski, K., Margulis, E. H. (2026). Music Illuminates Sociocultural Dimensions of Autobiographical Memory. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.* [Manuscript under review].

Turnbull, C., Kubit, B. M., Jakubowski, K., Margulis, E. H. (2026). Music-Evoked Autobiographical Memories Reveal Evidence of Shared Sociocultural Scripts. [Manuscript under review].

Fowler, Z., **Turnbull, C.**, Kubit, B. M., O'Connor, B. B., Loui, P., Margulis, E. H. (2026). Free Will to Imagine: Creative Agency as a Metacognitive Feeling. [Manuscript under review].

Lau, C., **Turnbull, C.,** Loui, P., Margulis, E. H. (2026). Narrative and Contextual Imagination to Very Short Sounds. [Manuscript under review].

Nerness, B., Fram, N., Kim, K., Chander, A., **Turnbull, C.**, Georgieva, E., James, S., Wright, M., & Fujioka, T. (2026). Alpha EEG oscillations during turn-taking piano duet performance reflect improvisation, musical role, and between-partner task similarity. [Manuscript under review].

PRESENTATIONS

Turnbull, C., Jakubowski, K., Margulis, E. H. (2026). *Shared Content in Music- and Word-Evoked Thoughts* [Spoken presentation]. Society for Music Perception and Cognition. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA.

Lau, C., **Turnbull, C.**, Loui, P., Margulis, E. H. (2026). *Narrative and Contextual Imagination to Very Short Sounds* [Spoken presentation]. Society for Music Perception and Cognition. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA.

Kim, J., Kao, J. A., **Turnbull, C.**, Vollweiler, D., Hannon, E., Margulis, E. H. (2026). *Children Hear Meaning in Music* [Spoken presentation]. Society for Music Perception and Cognition. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA.

Turnbull, C. (2025). *Musical features shape semantic content of music-evoked autobiographical memories* [Spoken presentation]. AMS-SMT Joint Annual Meeting. Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Turnbull, C., Enz, K., Jakubowski, K., Margulis, E. H. (2025). *Music-evoked autobiographical memories and affiliative sentiment during joint listening* [Poster session]. International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition. São Paulo, Brazil.

Jalon, I., Williams, J. A., Christianson, K., **Turnbull, C.**, Simmons, G., Hasson, U., Margulis, E. H. (2025). *Musically-evoked imaginings: shared neural and mental representations that are content specific and medium agnostic* [Spoken presentation, C. Turnbull is the presenting author]. International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition. São Paulo, Brazil.

Turnbull, C. (2024). *Shared content in music-evoked autobiographical memories* [Spoken presentation]. Workshop on Music-Evoked Imaginings. Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA.

Turnbull, C., Kubit, B. M., Jakubowski, K., Margulis, E. H. (2024). *Shared content in music-evoked autobiographical memories* [Spoken presentation]. Society for Music Perception and Cognition. Banff, Canada.

Turnbull, C., Jakubowski, K., Margulis, E. H. (2023). *Intersubjectivity in music-evoked autobiographical memories* [Spoken presentation]. International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition. Tokyo, Japan.

Turnbull, C. (2023). *Music-evoked autobiographical memories and social bonding* [Spoken presentation]. Program in Cognitive Science Lunchtime Talk Series. Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA.

Simmons, G., Williams, J., **Turnbull, C.**, Christianson, K., Margulis, E. H. (2022). *Neural correlates of narrative imagination in music versus speech* [Poster session]. Society for Music Perception and Cognition. Portland, OR, USA.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Society for Music Perception and Cognition Travel Award 2026
Princeton University Harold W. Dodds Honorific Fellowship 2024-2025
One nominee per department; ten awardees selected campus-wide for their distinguished work
Princeton University Cognitive Science Graduate Student Research Funding 2024
Princeton University Center for Digital Humanities Graduate Fellowship 2023-2024
International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition (ICMPC) Travel Award 2023
Princeton University Program in Cognitive Science Graduate Fellowship 2022-2023
Stanford University Stanford Arts Institute Fellowship 2017-2018
Ithaca College President's Scholarship 2012-2016

SERVICE

Panelist, Princeton University Graduate School Orientation 2024
"Choosing an Adviser and Working with the Adviser You've Chosen"

Graduate Student Representative, Princeton University Concerts Committee 2023-2024

Private Double Bass Teacher, Trenton Arts at Princeton 2023-2024

Member, Princeton Musicology Colloquium Committee 2021-2022

Facilitator/Scribe, "The Science-Music Borderlands" Workshop 2021
Workshop for contributing authors of The Science-Music Borderlands (MIT Press 2023)