



# Sonorous Worlds: Musical Enchantment in Venezuela

GUEST SPEAKER

**Yana Stainova**

*Assistant Professor of Anthropology, McMaster University*

**DISCUSSANT João Biehl**, *Chair of Anthropology, Princeton University*

Why have thousands of Venezuelan youth and their families chosen to invest their desires in classical music? In this talk, Yana Stainova will discuss her new book *Sonorous Worlds: Musical Enchantment in Venezuela*, based on 16 months of ethnographic research with musicians from Venezuela's classical music program El Sistema. The state-funded initiative provides free classical music education and instruments to almost a million young people all over the country. The book looks at how these young people engage with what she calls "enchantment," that is, how through musical practices they create worlds that escape, rupture, and critique dominant structures of power.

**Yana Stainova** is an interdisciplinary scholar interested in art, migration, and the lived experience of violence in Latin America. She holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from Brown University, and is currently assistant professor of anthropology at McMaster University.

**Wed., Oct. 5, 12pm, 216 Burr Hall | Register [HERE](#)**

This event is open to students, faculty, and specially invited guests only.  
A "to-go" lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the event.



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*Photo courtesy of Yana Stainova*