

The discipline of music theory faces competing pressures. As Ewell et al pointed out in the 2019 SMT Plenary, the intellectual foundations of the discipline are often rooted in white supremacy and other problematic traditions. Adding the music of diverse composers is noble; however, this nobility is offset by the same problematic frameworks for analysis. This project examines how new ideas get into music theory textbooks, and what research and music have been centered in annual meetings of the Society for Music Theory to offer a critique of how the discipline evolved and to propose ways that the discipline may adapt to changing educational and musical environments.