

Professor Omar Lizardo, University of California - Los Angeles

“Professional Taste: Omnivorosity, Empathy, and Possibility in the Structure of Evaluation”



Thursday
February 6, 2025
12:30-2:00pm

Parkes 222
1870 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60208

Description: This study explores how professional musicians evaluate music. A survey reveals that musicians are more open to diverse musical genres than non-musicians, extending to rating original music excerpts more positively. Interviews suggest that musicians engage in empathetic listening, imagining themselves as performers, and evaluate music based on its potential for improvement. These findings highlight the complex factors influencing musicians' judgments, revealing a distinct evaluative approach among musicians, emphasizing empathy and potentiality, which differs from non-experts' strategies.

Omar Lizardo is LeRoy Neiman Term Chair Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. He studies culture, cognition, networks, theory, consumption, and organization and is currently one of the co-editors of Sociological Theory.

**For Zoom info
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