Dr Martin Nicastro

Curriculum Vitae

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Research interests: My research focuses on the relationship between live music and urban space. I am interested in how data visualization tools, such as GIS and network analysis, allow new insights into live music ecosystems and support their sustainability. In my PhD research, I have analysed the live music scene of Milan during the first post-war economic boom (1958-1962). By applying a hybrid approach, which included an innovative combination of field research and digital mapping, I demonstrated how urban structure shaped the networks that connected music practitioners. This influenced music products by promoting the emersion of new practices and a unique crosspollination between genres. In my current position as research fellow at the University of Pavia, I am continuing to explore the historiographical potential of data-driven tools by applying network analysis to the relations between publishers, composers and producers in Italian film industry (1958-1976). As lead developer for the international initiative Live Music Mapping Project, I am also producing several mapping applications. Within the project, I have created open-source solutions for challenges such as the time-based incorporation of statistical data, full music sector visualisation, and UI mobile access.

Education:

PhD (Musicology), University of Pavia. Supervisors: Alessandro Bratus, Giovanni Pietro Vitali (Université de Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines). 1/10/2020 – 20/02/2024 (Excellent with Honors).

European Summer University in Digital Humanities (ESU). University of Leipzig (online due to pandemic). 03/08/2021 – 13/08/2021. Humanities Data and Mapping Environments.

Master's degree in Music, Theatre and Film. University of Milan. 1/10/2015 – 27/3/2018 (110/110 with honors).

Bachelor's degree in Modern Humanities. University of Milan. 1/10/2011 – 23/3/2015 (110/110 with honors).

Diploma in Classical Violin. Conservatory of Milan. 1/9/2006 – 24/2/2017.

Publications (peer-reviewed):

- Nicastro, M. 2024. From Thin to Deep: Mapping Urban Music Through Multimedia Web Apps. *Sound Stage Screen III/2*: 77-105. https://doi.org/10.54103/sss22317 (free access).
- Nicastro, M. 2024. Combining Network Analysis and GIS for Music Historiography: Genre, Urban Space and Music Ecologies. *Umanistica Digitale VIII/17*: 95-119. https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.2532-8816/19246. (free access).

Software:

- Flynn M., Anderson R., and Nicastro, M. 2024. Liverpool Music Sector Map. The map is published on the LCR Music Board website: https://www.lcrmusicboard.co.uk/music-sector-map/

Dataset:

- Nicastro, M. 2025. FILMUSP quantitative dataset. At the time of writing, the dataset is accessible only via private link, as the team is finalizing a terms of use statement: https://bit.ly/filmusp

Book (peer-review completed and printing in progress):

- Nicastro, M. 2025. *Milano 1958-1962: topografia musicale di una città. Analisi di rete, mappatura digitale e pratiche musicali*. (Milan 1958-1962: Music Topography of a City. Network Analysis, Digital Mapping and Music Practices). NeoClassica (Rome).

Book chapter in edited volume (accepted for publication):

- Anderson R., Goodwin G., Himmelreich N., and Nicastro M. 2025. Mapping Live Music – Technical Solutions, Delivery, and Challenges. In Live *Music Ecologies – Mapping the Presence of Live Music in Urban Economics* ed. by Behr A., Flynn M., Rozbicka P., Nicastro M. *et al*. Palgrave Macmillan (London).

In this chapter, I will present the functionalities of the Live Music Mapping Project's mapping application. It will be a contribution to the collective book of the Live Music Mapping Project, of which I am also co-editor.

Publications (non-peer reviewed):

Nicastro M. 2025. Encyclopedia entry: "Suoni urbani" ("Urban Sounds"). Enciclopedia della musica: 1900-2025, Treccani (Rome).

Nicastro M. 2020. Vittorio Fellegara: uno sguardo retrospettivo (Vittorio Fellegara: a Retrospective Look). Musica/Realtà 122.

Nicastro M. 2020. Nono-Biennale di Venezia: dalle contestazioni del '68 alla prima del Prometeo (Nono-Biennale di Venezia: from '68s Demostrations to *Prometeo*). La Biennale (Venezia).

Conference Presentations:

FILMUSP International Conference. Paper: "Synergy and Divergence between Film and Record Industries in the Golden Age of Italian Cinema". 13/09/2025. University of Pisa.

IASPM 2025 Biennial Conference – Recording Popular Music (international conference) Paper: "Music Labels and Film Soundtracks During the Golden Age of Italian Cinema: a Case Study for Network Analysis"; Panel: "Mapping Ecologies of Recorded and Live Music Sectors". 7/07/2025-11/07/2025. Sorbonne Nouvelle University (Paris).

Linecheck (International Industry Conference). Panel: "Mapping Live Music Within Urban Ecosystems". 22/11/2024 (Milano)

IASPM Italy. Paper: "Materials and Techniques for an Atlas of Italian Live Music". 7-9/11/2024. University of Bologna.

IASPM UK & Ireland (International Conference). Panel: "Mapping Live Music Ecologies". 4-6/9/2024. Newcastle University.

Mapping Musical Life (International Conference). Paper: "Three Views of a Secret. Discussing Milan's LMMP Map Live Music Ecosystems". 7/6/2024. University of Florence.

Mapping Music History (International Conference). Panel: "Mapping Live Music Within Urban Ecosystems - Past and Present". 28/04/2024. University of Aberdeen.

Our Interlocked Universe. Sociohistorical Network Analysis: Methods, Applications, And New Directions (International Conference). Paper: "Urban Space and Performance Circuits: Analyzing Historical Live Music Through Network Analysis and GIS". 26/04/2024. University of Southampton.

Night Time Economy Summit (NTIA) 2024 (UK Music Industries Conference). Panel: "Significance of Data in Contemporary Nightlife: Charting the Presence of Live Music in Urban Economics". 8/02/2024. Manchester.

Spaces of Musical Production / Production of Musical Spaces (International Conference). Paper: "From *Thin* to *Deep*: Mapping Urban Music Through Multimedia Web Apps". 4/11/2023. University of Milan.

Musicology in Progress (International Conference). Paper: "Performance e spazio urbano a Milano dal 1958 al 1962 (Performance and Urban Space in Milan (1958-1962)". 19/04/2023. Cremona.

Giovani_Fuori_Classe (Italian IASPM Conference). Paper: "Topografia musicale urbana: un approccio ibrido (Music Topography: A Hybrid Approach)". 17/02/2023. University of Turin.

Teaching Experience:

- One Week Snapshot Live Music Mapping (1W-SMaP) – Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme, University of Pavia [April–June 2025].
- Teacher of the course Data Analysis and Visualization at the Digital Humanities doctoral school EnExDi 2022, 2023 (University of Poitiers) and 2024, 2025 (École normale supérieure de Lyon).
- Adjunct professor at the Department of Cultural Heritage (University of Milan). MA in Music, Theatre and Film. Course: "Digital Editing and Representation of Musical Texts and Sound Events" (20 hours). 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2024-25.
- Teaching assistant at the University of Ferrara. Seminars on digital sound editing, GIS and Network Analysis applied to music research and teaching (24 hours). MA in Formation, Communication and Digital Citizenship. Course: "Music and Technology". 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- Teacher in the seminar "From data-poor to data-rich? Musicology goes digital" (University of Pavia, Department of Musicology). Workshop: "digital mapping and music studies" (8 hours). 12/5/2023-9/6/2023.
- Guest lecturer in the courses "Contemporary Popular Music" (University of Pavia, 2022/23) and "Music Historiography" (University of Milan, 2023/24).
- Teacher of the training course: "Digital Tools for Humanities Teaching" (CDEC Foundation, Milan, 8 hours). 18/9/2023-9/10/2023.

Research Achievements / Experience / Grants:

- In 2024, I contributed to the development of the proposal *Musical Participation and Urban Revitalization*, led by Dr Francesca Cireddu, which was awarded a €200,000 research grant from the private funding body Fondazione Cariplo. Upon completion of my current research contract, I will join this project at the University of Pavia with a one-year postdoctoral position.
- In 2022 my PhD research was awarded by the Italian Digital Humanities Association AIUCD with one of two "Small Grant AIUCD" (750 euros).
- In 2021 I have attended the European Summer School in Digital Humanities by winning a Dariah-EU scholarship.

- In 2020, I was selected for a research residency at the Biennale Musica contemporary music festival. This residency involved conducting original research on the Biennale di Venezia's historical archives, culminating in a publication. During my research, I discovered a missing letter from composer Luigi Nono, in which he resigns from the foundation's board.
- In 2019, my research on the Milanese composer Vittorio Fellegara was awarded a 2000-euro prize by the association NoMus. This resulted in a publication in the musicological journal *Musica/Realtà*.
- I am proficient in data processing, analysis and visualization (R, Gephi); digital mapping (R, Shiny, QGIS, Carto); video editing (DaVinci); tabular editors (Excel, Google Sheets, Open Calc); web development (Jekyll); audio editing and analysis (Sonic Visualizer, Audacity, Ableton).

Current Employments:

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Musicology, University of Pavia **(July 2024-September 2025)**. Project; FILMUSP – Music publishing and film: toward a production history of the soundtrack in Italy (1958-1976).

Responsibilities

- Archival data gathering for the construction of a database on Italian cinematography (1958-1976) including links with music publishers and discography. Network analysis and visualization of historical data.

R coder for the Live Music Mapping Project. University of Pavia, Aston University, University of Liverpool **(April 2023-current)**.

Responsibilities

- Development of Shiny geospatial applications for the representation of music ecosystems. Coding of R scripts for automated treatment of data.

Past Employments:

Violin and ensemble music teacher. Ricordi Music School, Milan (**September 2016-April 2023**).

Responsibilities

- Teaching violin across a diverse range of ages and skill levels, from beginners to aspiring professionals. Guiding young students in writing and performing original arrangements with various instruments. Providing support to violin students during orchestral rehearsals and concerts.

Music career:

Selected performances: Arena di Verona (**Verona**), with Irama and Riccardo Cocciante (15/5/2024); Circolo Filologico (**Milan**), with Camilla Magli (19/1/2024); Sofar Sounds (**Milan**), with Clio M (19/4/2024); American Legation Centre (**Tangier**), with Clio and Maurice (4/2/2019); Auditorium Demetrio Stratos, on national broadcast (**Milan**), with Pashmak (11/4/2019); MENT Festival (**Ljubljana**) with Pashmak (1/2/2018); Lynch (**Ekaterinburg**), with Pashmak (21/11/2018); Kino Bosna (**Sarajevo**), with Pashmak (5/6/2018); Schokoladen (**Berlin**), with Pashmak (18/5/2017); L'International (**Paris**), with Pashmak (5/5/2017).

Selected discography: *Clio M*, **Tabula,** 2024 (composition, violin)**.** *Clio and Maurice*, **Fragile EP**, 2020 (composition, violin)**,** single broadcasted on MTV Music. *Pashmak*, **Atlantic Thoughts**, 2019 (composition, violin and synthesizers), reviewed on Internazionale, Rolling Stone, Rumore. *Pashmak*, **Let**

the Water Flow, 2015 (composition, violin and synthesizers), reviewed on Internazionale, Rumore, Il Manifesto.