

Keeping Kensington “Kensington”

*Value and Affordability in Toronto's
Kensington Market*

Connaught Community Research
Partnership Program

University of Toronto Researchers
with

KMBIA

FOKM



Who

Dr. Farzaneh (Farzi) Hemmasi
Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology
University of Toronto Faculty of Music
<https://www.farzaneh-hemmasi.com>

Dr. Andrew (Drew) Gilbert
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Senior Researcher, Ethnography Lab
<https://www.andrewgilbert.com>

UofT graduate students in ethnomusicology
& anthropology

Kensington Market Business Improvement
Area

Friends of Kensington Market



ETHNOGRAPHY LAB

Kensington Market Research Project 2015-present

- Dr. Joshua Barker, Assoc. Prof. of Anthropology
- Graduate and undergraduate student researchers
- Interviews, observations, photographs, podcasts, scanned Kensington Market Drum issues
- Materials held in secure archive
- <https://ethnographylab.ca/category/kensington-market/>



- **Kensington Market Sound and Music Research Project**
2017-present
 - Dr. Farzi Hemmasi, Assoc. Prof. of Ethnomusicology
 - Grad student researchers
 - Interviews, observations, photographs, recorded sounds of Kensington, podcasts, blog posts, conference presentations
- <https://kensingtonmarket.music.utoronto.ca/about/>
- Coalition
- Queer PoC burlesque at Round Venue
- KM Jazz Festival
- Vanishing music venues in the Market
- Noise ordinances in the Market
- How PSK is represented online

The Present Project

Keeping Kensington “Kensington:” Value and Affordability in Toronto’s Kensington Market

This two-year collaborative project between Ethnomusicology and the Anthropology Department’s Ethnography Lab aims to meet the resident-led activist organization Friends of Kensington Market (FOKM) and the Kensington Market Business Improvement Area’s (KMBIA) needs for research on the complex interplay of value, (un)affordability, and culture that challenges this distinctive Toronto neighborhood.

The Present Project

Faculty and graduate students in ethnomusicology and anthropology will conduct team ethnographic research and work collaboratively with FOKM and KMBIA to

- (1) document what community members consider to make their neighborhood unique, valuable and worth defending;
- (2) identify and contextualize the forces that support or threaten that uniqueness;
- (3) create innovative forms of knowledge that represent the complex stakes of the changes facing Kensington Market; and
- (4) persuasively communicate those stakes and values to city representatives and other local decision makers in ways that lend themselves to actions, events, processes and relationships that advance the organizations' goals.

The project's first year is devoted to data collection; in the second year, we return the resulting research to community organizations for their use in advocacy, planning, and other initiatives.

We anticipate the project will build FOKM and KMBIA's capacity to direct and use research, articulate their concerns to varied audiences, and help extend their networks to other similarly-placed advocacy organizations both locally and nationally.

Our goals

- Grow a reciprocal relationship with many aspects of KM community
- Learn how to make research useful to communities
- Train graduate students in ethnography, community engaged research, urban issues

Tools

- In-person observation of social life (pre-, post-lockdown)
- Interviews
- Oral history
- Photographs
- Recordings

- All governed by ethics protocol, signed consent forms, etc.

Outputs

- Driven by KMBIA and FOKM interests and needs
- Narratives
- Public presentations
- Podcast
- Websites
- Short films
- Academic articles

What's happening now

- COVID-19 lockdown – no in-person research
- Ethics application
- Following current events, social media re: the Market
- Consulting with KMBIA, FOKM
- Hiring graduate student researchers

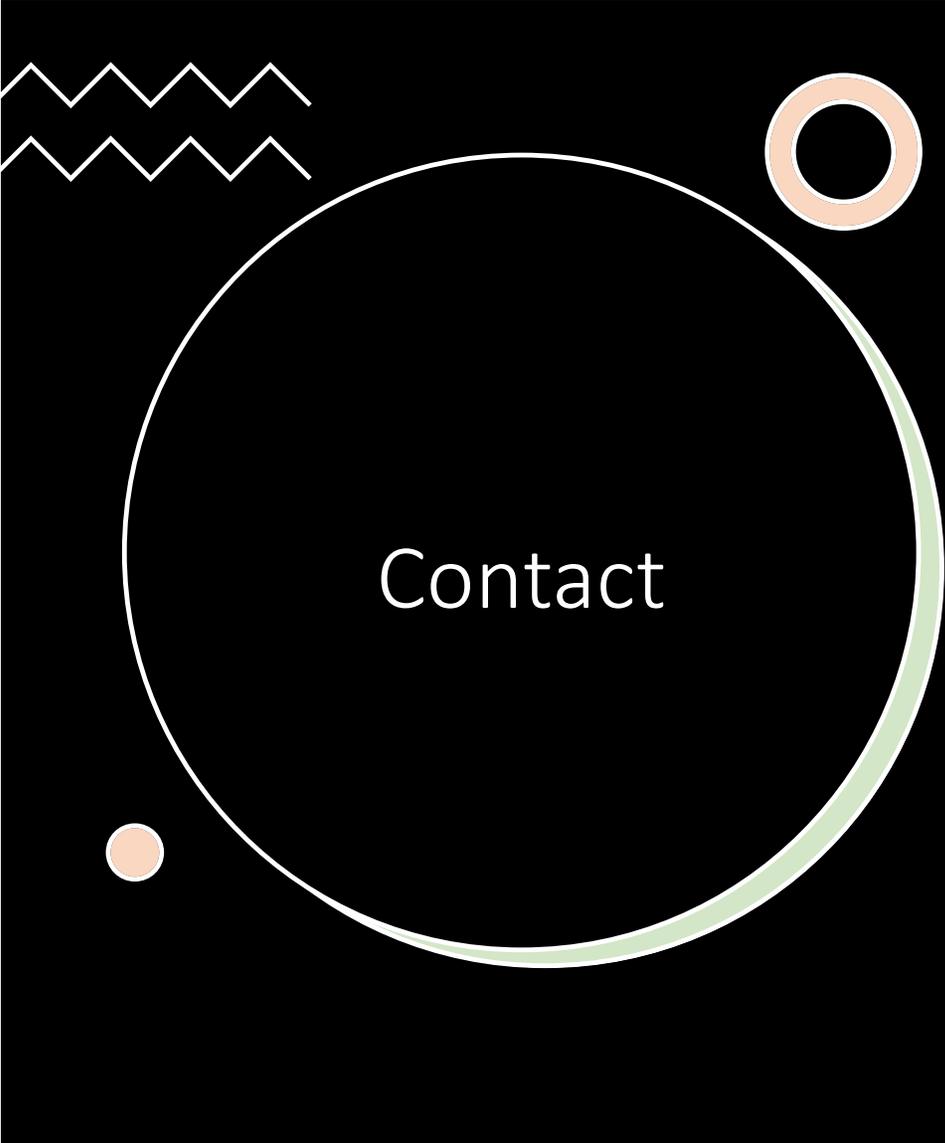
What's coming

2021:

- Decide on research topics with KMBIA, FOKM
- Interviews & observations online and/or in-person (if allowed)

• 2022:

- Decide on research outputs with KMBIA, FOKM
- Create research outputs



Contact

- Farzaneh.Hemmasi@utoronto.ca
- Andrew.gilbert@utoronto.ca

