Thomas Calkins III
Assistant professor
Department of Arts and Culture Studies
Type of address: Visiting address.
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Email: calkins@eshcc.eur.nl



Research interests

Thomas Calkins (1980) is a lecturer at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Arts and Culture Studies department. He earned his BA (Magna Cum Laude), MA, and PhD in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
He was awarded the 2019 Graduate Student Paper award from the UW-Milwaukee Sociology department for his publication in City & Community entitled "More Than Sound: Record Stores in Majority Black Neighborhoods in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Detroit, 1970 – 2010".
He has published in a number of academic areas including: cultural sociology, sociology of culture, urban sociology, education, cultural and creative industries, and popular music. These publications appear in *Poetics, Cultural Trends, Empirical Study of the Arts, City, and Culture and Society*, among others.
Along with colleagues both in and outside of Erasmus, he has produced professional reports in the areas of music management, fair-pay for artists, cultural heritage, and matters facing musicians in popular music (AI adoption, mental health and well-being).
He uses quantitative, qualitative, GIS, and mixed methods to explore the linkages between cultural expression and wider society.

Employment

Assistant professor
Department of Arts and Culture Studies
Erasmus University Rotterdam
1 Oct 2026 → present

Research outputs

'The real win is doing this for a living': Routes, routines and rewards of music managers
Calkins, T., Wijngaarden, Y., Berkers, P. & Liu, B., 7 Aug 2026, (E-pub ahead of print) In: DIY, Alternatives Cultures, & Society. 19 p.

Bridging nodes: How race/ethnicity affects the breadth of cultural tastes
Calkins, T., Schaap, J. & Berghman, M., 1 Apr 2026, In: Poetics. Journal of Empirical Research on Culture, the Media and the Arts(online). 115–116, 14 p., 102091.

ARTIESTEN MONITOR 2025: Een onderzoeksrapport in samenwerking met BAM! Popauteurs.
Wijngaarden, Y., Calkins, T., Berkers, P., Thompson, D. & Molema, A., 17 Jan 2026, 33 p.

From host to guest settings: how the music festival has changed over time
Calkins, T. & Swartjes, B., 23 Oct 2025, (E-pub ahead of print) In: Cultural Trends. 19 p.

How institutional leaders see higher popular music education in Europe: An empirical scoping of the field
Coppes, W., Calkins III, T. & Berkers, P., 1 Sept 2025, In: Journal of Popular Music Education. 9, 3, p. 273-295 23 p.

FAIR POP PILOT: Op weg naar fair pay voor liveoptredens
Berkers, P., Kimenai, F. & Calkins, T., Mar 2025, RPMS. 32 p.

Signals and noise: How higher music education institutions define popular music
Calkins, T., Coppes, W. & Berkers, P., 2025, In: Research Studies in Music Education. 47, 3, p. 352-368 17 p.

Discoverability of Diverse European Content – Cultural Heritage
Calkins, T., Berkers, P. & Navarrete Hernandez, T., 1 Oct 2024

Urban Memory and Forgetting
Calkins, T., 1 Oct 2024, (Accepted/In press) *Oxford Handbook of Urban Sociology*. (Oxford Handbooks).

Music Management in Europe: 2023 Report
Calkins III, T., Berkers, P., Wijngaarden, Y. & Kimenai, F., 16 Jan 2024, 66 p.

The female nude and the naked guy: declarative and nondeclarative personal culture in aesthetic responses to artistic nude photography
Berghman, M., Calkins, T., van Eijck, K. & Her, Y. C., Dec 2023, In: American Journal of Cultural Sociology. 11, 4, p. 419-443 25 p.

Race, music, and technological change: The shifting music retail landscape of Milwaukee county, 1970–2010
Calkins, T., Sept 2023, In: City, Culture and Society. 34, 100534.

AP 1 Mapping Report
Calkins, T., Kirby, B., Berkers, P. & Navarrete Hernandez, T., 2023, 21 p.

Gender differences in live music on Dutch stages.
Calkins III, T., Berghman, M., Schaap, J. & Mulder, M., 2023.

Attractive People Make Better Music? How Gender and Perceived Attractiveness Affect the Evaluation of Electronic Dance Music Artists
Schaap, J., Berghman, M. & Calkins, T., 15 Aug 2022, In: Empirical Studies of the Arts. 41, 1, p. 284-303 20 p.

More than Sound: Record Stores in Majority Black Neighborhoods in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Detroit, 1970–2010
Calkins, T., 1 Sept 2019, In: City and Community. 18, 3, p. 853-873 21 p.

Grooves in the Landscape: Vanished and Persistent Record Stores in the Post-Industrial City
Calkins, T., 1 Jun 2018, 212 p.

Activities

What musicians do all day? Results from the artist monitor 2025.
Calkins III, T. (Speaker), Wijngaarden, Y. (Speaker), Berkers, P. (Speaker) & Thompson, D. (Speaker)
26 May 2026

EPJ Data Science (Journal)
Calkins III, T. (Reviewer)
1 May 2026 → …

The mental health and well-being of musicians in the Dutch popular music sector: findings from the Artiesten Monitor 2025.
Calkins III, T. (Speaker) & Berkers, P. (Speaker)
9 Apr 2026

Bridging Nodes: How Race/Ethnicity Affects the Breadth of Cultural Tastes
Calkins III, T. (Speaker), Schaap, J. (Speaker) & Berghman, M. (Speaker)
9 Aug 2025

Live aid: The social impact and financial implications of fair pay for live concerts
Berkers, P. (Speaker), Kimenai, F. (Speaker) & Calkins III, T. (Speaker)
26 Jun 2025

Urban Inequality and Festivalization.
Calkins III, T. (Speaker) & Swartjes, B. (Speaker)
19 Jun 2025

Review of Education (Journal)
Calkins III, T. (Reviewer)
1 Jan 2025 → 1 Mar 2026

Bachelor Graduation Project Taskforce
Calkins III, T. (Participant), Gusc, I. (Participant), Nguyen, S. (Participant) & de Vogel, J. (Participant)
23 Nov 2024 → 1 Sept 2026

Music Festivals and the City: How Festivalisation is Shaped by Urban Inequalities
Swartjes, B. (Speaker) & Calkins III, T. (Speaker)
25 Jun 2024

Race and the Breadth of Cultural Tastes
Calkins III, T. (Speaker), Berghman, M. (Speaker) & Schaap, J. (Speaker)
17 Jun 2024

What Music Managers Do All Day.
Calkins III, T. (Speaker), Liu, B. (Speaker), Polak, N. (Speaker), Berkers, P. (Speaker) & Wijngaarden, Y. (Speaker)
17 Jun 2024

Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication (Organisational unit)
Calkins III, T. (Member)
1 Oct 2023 → 1 Mar 2026

Gender differences in live music on Dutch stages
Calkins III, T. (Speaker), Berghman, M. (Speaker), Schaap, J. (Speaker) & Mulder, M. (Speaker)
25 May 2023

Newcomer: Popular Music Education's Definition and Aims
Calkins III, T. (Speaker)
26 Sept 2022

The Shifting Landscape of Musical Production and Consumption in Milwaukee and Rotterdam, 1970-2020.
Calkins III, T. (Speaker)
16 Jul 2022

Attractive people make better music? How gender and perceived attractiveness affect the evaluation of electronic dance music artists.
Schaap, J. (Speaker), Calkins III, T. (Speaker) & Berghman, M. (Speaker)
15 Jul 2022

Crossing the (Erasmus) bridge: how music festivals reproduce or breach social and spatial boundaries in Rotterdam
Swartjes, B. (Speaker) & Calkins III, T. (Speaker)
14 Jul 2022

Definitely, Maybe: How Higher Music Education Institutions Define Popular Music
Calkins III, T. (Speaker), Coppes, W. (Speaker) & Berkers, P. (Speaker)
4 Nov 2021

Bridging Nodes: Arts Instruction, Parental Education, and Omnivorous Consumption
Calkins III, T. (Speaker)
3 Nov 2021

Sounds from the Street: Urban Inequality and Record Store Foundings, Milwaukee 1970-2010.
Calkins III, T. (Speaker)
3 Nov 2021

How Gender and Perceived Attractiveness Affect the Evaluation and Classification of Electronic Dance Music Artists
Schaap, J. (Speaker), Berghman, M. (Speaker) & Calkins III, T. (Speaker)
10 Jun 2021

Journal of Consumer Culture (Journal)
Calkins III, T. (Reviewer)
1 Jan 2021 → 31 Dec 2024

Journal of Consumer Culture (Journal)
Calkins III, T. (Reviewer)
1 Jan 2020 → 1 Jan 2023

It's a Thin Line: Record Stores, Consumption, and Production in the City
Calkins III, T. (Speaker)
1 Dec 2019

Shifting Record Store Landscape of Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee, 1920-2010
Calkins III, T. (Speaker)
15 Dec 2016

F1000 Research (Journal)
Calkins III, T. (Reviewer)
2000

Press/Media

Interview with Austrian Public Radio on Music and Digitization
Calkins III, T.
10/03/26
1 Media contribution