

CfP: Emerging Paradigms: New Methodologies in Word and Music Studies  
Aarhus University, Denmark, November 13-15, 2014

The Word and Music Association Forum (WMAF) offers emerging scholars – mainly graduate students and postdocs – opportunities to present papers and to participate in a network of scholars who share an interest in word and music studies. WMAF was founded in 2009 under the auspices of the International Association for Word and Music Studies (WMA). The central event of the Forum is a biennial conference, held in alternating years with the WMA international conferences. We are pleased to welcome Sybille Krämer (Professor of Philosophy, Freie Universität Berlin) and Lawrence Zbikowski, (Associate Professor of Music and the Humanities, University of Chicago) as the conference's two keynote speakers.

The third biennial conference of the WMA Forum, "Emerging Paradigms: New Methodologies in Word and Music Studies," will be held at Aarhus University, Denmark, November 13-15, 2014.

As a field of study, the question of the relation of words and music naturally places itself within the general fields of interarts and intermediality studies. The coining of the notion of "intermediality" is linked to the fact that the theoretical field has undergone a broadening from a concern with the relation between art forms – to the inclusion of communication forms that do not necessarily categorize as "art" and therefore call for the overall term "medium." This may have epistemological implications; parallel to the way in which the use of concepts such as "art" or "the work" risk seeming exclusive or normative, the concept of "medium" lacks an established definition and is often very broadly applied – the broadest definition being perhaps Marshall McLuhan's idea that "medium" amounts to all "extensions of man."

The study of words and music, as any inherently interdisciplinary research field, is thus characterized by a methodological multitude, where the choice of research paradigm influences the condition of the analysis in a tangible way. For instance, the study of words and/or music as "art works" is likely to limit the empirical scope to canonized/"classical" works and, as a consequence, requires the analytical object to be written representation rather than sounding performance.

From another perspective, intersensory approaches, especially towards soundscapes, has received an increasing interest within the aesthetic investigations of atmospheres (Böhme). This is just one example of a proliferation of approaches that supersede traditional academic borders and which would also include, for instance, Affect Theory, Sound Studies and a more general metareflection on the interdisciplinary condition of analysis in Cultural Studies (Mieke Bal et al.). Overall it seems obvious that insights developed in continuation of such paradigms will be able to serve as a basis for further developing of the methods used in word and music studies.

This conference thus aims to explore the rich field of current and upcoming methods and methodological problems connected to the study of words and music. We wish, in this sense, to "revisit" the research field and to take advantage of its diversity and productivity by examining possible new theoretical and methodological paths. Many basic problems of great relevance to the field have not yet been properly defined or do not exemplify the problems of analyzing words and music as a performative practice (i.e. moving beyond written representation). The ambition of the conference is, through discussion of different and dynamic approaches, to take a step towards establishing comprehensive and updated methodologies.

Paper proposals should be focused on theoretical and methodological questions, reflected in relation to specific sub-topics. As this will take place in a forum for emerging scholars we also welcome work-in-progress. All paper proposals should be of interdisciplinary interest.

Paper topics include, but are not limited to:

- Travelling concepts in word and music studies. Are there terms, tools or conceptual breakthroughs in one discipline that might fruitfully be applied to another?
- Words and musicality: Words are within literary language often described or referred to as musical as well as music is discussed in terms of its ability to 'speak'. How could such intermedial qualities be palpably described in analysis?
- Affect and feeling in word and music studies: How can affective analysis be productive in word and music studies?
- Literacy versus orality – visuality versus aurality: What are the theoretical and methodological implications of investigating words and music as texts as opposed to performances?
- Word and Music- and Sound Studies: What are the theoretical and methodological implications of examining words and music as ephemeral sound in time? Can words and music be informed by the interdisciplinary approach of Sound Studies which engage with such areas as psychology, anthropology, cultural studies, etc.?
- Word and music studies in relation to semiotics and cognitive semiotics
- Differing positions between national critical traditions

### **Confirmed Keynote Speakers:**

Sybille Krämer, Professor of Philosophy, Freie Universität Berlin

Lawrence Zbikowski, Associate Professor of Music and the Humanities, Department of Music and Deputy Provost for the Arts at the University of Chicago

Please submit abstracts of ca. 300 words plus a brief biographical statement (ca. 50 words) to [wmaf2014.arts@au.dk](mailto:wmaf2014.arts@au.dk) by August 1, 2014. Check our website at: <http://conferences.au.dk/wmaf2014/>

Please note that in order to allow adequate time for discussion, papers must not exceed 20 minutes.

Since this is a conference for emerging scholars we will offer a financial contribution to travel and accommodation.

Any questions can be addressed to the conference email address: [wmaf2014.arts@au.dk](mailto:wmaf2014.arts@au.dk)

### **The conference committee at Aarhus University, Denmark:**

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### **The Word and Music Association Forum:**

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