

Call for Contributions



GFPM annual conference 2024

InterMultiTrans. Disciplinarity in Popular Music Studies

10th to 12th October 2024, Universität Freiburg

From the beginning, many disciplines have been in charge of studying popular music – cultural anthropology and cultural studies, music education, music history, systematic musicology, ethnomusicology, media studies, literary studies, sociology etc. This is reflected by the existence of international societies and, especially in German, by the plethora of terms for the field and its topics, e.g. Forschung über populäre Musik, Populärmusikforschung, popular music studies, 'Popmusicology' or Popmusikforschung.

Bearing this in mind, the 34th annual conference of the GFPM wants to discuss how disciplinarity is reflected in our research areas, what potential the various disciplines have and what methodological and institutional challenges they present. Aligned with this comes the question, what popular music studies has to offer as a kaleidoscope or a cross section of professions and disciplines, to persist in the competition for scientific sustainability, societal attention and financial resources.

In the hyperbolic buzzword *InterMultiTrans* lies the question of inter-, multi- and transdisciplinarity of popular music research. In this respect it can be understood as an impulse to reflect on the existing tendencies in our field of research to open up and expand subject-specific perspectives and to enter into an in-depth discussion about the opportunities and challenges of academic disciplinarity.

We identify three thematic areas in this context: *InterMultiTrans* in its/their dimension of science/scientific theory, of the politics and policy of academia and of everyday academic working life.

1. *InterMultiTrans* as a Subject of Science/Scientific Theory

In addition to deep dives into the history of our field of research and looking further into a possible 'prehistory' from various disciplines, questions that affect currently relevant socio-political fields will be discussed: for example, the development and use of artificial intelligence, research related to Big Data or research in the Anthropocene or Capitalocene.

Without a doubt, the cultural turn in the humanities and social sciences has contributed significantly to making these disciplines more permeable, 'softer' and more connectable. However, it has certainly also promoted the inflation of the nomenclatures inter-, multi- and transdisciplinary. This raises the question of whether and to what extent clear boundaries can be drawn between the interdisciplinary and the transdisciplinary in research practice itself, which takes the definitions and models formulated in the field of philosophy of science into account. Likewise, the question of how many disciplines one must bring to the table in order to achieve multidisciplinary seems pressing.

2. *InterMultiTrans* as a Subject of Science Politics and Policy

As a catchword, *InterMultiTrans* accentuates a scientific culture of attention that distinguishes between 'old' and 'new' research approaches and derives characteristics of quality from them. Those who work in an 'intermultitransdisciplinary' way often receive greater attention than those who do not. However, in some disciplines and working environments 'intermultitransdisciplinary' can be interpreted negatively and can block paths.

The aspect of disciplinarity – as a specific characteristic of a discipline – concerns not only theories, methodologies and subject areas, but also aspects of science policy and university governance, such as science marketing and questions of career orientation, the denomination of professorships and the integration of study programmes into faculty structures and curricula. The distribution of committee seats and the allocation of research funds also play a role. Considering the fact that a number of the disciplines represented in popular music research are assigned to the so-called small disciplines (Portal Kleine Fächer, <https://www.kleinefaecher.de>) and are thus infrastructurally disadvantaged, the question of disciplinarity seems inscribed in the culture of our subjects.

3. *InterMultiTrans* as a Subject of Everyday Working Life

Inter-, multi- and transdisciplinarity appears as an ambivalent professional and career factor: on the one hand, corresponding approaches are welcomed and promoted, on the other hand, researchers also experience institutional and personal resistance when they want to expand or overcome the boundaries of their discipline and come into conflict with 'research traditions'.

These everyday negotiations, which can be perceived as problematic, will also be given space at the conference within the framework of workshops and discussions. Researchers are invited to share their experiences in and with various institutions. In addition to success stories, diverse problems that such research can involve will also be addressed.

Possible topics in keywords:

- More discipline, please! – Why talking about disciplines is necessary and makes sense
- Beyond subject boundaries – hurdles and limits of disciplinarity
- Subject, discipline, research area, faculty – Institutionalised disciplinarity
- From archaeology to AI research – research fields of popular music research
- Teaching *disciplinarity at university, college and school
- Socio-political dimensions of *disciplinarity
- 1, 2, 3, many – challenges of multidisciplinarity
- Trans, from where, to where and when? – Starting points and goals of transdisciplinary research
- 'Lebenswelt', practice, problems – Social implications of transdisciplinary research approaches
- The disciplines and the (interested) public – Science communication
- The history of *disciplinarity in popular music research
- Innovation in research and its interplay with *disciplinarity
- Research in the 'core areas' of the disciplines 'in times' of *InterMultiTrans*
- 'Fundamental research or community project?' Possible misconceptions and misunderstandings in talking about *disciplinarity.
- *InterMultiTrans* as promoter or inhibitor of careers and funding

- Research networks and cooperations and their disciplinary challenges
- *InterMultiTrans* and hierarchies in the global research context
- *InterMultiTrans* as a promotional category in academia
- Citizen Science and *disciplinarity

Diverse contributions are welcome

The conference is intended to offer a diverse exchange across the three thematic areas outlined above. In addition to traditional formats such as lectures and panel discussions, contributions in less established formats such as workshop and practical formats or hybrid contributions with theoretical and practical components (e.g. audio papers, film screenings, performances, lecture-performances, simulations, etc.) are also welcome. In the case of such an individual format, we ask you to indicate your requirements (time, space, technology) in advance. As always, members of the GFPM (and those who would like to become members) are also invited to present their work in free contributions (please make a note of this in the abstract).

Please submit **contribution proposals** (individual presentations: 30 min + 15 min discussion; panels and workshop/practice formats: 90 min) by **16 February 2024** in the form of an **anonymised abstract** of no more than 300 words plus bibliography as a Word document via email to the address gfpm2024@zpkm.uni-freiburg.de in German or English. Please also include a **short biography** (max. 80 words). Proposals submitted by the deadline will be decided upon in an anonymous peer-review process with reviewers from the Board of the GFPM and the local organisers by 28 March 2024.

The GFPM awards travel support to members in early career stages and/or precarious/non-employment situations to enable them to attend the conference. Further information on this will follow via the GFPM newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact the team at gfpm2024@zpkm.uni-freiburg.de.

Local Organising Team and participating institutes

Prof. Dr. Thade Buchborn, Prof. Dr. Dr. Michael Fischer, PD Dr. Knut Holtsträter, PD Dr. Christofer Jost, Laura Marie Steinhaus MA, Prof. Dr. Konstantin Voigt

Zentrum für Populäre Kultur und Musik, Institut für Medienkulturwissenschaft, Institut für Empirische Kulturwissenschaft, Musikwissenschaftliches Seminar (all Universität Freiburg) and the Hochschule für Musik Freiburg