



Call for Proposals: 6th Annual ICCM Student Research Symposium, in partnership with Sound Sense

Positionality; Role of the researcher in community music

Date: Monday 6th (12:00 – 17:00) and Tuesday 7th (09:00 – 16:30), December 2021

Venue: York St John University, Lord Mayors Walk, York, YO31 7EX

Building on the thematic threads emerging from the 5th Student Research Symposium *Critique, not Criticism: why we ask the questions we ask*, the 6th annual International Centre for Community Music Student Research Symposium will focus on the theme of *Positionality*. The positionality we hold plays a vital role in framing our understanding and outlook on the world in which we live in. Influenced by the broader social, cultural and political contexts we come in contact with daily, our positionality holds our beliefs and potential biases at its core. As researchers and practitioners in community music, we must understand the influence our positionality may have on the environments that we are working or researching within. The position that we take can affect the scope of our research, the questions we ask, the methodology we chose to employ, and how we work with participants. This year's symposium theme will provide a frame in which to explore the positioning role of the community musician, as practitioners and researchers, asking questions which might include but will not be limited to:

- What effect does the defining and enacting of our role as community musicians have within our respective contexts?
- How can we critically evaluate our positionality, taking into account the specific social, environmental and political parameters within which we operate?
- How does our definition and enactment of our position as practitioners and researchers affect, for example, our use of language and communication, and ultimately impact the scope and foci of our research?

As community music continues to grow as a global academic field, it is imperative that within our respective contexts, we engage in critical analysis of our positionality, understanding who

we are in our particular roles, and the different angles we use through which to interpret our individual experiences.

We invite students and recent graduates of all stages to join us in offering discussions around the themes of *Positionality* within their specific area of interest and with respect to the key questions above. We intend that through these themes, this year's Student Symposium will enable a lively and encouraging discourse that goes deeper than the short 'question and answer' sessions that often follow symposium contributions. This two-day event will create space for critical and focused discussion around the key themes, within a supportive community of practice.

The call for contributions for this year's Student Symposium will be open until June 30th, 2021 but places are limited and we advise early submission. Alongside 15-minute presentations, we also welcome alternative formats where appropriate. Please do get in touch with us if you would like to discuss the format of your contribution prior to submitting. Presenters from the symposium will be invited to submit a completed article to a special edition of *Transform: New Voices in Community Music Research* early-career journal.

How to submit

Submissions should adhere to the following format: A single Word document containing an abstract of 300 words; 6 Keywords; short biography (150 words); institutional affiliation and current student/graduate status. **Conference presenters will be notified by 21st July 2021.**

Symposium fee

The conference fee is £50 (including refreshments on both days and lunch on the second day). Conference registration and further information on the conference may be obtained from the ICCM website found at <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/iccm/>.

For any other information and to submit an abstract, please contact iccm@yorksj.ac.uk

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