

The Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, investigates the attentional, cognitive, and affective mechanisms of aesthetic perception and evaluation.

The department of music invites applications for a

**Postdoctoral Fellowship on the research project:
Sonic-Social Genre?: Towards Multimodal Computational Music Genre Modelling**

The postdoctoral fellow will work on an interdisciplinary research project focused on new approaches to analysing and modelling music genres located between informatics engineering, musicology, and music anthropology and sociology. The study addresses the lack of an adequate theory of genre in existing approaches to music genre recognition through interdisciplinary collaborations between MIR, musicology, and music anthropology and sociology.

The position will be jointly supervised by three PIs: Associate Prof. Bob Sturm (KTH, Stockholm), Prof. Georgina Born (University College London), and Prof. Melanie Wald-Fuhrmann (MPIEA). The research project forms part of the ERC-funded research programme 'Music and Artificial Intelligence: Building Critical Interdisciplinary Studies' (or MusAI, 2021-26), directed by Prof. Born. It also relates closely to Associate Prof. Sturm's ERC-funded research program, 'Music at the Frontiers of Artificial Creativity and Criticism' (or MUSAiC, 2020-25 <https://musaiclab.wordpress.com>) and to research around music aesthetics and genre-based musical tastes at the music department of the MPIEA

Together the team will examine in what ways current humanistic approaches to conceptualising genre in music are and are not compatible with current computational models, and will attempt to develop new computational approaches. A central challenge is to find innovative ways to translate the social and cultural aspects of genre computationally while, in contrast to previous approaches, not rendering them 'external' to computation and resisting their reduction to quantification.

The intended tasks and outcomes of the position, for which the postdoctoral candidate will share responsibility with the PIs, include:

- An updated survey of current computational approaches around the subject of music genre (see Sturm, "A survey of evaluation in music genre recognition," in *Adaptive Multimedia Retrieval: Semantics, Context, and Adaptation* (Nürnberger et al. eds.), vol. LNCS 8382, pp. 29–66, Oct. 2014);
- A survey of current humanistic research on, and theories of, music genre (see, for example, Brackett, 'Introduction' to *Categorizing Sound: Genre and Twentieth-Century Popular Music*, California, 2016); followed by an attempt to bring them into interdisciplinary dialogue with current computational approaches;
- On the basis of 1. and 2., focused, in-depth studies of two contrasting musical genres (e.g., Morris dancing, Scandinavian Metal) utilising and expanding upon existing computational and humanistic frameworks, as outlined in the Short Description;
- Producing conference papers, journal articles, website contributions and software repositories;
- Organizing several workshops involving other project team members and experts from the MPIEA, MusAI and MUSAiC.

The successful applicant should have skills and experience in computer science/informatics engineering/Music Information Retrieval and in sociological or anthropological approaches to

music. A doctorate is acceptable in either area of competency, but there should also be a track record of work on the other side. Experience of, and interest in developing, interdisciplinary approaches to music research is therefore necessary. Applicants may also have some knowledge of or interest in popular music studies, cultural and media theories applied to music, and/or humanistic theories of genre.

We offer an exciting interdisciplinary field of engagement in an international scientific environment. The Institute is located in an attractive location with excellent infrastructure in Frankfurt's Westend neighborhood. You can expect a modern, well-equipped workplace with flexible working hours (some remote working is possible).

The position will begin on October 1, 2022 and is initially limited to 2 years. Salary is paid in accordance with the collective agreement for the public sector (TVöD Bund), according to your qualifications and experience.

The Max Planck Society strives for gender equality and diversity. We are also committed to increasing the number of individuals with disabilities in our workforce. Therefore, applicants of all backgrounds are welcome.

Your application should include: your detailed CV (including details of your educational background and skills); a cover letter that explains why this position interests you and interdisciplinary credentials should be explained in some detail; copies of relevant degrees and/or certificates; up to two relevant publications.

Please send these materials all together in a single PDF file, **before April 18, 2022**, by e-mail to job@ae.mpg.de using the code "**Postdoc Sonic-Social Genre**" in the subject line.