

UNESCO Chair on Transcultural Music Studies



Weimar

University of Music FRANZ
LISZT Weimar / Friedrich
Schiller University
Department of Musicology

Department of Musicology – the Chair for Transcultural Music Studies manages and coordinates the UNESCO Chair at the University of Music FRANZ LISZT Weimar in cooperation with the Friedrich Schiller University Jena. Since 2009, the Chair promotes cultural diversity within and beyond the university by means of applied research projects worldwide and of the organization of international concerts, student excursions and symposia. It initiated the Afghan Music Research Center in cooperation with several German and Afghan partners.



Prof. Dr. Tiago de Oliveira Pinto

Prof. Tiago pursues an approach to music that strives to link research, fieldwork, teaching, artistic practice and their impact on society. His transcultural understanding of music transcends historic and geographic boundaries by highlighting its potential to connect humans beyond cultural contexts and backgrounds. Prof. Tiago has conducted field work in Brazil, Portugal, Turkey, South-East Asia and Africa. Since 2013 he composes the committee of experts on Intangible Cultural Heritage of the German UNESCO.

www.hfm-weimar.de/transcultural-music-studies



Musical Heritage as Resource for Cultural Sustainability



Transcultural Music Studies: Applied Collaborative Research on Music

MUSIC RESEARCH, PRACTICE AND COLLABORATION TOWARDS THE VALUATION OF HERITAGE CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

The general domain of the Chair is Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) with focus on music research within and across specific social, historical and cultural settings. Musical practices are considered as social phenomena to be studied in any geographical and socioeconomic environment. Its transcultural approach emphasizes the plurality and interweaving of cultures. A primary concern of the Chair is with the well-being of humans, who are regarded as music makers holding and transmitting cultural knowledge. The Chair pursues the notion that sustainable development embraces cultural outputs, since only by recognizing the interdependency between ecological, social, economic and cultural sustainability can the economy upon which a society relies be fully secured.

Research focus

With the notion of ICH, communities are empowered to decide on their cultural heritage. Investigating music in the

context of and in collaborative interaction with communities fosters a renewal of methodological approaches in musicological investigation. Some of the questions regarding music research in the domain of ICH are:

- How can the UNESCO Convention's definition of ICH be fully comprehended through applied academic research?
- How can research assist communities surrounding the safeguarding of ICH?
- What methods are best suited to understand intergenerational transmission in music?
- How can intergenerational transmission be studied and reinforced for the benefit of communities?
- Which mechanisms can help sustaining communities by means of musical performance and teaching?

Almost 70 % of the entries of UNESCO's Representative List of ICH is related to musical traditions or linked to music. To encourage and develop investigations on music as ICH is one of the main goals of the Chair. This can lead to an approach that no longer detaches historical from anthropological music research. This is why the Chair's research links popular and contemporary urban cultures as well as worldwide historical and artistic manifestations related to music.

International Cooperation

The Chair implements projects in different national and regional contexts in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The aim is to support North-South-South and South-South dialogues in connection with ICH and to delineate a South-South axis in ICH documentation, music research and transnational academic exchange, always within the framework of specific applied projects. With these activities, the Chair aims to bind "the power of culture for sustainable development and peace in a context of regional integration". Selected objectives are to:

- Connect local musical traditions to initiatives of sustainable development
- Foster exchange programs with institutions of higher education to deepen international research cooperation
- Become a "think tank" and knowledge hub worldwide in the field of Transcultural Music Studies and applied cultural research
- Provide distance learning and e-learning courses promoting access to information and knowledge
- Elaborate special curricula for academic institutions abroad. This capacity building effort will be based on courses in lifelong learning.

Collaborative Projects

The UNESCO Chair on Transcultural Music Studies carries out collaborative research projects in partnership with institutions in different countries. The projects relate to inventories and field work on different musical genres; to the support of local initiatives regarding music as ICH; establishment of curricula and research programs on ICH; production of documentary films and educational materials; exchange of scholars, students and artists; implementation of cultural archives; and to the support of local personal infrastructures by means of capacity building and distance learning.

