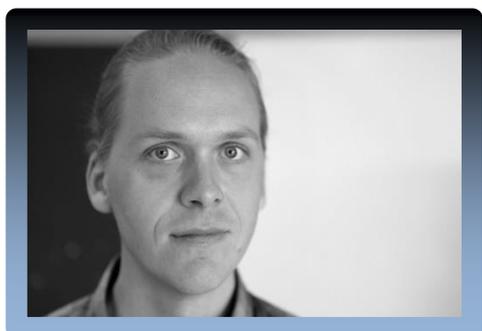


Seminar Series

Topics in the Aesthetics of Music and Sound

Thursday, April 30, 2015

3:15-5 p.m. in Meeting Room Comenius



Preliminary Insights from a Qualitative Study of Digital Music Formats at the Intersection of Downloading and Streaming-based Music Use

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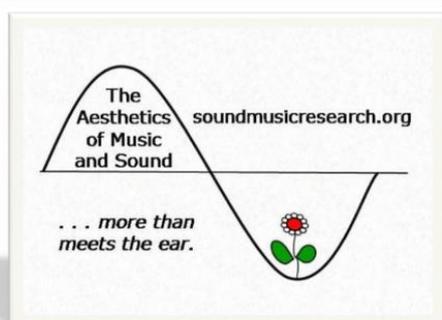
Abstract: I would like to share some preliminary insights from my on-going qualitative study of the everyday uses of immaterial music formats, specifically compressed audio files and audio streams. Therefore I will attempt to answer my overall research question: How do young Danish users, professional creators and distributors of music use immaterial music formats at the intersection of downloading and streaming?

Answers to my research question are based on semi-structured interviews with 30 respondents with regard to three core concerns:



1. Technical understanding of the format – from platform (pc, smartphone etc.) through software (iTunes, Spotify etc.) on to digital files (mp3, flac etc.)
 - E.g. what do the three groups of users use and why?
2. Perceived sound quality of the user interface
 - E.g. what meaning does sound quality have for the three groups' uses of music files and streaming?
3. The potentials of music formats (affordances and multimodality) in everyday use
 - E.g. how does music files and streaming function for the three groups?

The project aims to offer a sociocultural and qualitative contribution to the burgeoning understanding of the influence of ubiquitous mobile units and digital music formats on music use. My approach is motivated by the high penetration of downloading and streaming behaviours among Danish media users and the scarcity of sound empirical evidence of what this entails in an empirical as well as a theoretical sense.



- Cross-Disciplinary Interplay between the Humanities, Technology and Musical Practice
- Backdrop for the SDU-IKV Research Program



**All are welcome
- also via
Skype**