

Seminar Series

Topics in the Aesthetics of Music and Sound

Thursday, February 26, 2015

3:15-5 p.m. in Room 94, SDU Conference Section



Too Old to Raise the Horns? Getting Older on the Metal Scene and the Politics of Intentionality: A Case Study of Second Generation Norwegian Black Metal Bands

Karl Spracklen is a Professor of Leisure Studies at Leeds Beckett University, UK. He is the Editor of *Metal Music Studies* and the Secretary of the International Society for Metal Music Studies. He has extensive research interests around leisure spaces and leisure identities, and has contributed to debates around leisure theory. He has over seventy publications, including three research monographs, the most recent of which is *Whiteness and Leisure* (2013), published by Palgrave Macmillan. **Via Skype.**

Abstract: In the sociology of leisure, popular music can be identified as a site of intentionality, where identity is performed and negotiated in the social and cultural spheres. This intentionality is visible in the discourses surrounding authenticity and belonging in extreme metal. Scholars in the sociology of leisure and the sociology of popular music recognise the challenge to such intentionality by the biological fact of age. In this seminar, I will explore how key bands of the second generation of black metal (the 'Norwegian scene') have maintained or repudiated their misanthropic, Satanic beliefs and their original, dissonant style. I will examine published interviews with representatives of Burzum, Darkthrone, Enslaved, Immortal, Mayhem and Ulver and argue that the challenge of ageing and the conservative nature of the extreme metal scene have limited the ways in which the identities of the members of these bands have evolved. For some bands, the ageing process has led them to question the Satanic ideologies and stylings of the 1990s. For others, their authentic kult credibility is dependent on them maintaining continuity with the intentionality of their youth. This seminar will use the discussion about ageing black metal bands to make wider contributions to the sociology and politics of leisure and ageing.



• Cross-Disciplinary Interplay between the Humanities, Technology and Musical Practice

• Backdrop for the SDU-IKV Research Program

All are welcome - also via Skype