

Thursday, March 7, 2013 3:15-5 p.m. in U73

Guest lecture in the seminar series

Topics in the Aesthetics of Music and Sound

- arranged by The Aesthetics of Music and Sound – www.soundmusicresearch.org – Cross-Disciplinary Interplay between the Humanities, Technology and Musical Practice; Institute for the Study of Culture, University of Southern Denmark -

http://www.soundmusicresearch.org/seminarsspring2013.html

What Music Tells Us About Ourselves and Our Cultural Experience

Mary L. Tuck,

currently in the MA Ethnomusicology program at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.



Abstract: What is it about music that reveals to us our humanness? Why do we do what we do in our cultures? Is there a way that science and the humanities can work together to help reveal these secrets? Today, more than ever, there is awareness that multidisciplinary collaboration will help move all our fields forward. Psychology, neuroscience, anthropology, semiology (to name just a few of the fields involved) are sharing a common dialogue through music. Ethnomusicology, with a multidisciplinary approach as one of its hallmarks, uses the tools of its sister disciplines to look at ourselves at home in our cultural traditions through the lens of music.

What a community holds as sacred and how that experience is communicated and translated into our daily experience is pointing

to some potential human universals. The idea of a shared experience is at the very core of our existence and music is an immediate, creative and evolving partner to that experience. Art moves us along our evolutionary path. Today, we will look at the science in the spiritual practice of kirtan (call and response accompanied singing) to understand ourselves in both a reflective and reflexive way.

ALL ARE WELCOME! *

Audience participation via Skype is also welcome.