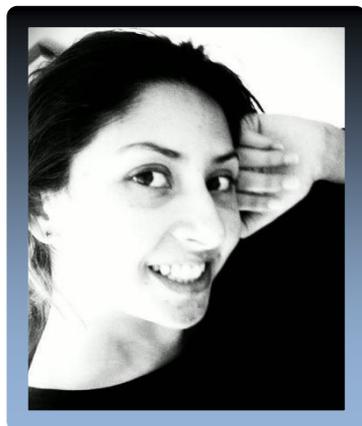


## Seminar Series

# Topics in the Aesthetics of Music and Sound

Thursday, March 13, 2014

3:15-5 p.m. in U73



## Applying Methods of Musical Interaction to the Classroom in a Multicultural Environment

**Susanne Jørgensen**, Master of Arts in Education and B.A in International Business and Modern languages

**Abstract:** Traditional teaching approaches are generally teacher directed and based upon a hierarchical power relationship between teacher and students. Today, this has been challenged by many non-traditional learning strategies that are more dialogue oriented (e.g. co-operative learning), expecting students to be more active and engaged in the classroom. Challenges still occur, however, especially in multicultural environments.

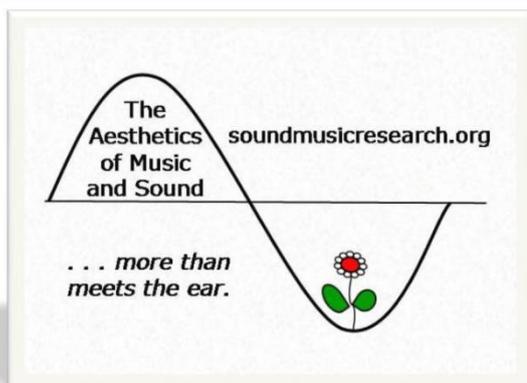
During previous work with learning strategies, I interviewed engineering students with varied cultural backgrounds in order to compare their individual learning strategies (among others, students from Vollsmose). The students often preferred working with co-students who were somewhat similar to themselves regarding time management, skills and work mentality. Instant understanding, meaning and work efficiency were top priorities. Development of meaning and understanding, across cultural backgrounds, was not.

That students prefer working with those who are similar to themselves is not new. Today, the urgent need to develop a better understanding of youngsters from Vollsmose and other areas with social challenges, is. I want to find out how modern learning strategies can encourage healthy curiosity in the classroom, without fear of misunderstandings. And that was when I thought of music.

Musical interaction requires all participants to be alert (listening to dynamics, time and rhythm) regardless of whatever part they play in a given composition or song. To the listener (and the good musician), the total experience awakens emotions, a sense of meaning and understanding. I ask if it's possible to create some sort of jazz fusion, in the classroom, where different backgrounds are the crucial instruments for success? In brief, I want to discuss the possibilities of applying methods of musical interaction to the classroom. As my point of departure, I will present the ways in which music is applied in different social contexts, with a special emphasis on Vollsmose.



**All are welcome - also via Skype**



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

