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Let's talk about music

Abigail Gardner, University of Gloucestershire

When we talk about music we talk about ourselves. When our selves are in conversation with others in new environments and we discuss music from our past that we want to extend into our futures, we are talking about the **flow** of music through our bodies and across times and spaces. This paper investigates the relationship between music, listening and memory by focusing on two projects that use **methodological tools from digital storytelling** to open up spaces for recollections of and subsequent conversations about the importance of music in individual lives.

The first project is called 'Troubling Inheritances', and the second 'Mapping the Music of Migration', is Erasmus + funded , and involves workshops across seven European countries, an audio collection and an app of case studies from migrants' stories of music. The field research draws on participatory media practices from digital storytelling that highlight how such methods offer 'opportunities for new voices to speak and be heard, an increased mutual awareness flowing from a greater influence over distribution and exhibition and the potential for **new intensities of listening**' (Dunford, 2017:313). Such stories of the musical self, of individual '**song worlds**' can reveal the affectively engaged space that echoes the therapeutic narrative revealed in confessional 'moments' (Lefebvre, 2004; Radstone, 2007). These relate to what **de Nora** (2000) calls 'priming' and 'co-presence', whereby music acts as a technology of emotion and memory and a 'device for the unfolding, the replaying and the temporal structure of the moment' (p.67). **Locational and temporal context is vital to approaching these participants' song stories** (Forman, 2002; Lefebvre, 2004) since they take 'place' in particularly charged **geographically and temporally contextualised bodies that exist within contemporary complex political 'traffic'**. The paper explores the challenges and potentials of the use of this methodology across these two spaces.

Dr Abigail Gardner is Reader in Music and Media at the University of Gloucestershire. She writes on music, gender and ageing, produces community film and media and leads digital storytelling projects. Key publications include *Ageing and Contemporary Female Musicians* (2019), *Aging and Popular Music in Europe* (2019), *PJ Harvey and Music Video Performance* (2015) and *Rock On: Women, Ageing and Popular Music* (2012, with Ros Jennings). She has led three Erasmus + European projects on digital storytelling, media literacy for migrant women and a current one on mapping music and memory, is leading a UK digital storytelling project with Age UK Gloucestershire, and using DST with GEM, an ESRC funded project. She has also produced 'In My Own Right' (Zinder and Gardner, 2019) a short doc about Cheltenham synagogue's women.

Mapping and the lure of Fixicity

Project's conceptual heritage – age/travelling/memory/co-presence/

Who working with

DST potential to MAP onto song world stories