

Aesthetic Seminar

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Reconsidering Musical Genre: Assemblage, Abstraction and Digital Terms

In the wake of recent decades' digitization, a myriad of techniques has emerged for mapping musical life, discerning patterns in sound or musico-cultural practices, and compiling labels, tags, categories, and classes on an unprecedented scale. Proliferating genre catalogs in the context of digital platforms and the conjunction of genre with notions of, for example, mood and activity are among the consequences, which challenge prevailing scene-based and identificational understandings in musical genre studies. In this presentation, I answer to this challenge by suggesting two conceptual developments. First, the concept of *musico-generic assemblage* is introduced to probe the complexity of genre formation. Specifically, the concept allows for reconsidering genres' dynamic constitution in heterogenous milieus (e.g. contexts of everyday consumption meshed with music-industrial, techno-scientific apparatuses) and their association with other 'types' of music (related musico-generic terms such as style, format, aesthetic, or mood and activity). Second, the concept of *abstraction* is considered to suggest how musical genres (and related types) form as generic categories, in part, via processes of decontextualization, which may explain the potential of categories to travel. The changing scale and pace of processes of abstraction are among the major ways in which digitization impacts current conditions of musical life.

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Kasernen

Bygning 1584, lokale 124

Alle er velkomne/All are welcome