



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

**Thursday,
September 29,
2:15-4 p.m. in U73.**

Guest lecture in the seminar
series

**Topics in the
Aesthetics of Music
and Sound,**

<http://soundmusicresearch.org/seminarsfall2011.html>.

Norms of the Performance Context **Søren R. Frimodt-Møller, PhD**



Abstract: When we engage with music, how we respond to a given piece of music (or a given performance within a genre) reflects which parts of the music have our attention in the situation. This attention is shaped by the context of the performance or listening situation. For the performer, the context of the performance, e.g. the context defined by the composition, the genre conventions, the musician's expectations regarding the preferences of the audience etc., constitutes norms that she takes into consideration when shaping her performance - norms meaning, broadly, what e.g. defines what

is "permitted", "an obligation" or "less acceptable" in the situation. For a listener, the conventions of the genre or tradition a performance appears within also shapes the default reception of the music, but in addition, factors related to the immediate environment of the music experience also shapes the listener's total music experience.

Utilizing examples from progressive rock, metal and pop, the talk will present a view of how normativity is shaped in the composer-performer-listener circuit, and how different traits of a piece of music are "made normative" in a particular context (to use the vocabulary of music philosophers Jerrold Levinson and Stephen Davies).

ALL ARE WELCOME!