

## ICTM Study Group on Global History of Music

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Historical studies of music have almost always restricted themselves to specific geographically or culturally defined areas, but music is pursued in relation to the music of other areas and cultures, resulting in a global network of cross-cultural relationships largely neglected by conventional musical historiography. The Study Group on Global History of Music aims to trace such an approach to continue this work, bringing together musicologists and ethnomusicologists in an attempt to add value to work currently underway in both disciplines, and to get out of Euro- and US-centric approaches. Additionally, it will provide a space for historical musicologists within ICTM, which would be an additional advantage.

The mission of the ICTM Study Group on Global History of Music is to encourage, promote and support scholars and performers investigating music in a global context. We are concerned not only with previously neglected musical traditions, but also with how music and related sound genres have intersected cross-culturally and become entangled with each other. The study

group will bring together researchers from around the world to share and develop their research, to contribute to the gradual shift away from a Eurocentric and nationalistic history of music towards one that meets the challenges of globalization.

On 15 March 2019, our Study-Group-in-the-Making held an international, one-day symposium on the subject “Modernization of musical traditions: Global perspectives,” hosted at the invitation of Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco at the Instituto de Etnomusicologia – Centro de Estudos em Música e Dança of the Nova University of Lisbon (figure 1). Presentations were delivered by five musicologists and seven ethnomusicologists. Although coming from different continents and countries, and representing distinct training systems, they were united by a mutual interest in the historical study of music. Particularly valuable contributions to our symposium were the three keynote papers by Nicholas Cook, David Erving, and Keith Howard.



**Figure 1.** ICTM Study-Group-in-the-Making on Global History of Music symposium. Lisbon, 2019 (photo by Razia Sultanova).

My report on the Lisbon symposium was unanimously supported by the members of the Executive Board at their 118th meeting on 10 July 2019 in Bangkok, leading to the establishment of the new ICTM Study Group on Global History of Music. The Sichuan Conservatory of Music in Chengdu, China, has invited our study group to have its first symposium online over three days in May 2021. As the main subject of the symposium is “Mobility and transcultura in music and performance in global civilizations,” we are delighted that our two keynote presentations will be delivered by Tan Sooi Beng (Universiti Sains Malaysia) and Edwin Seroussi (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem).

Executives of the study group are Razia Sultanova (UK, chair), Xiao Mei (China, vice chair), and Margaret Walker (Canada, secretary).