

IASPM Norden Newsletter 2019–2020

Dear IASPM Norden Members:

Welcome to another edition of the IASPM Norden newsletter. What follows below is the biennial newsletter for the years 2019 and 2020. The topics of the newsletter are as follows:

- 1) Updates on IASPM Norden Conference in Piteå, Sweden, 15–17 June 2020
- 2) XX Biennial IASPM Conference in Canberra, Australia, 24–28 June 2019
- 3) Alumni Symposium in Kristiansand, Norway, 5–6 December 2019
- 4) IASPM Norden’s General Meeting 2019
- 5) Updates on the IASPM Norden’s Facebook Activity
- 6) The Membership Report for 2019
- 7) Other Plans and Activities

1) IASPM Norden Conference “Music in the Age of Streaming – Nordic Perspectives,” Luleå University of Technology, Piteå, Sweden, 15–17 June 2020

The IASPM Norden 2020 conference “Music in the Age of Streaming—Nordic Perspectives” is co-organized with the research project *Evolving Bildung in the Nexus of Streaming Services, Art and Users—Spotify as a Case*, led by Cecilia Ferm-Almqvist at the Luleå University of Technology in Piteå, Sweden. The conference was initially announced for 15–17 June 2020, and the final deadline for submission of paper proposals was on 12 January 2020. The organizing committee accepted 36 paper presentations from all six continents. While the registration process started at the beginning of February, it was soon temporarily closed owing to travel restrictions related to the 2019–2020 coronavirus pandemic.

In March the organizing committee decided to go ahead with the conference regardless, and to hold the event online on the same dates. Bursaries totalling USD \$500 were allocated from the parent organization IASPM’s budget for its student members, and awarded to five participants of the IASPM Norden 2020 conference on the basis of their financial aid applications. The program of the conference will be published shortly.

2) XX Biennial IASPM Conference “Turns and Revolutions in Popular Music Studies,” School of Music, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, 24–28 June 2019

IASPM Norden had a relatively small number of its members at the twentieth Biennial IASPM Conference in Canberra. We congratulate our colleagues in IASPM-ANZ for hosting such a terrific event, and we thank them for making us feel so welcome in Australia.

One much-anticipated part of the event (at least for members of our branch) was the presentation to host the next Biennial conference in the Department of Musicology (IMV) at the University of Oslo (UiO) in 2021. The proposal had the support of IASPM Norden as well as the Departmental Board at IMV, and the presentation itself was given in Canberra by Hans T. Zeiner-Henriksen and Kyle Devine. There was one other proposal, which came from the IASPM Korea branch and which proposed Daegu, South Korea, as a host city. Those at the conference voted strongly in favor of holding the next Biennial in Daegu. There was some question at the time of whether UiO would commit to hosting in 2023, or if UiO would perhaps apply again to host, but Zeiner-Henriksen and Devine could not commit or confirm either of those ideas. The proposal to host the conference at a different time would require reapplication to and reapproval from the IMV Board.

So, we shall see. Meantime, we wish the Daegu team all the best as they make their preparations and we are very much looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in South Korea.

3) Alumni Symposium “New Perspectives in Popular Music Research,” University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway, 5–6 December 2019

The two-day alumni symposium on new perspectives in popular music research was hosted and organized by the Department of Popular Music, University of Agder (UiA), Kristiansand, Norway, on the occasion of the UiA’s tenth anniversary of doctoral program in Popular Music Performance. The IASPM Norden provided promotional support for the event and sent out a CFP in April 2019 through its usual media channels. The symposium featured 13 oral paper presentations covering a plethora of themes and issues pertinent to such diverse fields of studies as popular music production and technology, popular musicology (analyses of popular music texts), popular music studies (historical and socio-anthropological approaches), even music therapy. The largest portion of participants consisted of male doctoral candidates conducting their research at the Norwegian universities of Agder and Oslo, while the rest came from academic institutions in Finland (Turku), France (Paris and Strasbourg), and Britain (Liverpool). The uneven representation of symposium participants along gender and geographical lines can perhaps be explained by the remoteness of the symposium location (Kristiansand is indeed a secondary urban center) as well as by the dominant orientation of symposium themes that typically fall under the purview of male authority (namely, popular music production and technology). In addition to this, the symposium was opened by an inspiring keynote lecture given by Keith Negus from the Goldsmiths College, University of London, on the subject of the platformization of popular music. Anne H. Balsnes and Michael Rauhut from Agder University

held a welcome note and introduction to the event, whereas Stan Hawkins from the University of Oslo summarized its main points in the closing discussion.

4) IASPM Norden's General Meeting 2019

The IASPM Norden's General Meeting 2019 took place on 5 December 2019, in conjunction with the Alumni Symposium "New Perspectives in Popular Music Research," which was held at the University of Agder in Kristiansand, Norway. Many members from IASPM Norden presented their research. Kyle Devine from the University of Oslo replaced Hans T. Zeiner-Henriksen as the chair of IASPM Norden and Mischa van Kan replaced Sverker Hyltén-Cavallius as the Swedish representative. All other board members were re-elected.

5) Updates on the IASPM Norden's Facebook Activity

Since the last newsletter (2018–2019), we have started posting updates on recent publications to the IASPM Norden Facebook group. The postings are maintained by the board member Mikkel Vad. Members should feel free to post about any publications themselves, or can contact Mikkel who can post the info for them (either direct-message Mikkel on Facebook or contact him at vadx003@umn.edu).

Currently, we post information on publications on Nordic popular music, defined as widely as possible in terms of what constitutes "Nordic," what counts as "popular music," and the methodologies and fields of research. Significantly, this does, however, mean that publications on topics that are not "Nordic" are left out. We realise that many IASPM Norden scholars work on music from outside the Nordic region and thus we may want to revisit the criteria for selection of publications for posting to the Facebook group at some point.

We also welcome any postings of newsletters, blogs, interviews, and public musicology. Mikkel does not systematically survey or search for such news, so members that wish such material to be posted may wish to post it themselves, or contact Mikkel who can then post it (see the contact email address above).

6) The Membership Report for 2019

The full 2019 Membership Report will be presented at the next General Meeting, which we are hoping to hold during the next IASPM Norden Study Day (see below). In the meantime, we would like to remind all members to make sure their memberships are up-to-date and that their fees are paid. Full information is available [here](#).

7) Other Plans and Activities

First, we wish to invite our members to enter or update their research information in our open-access database at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1psZtphYcEXNYIyIQI-JewI3xvDEsYZPRbW8RsZxFd_g/edit#gid=1874230238. We will be sending a similar invite shortly via our IASPM-Norden Facebook group, too.

Second, we are happy to announce that the IASPM Norden statute, which is presently only available in Swedish (<https://iaspmnorden.wordpress.com/statutes/>), will finally be translated into English and posted on our official website during the summer of 2020. Speaking of the latter, we are also hoping to have the IASPM-Norden website renewed and upgraded until the beginning of the new academic year in 2020–2021.

Third, we are hoping to hold the next IASPM Norden Study Day sometime during the fall of 2020 or spring of 2021. The details will depend on how the COVID-19 crisis develops over the coming months. It is during this next Study Day that we will plan to hold our next General Meeting.

Fourth and last, the IASPM Norden board encourages dissemination of Nordic popular music scholarship at conferences in the Nordic region and beyond. Members who wish to organize panels or indeed symposia and conferences should feel free to contact the board for support and advice. The board is here for you!

Sincerely,

Kyle Devine, Chair (with previous Chair Hans T. Zeiner-Henriksen)
Jelena Gligorijevic, National Representative for Finland
Þorbjörg Daphne Hall, National Representative for Iceland
Juho Kaitajärvi-Tiekso, Secretary/Treasurer
Mischa van Kan, National Representative for Sweden
Mikkel Vad, National Representative for Denmark