

Doctoral Fellowships—Suggestion

I'm writing to suggest an idea for IMV's 3 upcoming PhD positions. The idea is to cluster them around a particular shared thematic area or problem space—something like music and climate crisis, music and the anthropocene, or music and ecology (over and above field, method, genre, or time period). I was too sheepish to raise this point during the instituttseminar because, coming from me, the suggestion could seem self-interested. Of course, I am invested in this problem space and would love to supervise on this topic. But I would also see such a cluster hire as a benefit to IMV in general.

Such a hire would enrich the research community at IMV, to have a group of people working around a shared problem from different perspectives. This hire would also be strongly aligned with Strategy 2030's emphasis on so-called sustainability. It would set a distinct agenda for the next years at IMV, in national and international contexts as well as in scholarly and public discourse. It would create lots of interesting opportunities for co-supervision and, down the road, teaching. And it would be at home in the wider HF initiatives in sustainability and the environmental humanities.

There would be several ways of approaching such a cluster hire. One would be to define the thematic area or problem space—something like music and climate crisis, music and the anthropocene, or music and ecology—and then to further focus the 3 positions in some way. An advertisement text could read as follows:

The Department of Musicology seeks to appoint 3 doctoral fellows whose research focuses on music and climate crisis. Within that focus, we seek to appoint 1 doctoral fellow whose fields of expertise include historical musicology or analysis; 1 doctoral fellow whose fields of expertise include popular music or sound studies; 1 doctoral fellow whose fields of expertise include ethnomusicology or folk music. The time period, geographic area, and precise musical genre or tradition are open.

There would of course be other ways of writing the text—including ways that would bring in music technology as well as, perhaps, some of the perspectives on time and mind pursued at RITMO (e.g. the anthropocene as a new geological time period, climate anxiety, and more). Even if the board decides not to pursue a cluster hire around music and climate crisis, devoting one of the PhD positions to this problem space would also be a desirable thing for IMV. I also think a variety of people could supervise or co-supervise such a project or projects.