

M4C DTP Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) Marketing Template

Project Title			
Identity, Engagement, and Bonds of Affect through Music			
LEAD INSTITUTION			
Name of HEI institution	De Montfort University		
Lead regional city	Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
PARTNER ORGANISATION			
Name of organisation	Leicestershire Music Education Hub		
Website URL	https://leicestershiremusic hub.org		
THE RESEARCH PROJECT			
<p>Working directly with Leicestershire Music Education Hub, and Leicester-based organisations ‘Spark Arts’ and ‘Soft Touch Arts’, this project will examine the role of music in young people, as a space and tool for achieving wider cultural value such as identity, cultural engagement, and intercultural dialogue. Whilst the link between music, cognitive attainment, and social development has been developed previously, case study research has been limited in number and coverage, and the extent of observation and measurement has been constrained by policy approaches, mono-disciplinary analysis, and by resource capabilities. In this 4-year proposal, covering the whole of Leicestershire, it is proposed that the researcher develop a new conceptual framework for examining the bonds of affect in music, which might look at diverse cognitive, social, family, and community aspects of value. Given the nature of the project, the researcher might look to develop a cross-disciplinary approach and deploy a variety of research methods.</p> <p>There are several ways in which the project might be interpreted and proceed. The setting of Leicester/shire provides an opportune space to orientate the project to aspects of inter-cultural value, cultural expression, identity, diasporic bonds etc. given Leicester’s role in immigration and as a home for refugees. Several stakeholders in the city have prioritised work on support for refugees and cultural minorities, giving supplementary opportunities for developing longer-term impact from the work, and for co-designing this and follow-on research work. Other opportunities exist for developing a young person approach to the study, in exploring the role of music in prosocial activities across the city, and as a tool for enabling wider cultural participation in the arts. Whilst the value of music has been researched previously, its impact on other aspects of cultural value, cultural engagement, and even pairings with others arts and humanities forms is till relatively unknown. The project provides an invaluable opportunity to capture data on a wide range of issues, providing primary data analysis to bring to bear on these issues.</p> <p>There are 4 areas, the project is keen to develop further, which might be framed as possible research questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>What is the role of early years’ music participation in developing cultural mindsets?</i> Whilst there is some understanding about the role of music in early years’ development, comparatively little is known about the impact of one artistic form on engagement others. 2. <i>To what extent do music preferences emerge as expressions of personal and cultural values?</i> Whilst there have been previous mono-cultural research projects on music participation and impact, this research would like to conduct a cultural comparative approach, to advance understanding about the role of music in personal value appropriation. 3. <i>What impact does music have on identity and other emotional and cognitive developments?</i> Whilst there have been existing studies on the role of music in emotional and cognitive 			

development, this research would like to develop new mechanisms for capturing wider developments and impacts, and for developing new proxies of value.

4. *What role do music communities have in promoting intercultural dialogue?* The project would like to examine the impact of the 'music hubs' as resources and spaces for wider personal, social, and community (cultural) engagement.

It is now well-accepted that music is an important part of people's lives, independent of their cultural origin and socio-economic setting. Several projects in cultural studies and music reception research have shown how music can foster bonds between people, support personal and emotional development, develop cultural mindsets, and support wider aspirations of intercultural dialogue and cultural participation. Engagement with music is also seen as a powerful means of individual development; developing a young musician's growth mindset, developing communication skills, emotions, motivation, memorisation, and even resilience. Yet, what is required is a more comprehensive understanding about why and in what circumstances these benefits develop, and what the longer-term, and wider individual and social returns are.

For example, research has shown that people use music similarly across cultures for expressing values and emotions, for social bonding, and for multiple other social functions (see Boer, 2009), which suggests a strong role for the use of music (as a tool) in cultural integration (Parncutt and Dorfer, 2011). Music has been noted as an especially rich means of understanding African culture and ethnic cultural distance (see Gilroy, 2008), which potentially reveals areas which could be further expanded to open up new avenues of inquiry on 'disaporic bonds' for refugees and for cultural minorities.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Lead HEI Supervisor:	Prof Craig Vear
Lead HEI Supervisor Email:	cvear@dmu.ac.uk