

Parallel Session

Sound City

How to integrate artistic research with societal entrepreneurship

To support our master students in contextualizing their artistic research and look beyond the edges of their personal musical development, we have been setting up the platform *Sound City** that encourages exchange and interconnection between musicians and other fields/disciplines, offers an artistic approach to societal questions/issues, and hopefully contributes to a more humane and sustainable world.

Artistic research

Much practice-based research is convergent: focusing on solutions, guided by a predetermined goal, one maps out a route, chooses a method and works linearly toward reproducible results and answers. Artistic research, however, is divergent: provoking questions, offering new angles and perhaps assumptions. It is emergent, authentic, experimental, and non-linear in nature: What is or is happening offers room for brainstorming what could be.

Socially engaged artistic research

Sound City allows our students, as autonomous artists, to explore societal disciplines with which their work engages and to exchange and compare methodologies and results.

In our approach, artistic researchers do not necessarily seek evidence, but do reflect on their ways of working, the professional field, the art discipline and/or the world around them. This leads to personal perspectives and insights shaped in an artistic way, enabling others to experience the world differently. Socially engaged artistic research then implies developing new perspectives/insights on societal issues. However, the autonomous result and artistic value in itself remain important. An experimental and auto-ethnographic research methodology is therefore required, linked to one's own artistic practice. Nevertheless, our students must be transparent, e.g. about identifying and collecting information, questioning and evaluating experiences and decisions.

Results and impact

Sound City facilitates music students in developing their societal entrepreneurship, which requires creativity, flexibility and perseverance, as well as seeing, seeking and seizing opportunities to create social value. The projects' output reveals a musical/artistic knowledge base in a societal context. An example of our Master of Music students combining music/sound art with a wellbeing issue is [Behind closed doors](#). Three projects

**AEC European Platform for Artistic Research in Music (EPARM) 2025
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are currently running: Vocal colouring & loneliness/belonging; Artistic research & community-work; Sonic performance art & identity development.

During our presentation, one of our students will share experiences.

* Sound = 1. solid, stable; 2. auditory impression



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Esther Schopman is coordinator, researcher and research coach at the “Sound City” platform. As carillonist, she is always looking for new possibilities for her

instrument, with a special interest in audience engagement/participation and care/well-being. Examples of her work are the musical series [*Far from my Bed*](#), focussing on conflict situations worldwide, and *the Carillons of Enschede in 150 SoundColours* (in progress): collaborating with local citizens and community organizations to highlight songs of all nationalities in Enschede.

Daniela Carignani is a multidisciplinary artist focused on nature-human connection, with a bachelor's degree in pop vocals. Music composition, photography, and her alter ego Φili Naturä emerged as she moved to the Netherlands and joined the ArtEZ Master of Music. Daniela's alter ego Φili is a sonic teller who embraces the spirits of ancient bards. Φili seeks to restore the human-nature connection by creating slow spaces on fast social media, inviting people into its sonic, nature portrait.