



Conference Practices – CONFRA71

Participation option: discussion-based participation

Course level: BA/MA/PHD

ECTS credits: 2

Year: 2026–27

- Period of study: One semester, autumn
- Final assessment: Reflection note
- Language of instruction: English

Course description

This joint online course focuses on academic conference practices within the field of music theory. The course offers insight into the preparation and presentation of scholarly work in a simulated conference environment. Over eight online sessions, students will engage in keynote lectures, student presentations, panel discussions, and roundtable conversations. The course promotes cross-institutional academic collaboration and supports students in developing skills essential for participating in international scholarly communities.

Course coordinators: Inkeri Jaakkola (SibA) and Ram Reuven (NMH)

Learning objectives

Upon completion of the course, it is expected that the student:

- Demonstrate specialized knowledge and critical understanding of academic conference practices within the field of music theory
- Develop and articulate complex arguments effectively, demonstrating advanced communication skills suitable for international academic discourse
- Enhance communication and networking skills pertinent to scholarly activities
- Gain insights into current research trends in music theory

Overview

The course offers a structured framework for developing and refining advanced academic presentation skills, promoting autonomy and critical engagement in scholarly activities. Through guided workshops, peer feedback, and simulated conference formats, students will articulate research ideas in a professional context. Students will engage with diverse academic perspectives through keynote lectures and collaborative discussions. The course supports cross-institutional learning and helps students build confidence in their ability to contribute meaningfully to the broader field of music theory.

Structure

The course comprises 8 weekly online sessions, each lasting 125 minutes, divided into two modules:

1. Training Module:

- Introduction to conference procedures and practices
- Guidance on abstract writing and presentation structuring
- Workshops on creating and delivering effective presentations
- Emphasis on critical analysis, synthesis of information and the application of advanced research methodologies throughout the presentation development process

2. Conference Module:

- Student presentations by presentation-based participants
- Keynote lectures by visiting scholars
- Group discussions and feedback sessions

Course requirements

1. Participation in the scheduled lessons is mandatory. Absence of more than 20% will normally lead to failure of the course
2. Participation in discussions and peer feedback
3. Submission of a reflection note (800 words).

Deadline: Course requirement 3 must be submitted no later than December 15

Final Assessment

All course requirements must be fulfilled for the student to receive a final assessment.

The final assessment is given as a pass/fail mark which is determined by the course instructor.

New Assessment

Students failing the course will have to apply to re-follow the course for a new assessment. Students may only re-follow the course if there are available places.