Motion, Emotion, Movement

*isaScience* – the scientific summer academy of the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna – took place for the fifth time in Semmering and Reichenau/Rax between the 11th and the 15th of August 2017, providing a platform for international academic exchange. The conference theme *Motion, Emotion, Movement* facilitated discussions on music as a connecting element between emotion and motion in a physical sense and socio-cultural as well as political movements. The rector Mag.a Ulrike Sych and Univ.-Prof. Johannes Meissl inaugurated the interdisciplinary discourse between artists and scholars in humanities, social sciences and cultural studies, benefitting more than 70 participants from over fourteen countries.

Twelve *isaScience* events such as lectures, panel discussions, lecture performances, keynotes, concerts, book- and film presentations took place in Semmering’s wonderful landscape. The PhD-Day was a particularly successful format of interdisciplinarity and promotion of early academics. Eight international doctoral students presented their research projects in the fields of ethnomusicology, media studies, historical musicology and music therapy and critically scrutinized the according theories of post-colonialism, gender, music aesthetics and politics. Cross commentaries by panel colleagues and the results of the final discussions added valuable inputs and new research perspectives.
The isaScience 2017 programme, entirely held in English, was shaped by the two chairs Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ursula Hemetek and Univ.-Prof. Dr. Cornelia Szabó-Knotik, a total of seven scientific institutes at mdw as well as by the from Bolivia, Turkey, India, Germany, Japan, Korea, Italy, Austria, Serbia and Puerto Rico. The panel discussions had the following themes: Musicians as Professional Emotion Managers; Gender in Motion – Fluid Gestures in Music, Performance Art, and Film; Austria 1918/1919 – Breakdown, Time of Radical Change, Ideas of Revolution and Decline; Arts Management in Motion; Voice in Theoretical Networks: The Sonic Dimension of Gender in Opera, Pop, and Traditional Music; Sensorimotor Control and Learning in Piano Performance; Music and Forced Migration; Music Therapy – Emotions with and without Motion.

The panel topics combined questions on etymology, gender, (post-)colonialism, migration, spaces for action, activism and equality, and provided points of interdisciplinary contact for further research- and discussion.

The presentation of the book: Best of isaScience, 2013-2016. An Interdisciplinary Collection of Essays on Music and Arts, was one of the celebratory highlights of isaScience 2017. For the first time, a selection of past contributions was published, depicting the vast range of disciplines, approaches and topics at isaScience. The editors Ursula Hemetek and Cornelia Szabó-Knotik, as well as the publisher Michael Hüttler (Hollitzer Verlag) and selected authors gave an insight into this musicological manifest.

Dr. Melita Šunjić held an impressive keynote at the isa Opening Ceremony with a completely different perspective on the topic Motion, Emotion, Movement. As the spokesperson and leading communications expert for the United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) she approached the academic and artistic audience with an insight into political backgrounds and 65.5 Million refugees. In the individuals’ devastating stories of forced migration, music and dance are ultimately two of the most important carriers for emotional, social and socio-political expression with the power to give hope in problematic realities.

All in all, isaScience 2017 provided a major contribution to the interdisciplinary exchange within the university as well as on an international level through the presentations and through the preliminary and succeeding informal discussions. The objective of leading an interdisciplinary dialogue was greatly fostered by the ambience of the breath taking landscape and the remoteness of the venue as well as by the participants’ engagement. With this conference format, mdw set a milestone that has reached to successfully establish itself within the international scientific community.

(30. 08. 2017: Nora Bammer, Paul Dorner)