Background: Established in 1959, the Viennese music therapy training course was one of the first of its kind in Europe. By November 2013, 435 graduates had produced around 501 theses (during the pioneer years 1959–70 every student was required to complete two papers, one empirical and one theoretical). While previous research on the history of the Viennese music therapy training course such as Joham (1999), Fitzthum (2003), and Mössler (2008) has focused on more general developments and historical aspects, a detailed study of the theses and their topics has not yet been undertaken.

Objective: This study provides a complete list of all theses with their respective research topics and methodologies. Furthermore, the theses' relevance for today's music therapy training and research is explored and discussed.

Method: As an historical research in music therapy (Wheeler, 2005) the study reviews and categorizes all 501 theses based on a set of criteria (see categories in results). In addition, it analyzes and presents the data by implementing a descriptive-statistical approach.

Conclusion: This study shows that the growing range of clinical fields covered by internships is followed by an increase of the variety of client groups studied within the diploma theses. Secondly, this study illustrates the developments in the employed research methods. While experimental setups (quantitative) were popular in the beginning, the focus shifted to psychotherapeutical case studies (qualitative) during Alfred Schmölz’ tenure as head of the training course and in more recent times students have been using a broader variety of methods. Finally, the study claims an overall increase of scientific quality regarding the theses over the years, which is also reflected in the increasing academization of the profession in general.

References

7 winners (1999–2012): Johannes Th. Eschen-Award of the German Music Therapy Association (DMThG)


Duración de la investigación: (1959–2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Research</th>
<th>Qualitative</th>
<th>Mixed Methods</th>
<th>Quantitative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

501 theses
435 alumni
7 heads
7 winners

54% male: 83%
25% female: 17%
12% others: 6%

Methodologies

- literature review
- experiment
- single case study
- survey
- triangulated research design
- document analysis
- action research
- aggregated single case study
- experiment
- survey
- triangulated research design
- document analysis
- action research
- single case study
- literature review
- experiment
- survey
- triangulated research design
- document analysis
- action research

Research Topics

- mental & physically disabled people
- neurology/intensive care unit
- physical diseases
- neonatology
- blind or deaf people

Client Groups/Disorders

- individual setting
- family setting
- group setting
- triadic setting
- different settings or no setting (theory)

Music Therapy Setting

- client groups from elsewhere: 38%
- client groups from work: 70%

Age Groups of Participants [in years]

- 0–2: 1%
- 2–5: 8%
- 5–9: 25%
- 9–13: 12%
- 13–18: 19%
- 19–60: 54%
- 60+: 1%

Duration of Research Process
November 2013 – July 2014

Duration of research process
2013–2014