

Project Abstract:

Soundscapes of Queer Cosmopolitanism: Musical Performance
and the Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Berlin

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My project concerns music and the politics of gender and sexuality. It focuses on the role of musical performance in resisting hetero-normativity through local and transnational queer activism in Berlin. In particular, I will investigate musical performance by queer artists, the soundscapes of queer urban spaces, and the role of music in queer activism through ethnographic research. Critical will be examining the relationship between gender, sexuality, racism, nationalism and globalisation; locating the intersection of transnational queer movements and local histories of gender and sexuality; and exploring the challenges, contradictions and potentials offered by queer cosmopolitanism in effecting local and global social change. As an ethnomusicologist, I will draw on scholarship at the interface of queer and postcolonial theory and pose the question: how does musical performance, through critiquing the rise of hetero-patriarchy in national-modernity, strive for global social justice through cosmopolitan queer activism?