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***Music and Urban Migration: „Musical Rights to the City“***

***Issues and Challenges in Cities and Mobilities Research***

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Cities are important points of concentration: hubs in patterns of both migration and musical creativity. But how do cities function as sonic „contact zones“ between people? What happens to people’s musical roles and choices when they end up in cities? What might be productive ways to theorize cultural mobility and the relationship between migration and music in cities? How can one comprehend both migrant creative agency and discursive (and non-discursive) practices contributing to the subjectification of migrants? Attending to approaches from ethnomusicology, sound studies and urban anthropology, this talk discusses the merits, challenges (and risks) of taking the city as an anchoring concept in music and mobilities research. Are there specific „urban epistemologies“ (ways of knowing that are specifically urban)? Are there distinctly urban „regimes of listening“? The talk draws on contrasting multi-sited fieldwork with the „floating population“ of rural-to-urban migrants in Shanghai, China; with a mobile milieu of circulating musicians on the international jazz circuit; and with musical mobilities relating to the tourist Trapp [sic!] of „World City of Music“ Salzburg itself. A focus on the three conjoined themes of music, migration and cities can prove particularly vibrant in both methodological and theoretical terms.

**Ruard Absaroka** is a Post-Doc in the Department of Music and Dance at the University of Salzburg. Born in England, he spent lengthy periods of his childhood and schooling in the Middle East, particularly in Turkey. A first degree, at Oxford University, was followed by Masters and then Doctoral Studies at the University of London (SOAS: School of Oriental and



African Studies). His AHRC-funded doctoral was on urban musical geographies and ‘Rights to the City’ in Shanghai, China. In the course of doctoral studies, he studied at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and also worked in parallel on the Leverhulme/AHRC-funded ‘Sounding Islam in China’ project. For the University of Salzburg he is a board member of the Asia-Pacific Forum and beyond this has served as a committee member for the British Forum for Ethnomusicology (BFE) and the Austrian national committee of the International Council for Traditions of Music and Dance (ICTMD-Ö). He is a contributing author to the twin Routledge and Waxmann handbooks on Music and Migration out of which this lecture series arises.

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