



SCIENTIFIC FINAL REPORT – RESEARCH NETWORKS

Registration number, Östersjöstiftelsen: **22-RN-0004**

Project manager: Ann Werner

Project title: *Contemporary post-Soviet popular music: Politics and aesthetics*

1. Purpose of the research network

The network aimed to bring together contributions currently made by scholars to studies of post-Soviet popular music's political and aesthetic meaning in the 21st century and provide Södertörn University with the possibility to be the center of knowledge production about popular music shaping a new generation of researchers in Russophone and Anglophone academia.

2. A description of the research network's activities funded by Östersjöstiftelsen

The network has used the funds given by the funding body for three things: a workshop in Mannheim 13-14 of October 2022 at Popakademie, Mannheim as planned in the application (almost all funds were spent on this), a roundtable at BASEES 2024 at the University of Glasgow as asked for when we made a request for change (conference fees for 3 attendants were covered) and to initiate a forthcoming special issue of IASPM Journal. The third outcome involves no cost for the network but was only possible because of the first two.

The workshop in 2022 involved the nine presenting researchers and a handful of interested researchers from the field participating online. The goal was to gather a small circle of people researching popular music in the post-Soviet sphere and get to know each other better. The event was hybrid to accommodate for those that could not travel. The presentations included (but were not limited to) discussions on how popular music responses to the war in Ukraine are taking form, racialization and gendering of popular music in the post-Soviet sphere and the meaning of censorship. The main outcomes of the discussions at the workshop were the panel at BASEES and the special edition of IASPM journal presented below.

During the workshop in Mannheim in October 2022 the network decided to send a proposal to BASEES conference to let a wider audience know about our work. The roundtable was accepted in the literatures and cultures stream of the conference and was titled 'The urgency of contemporary post-Soviet popular music: Politics and aesthetics'. It was a hybrid roundtable and took place at the University of Glasgow on the 31st of March 2023 in the Melville Room. David-Emil Wickström (Popakademie Baden-Württemberg) acted as chair and participants were Ann Werner (Södertörn University), Elizaveta Gaufman (University of Groningen), Ekaterina Ganskaya (University of Turin), and Ondrej Daniel (Charles University, Prague). The roundtable generated discussions on the topic by other scholars, known and unknown to the network.



3. The output from the research network, for example applications for research funding

During the workshop in Mannheim, the network participants decided on editing a special issue of a journal on the theme 'The urgency of contemporary post-Soviet popular music: Politics and aesthetics'. Ann Werner contacted *Music & Politics* and *IASPM Journal* and settled a plan with the editor in chief of the latter journal. The call for papers attracted 21 proposals in the spring of 2023 of which half were accepted. Four of those were written by participants from the workshop in Mannheim meaning that the network is expanding. The full articles are due in January 2024, the issue will be out in 2024.

Discussions of future applications were also held but so far, no applications have been submitted on this theme. However, the group is keeping in touch and collaborating in several other ways.

4. The research network's contribution to research and/or doctoral studies at Södertörn University

The workshop, conference roundtable and forthcoming journal issue will help develop research in the field of popular music studies in the post-Soviet sphere. This field will in the future hold potential for new research at Södertörn University within the Baltic and East European profile. The PI of the network, Ann Werner, has invited researchers from Södertörn University and spread the word of the work that is being done. Unfortunately, the network did not receive funding to host a conference at Södertörn University in 2024. That would have been a chance to impact the university more directly.

5. The contribution of the research network to the knowledge of the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe

The research network has furthered popular music studies focusing on the post-Soviet sphere in the contemporary time. With the special issue of IASPM journal this knowledge will be shared with the international research community focusing on popular music. The development of knowledge on popular culture in Baltic and Eastern Europe is at the centre of the networks aim and the participants will continue promoting this research.