

International Association for the Study of Popular Music, UK and Ireland Branch

**‘Music at the Edges: Peripherality in the Practices of
Popular Music’**

**University of Aberdeen
29th June – 1st July 2026**

Conference Schedule

IASPM
UK and Ireland branch



June 2026

Welcome to the 2026 IASPM UK and Ireland Branch conference! We are delighted to be welcoming you to the Northeast of Scotland for this year's event and look forward to three wonderful days sharing and discussing the amazing research we undertake as an organisation.

This year's conference is held at the University of Aberdeen's Old Aberdeen campus. We'll be based in the Taylor A building for our panel sessions and workshops, with King's Pavillion the place to gather for our morning and afternoon teas as well as lunches and our welcome reception on the Monday evening.

While campus maps to help you orientate yourself can be found [here](#), King's Pavilion is the old sports facility next to the oval just off King Street, with the Taylor A building a short walk further into the main hub of the campus. On the matter of the rooms we'll be in for our sessions, Taylor A21, A31 and A36 are on the first floor while Taylor A37 is on the second floor of the building. Nearby High Street (keep walking away from King Street and toward the gorgeous architecture of King's College) will be your go-to for caffeine should you wish to re-caffeinate beyond our meal times!

The conference comes not only at an exciting time for the IASPM UKI branch, but also during the university's graduation week. As a result, we do ask for your respect when admiring the campus architecture (particularly King's College) as much of the area will be used for graduations during this time. Please do of course have a gander (it's simply stunning), but we thank you in advance for being understanding if you are asked to move on, or are denied entry to parts of these buildings.

We also have a range of social events planned across the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings (please see your emails for more on these). As such and owing to the very social nature of IASPM gatherings we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of treating each other with kindness and respect. We ask you to please familiarise yourself with the [IASPM Code of Conduct](#) and IASPM UK & Ireland Branch's [statement on safe spaces](#) ahead of joining us for the conference.

Further on the matter of kindness and consideration, we've several attendees with us this year who have severe air borne nut allergies. As such, please refrain from consuming any nuts or nut-based products while in attendance at the conference.

So, welcome to bonnie Aberdeen. We hope ye enjoy yer bide wi us!

Dr Christina Ballico, Dr Matthew Machin-Autenreith and Dr Jo Hicks
IASPM UKI 2026 Conference organising committee
Department of Music
School of Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture
University of Aberdeen

Conference Schedule

Day/ Date/ Time	Panel 1	Panel 2	Panel 3	Panel 4
Monday June 29				
8.30 – 9.15	Registration (King’s Pavillion Main Hall)			
9.15 – 9.35	Welcome address (King’s Pavillion Main Hall)			
9.45 – 11.00	Plenary 1: The ethics of researching peripheral music activity and the importance of language preservation in research (Taylor A21)			
11.00 – 11.30	Morning Tea (King’s Pavillion Main Hall)			
11.30 – 13.00	Rurality (Taylor A31)	Peripheralized voices: Gender and Race (Taylor A36)	Technological peripheralities (Taylor 37)	
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch (King’s Pavillion Main Hall)			
14.00 – 15.30	Music production and domestic spaces (Taylor A31)	Political peripheralities (Taylor A36)	Language heritage and peripherality in the popular music cultures of Aotearoa and Cymru (Taylor A21)	
15.30 – 16.00	Afternoon Tea (King’s Pavillion Main Hall)			
16.30 – 17.30	LGBTQIA+ Social at 16:30 at Kilau café (High Street, Old Aberdeen) (please contact Dr Rebekah Moore (R.Moore2@hud.ac.uk) should you wish to join)			
Welcome reception and performance (featuring The Tenementals) 6pm – 8pm (King’s Pavillion Main Hall) Light bites and networking: 6 – 7pm/ Band 7 – 8pm.				

Tuesday June 30				
9.00 – 10.30	Music mapping at the edges data peripherality and the re-territorialisation of music ecosystems (Taylor A31)	Songs as carriers of memory and time travelling: Forgetting, losing and remembering (Taylor A36)	Pushed to the periphery: The role of songwriters in the Eurovision Song Contest (Taylor A21)	Popular Music Across Asia (Taylor A37)
10.30 – 11.00	Morning Tea (King’s Pavillion Main Hall)			
11.00 – 13.00	Peripheralities in Irish Popular Music (Taylor A31)	Musical Labour at the Peripheries (Taylor A36)	WOKSHOP: Sonic Urbanisms: Listening as a research method (this session will include a walking activity – Scottish/ Aberdeen weather permitting of course!) (Taylor A21)	
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch (King’s Pavillion Main Hall)			
14.00 – 16.00	IASPM UKI AGM (Taylor A21)			
Evening event: Conference dinner (The Atrium - Chapel Street) 7pm (registrations are now closed for this event)				

Wednesday July 1				
9.30 – 11.00	Performing at the Peripheries (Taylor A31)	Queer Music Scenes, Politics and Resistance (Taylor A36)		Please note: This session will commence at 9.30am WORKSHOP: Mapping Live Music: Interactive data insights for peripheral and connected music ecosystems (Taylor A21)
11.00-11.30	Morning Tea (King’s Pavillion Main Hall)			
11.30 – 12.30	Music, language and tradition (Taylor A31)	Popular music histories (Taylor A36)		
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch (King’s Pavillion Main Hall)			
13.30 – 15.00	Plenary 2: The importance of popular music education within higher education settings (Taylor A21)			
Afternoon event: Beach Walk (please meet outside King’s Pavillion at 3.30pm should you wish to join us!)				

Session detail (please refer to the Book of Abstracts for more information)

Monday June 29: 9:45 – 11:00

PLENARY: The Ethics of Researching Peripheral Music Activity and the Importance of Language Preservation in Research

Chair: Dr Matthew Machin-Autenrieth

Panellists

Ella Beavington (Cardiff University)

Dan Mollenkamp (Oxford University)

Dr Darci Sprengel (King's College London)

Monday June 29: 11.30 – 13.00

Rurality

Chair: Dr Christina Ballico

Musicmaking for the marginalised Findings from the Community Instrumental Music Service for Rural Scotland CIMSRS research project (Arianna Ranieri, Edinburgh Napier University)

Popular Brass Music at the Edges Festivalisation and the Remaking of Rural Peripherality (Bernhard Achhorne, Leuphana University Lüneburg / Stella Vorarlberg Private University of Music)

Peripheralised Voices: Gender and Race

Chair: Dr Matthew Machin-Autenrieth

Funk on the Margin Stereo Zen Race and Peripherality in Postapartheid South Africa (Dr Marc Rontsch, University of the Free State)

Peripheralised Voices: Popular Music from Millennial Women's Perspective. A Case Study in Tyrol, Austria (Dr Bernhard Steinbrecher, University of Innsbruck) (confirmed via email – has paid to attend – check registration form)

Feminine Sounds: An exploration into music and gender (Riti Sharma, Independent Scholar)

Technological Peripheries

Chair: Dr Jo Hicks

Writing in the Margins: Centre Periphery Dynamics in Digital Age Music Writing (Dr Jennifer Skellington, Southampton Solent University):
Différance as Authenticity: Poststructuralist Perspectives on Digital Cultural Consumption (Bailey Rudd, University of Newcastle)
Temporal Collaboration as Forensic Re-enactment Reconstructing Lost Studio Knowledge Through Practice as Research (Dr Anthony Meynell, London College of Music)

Monday June 29: 14.00 – 15.30

Music Production, Domestic Spaces, and Social Media

Chair: Dr Paul Harkins

Bedroom Producer Exploring the construction of songs in the reimagined home studio (Ashley Stein, Edinburgh Napier University)
Live from my living-room the living room is live Coronamusic versioning the song and the stage (Lou Aimes-Hill, University of Leeds)
Dancing to the beat of my own drum machine: The producer entrepreneur Eurodisco and its generalised Other (Dr Carlo Nardi, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano)

Political Peripherality

Chair: Bernhard Achthorner

He Lied To Us Through Song JL Austin in Springfield (Thom Andrewes, Queen Mary University of London)
American Idiot Edgy Musical Theatre and being on the Political Periphery (Catherine Warren, University of Liverpool)

Language, Heritage, and Peripherality in the Popular Music Cultures of Aotearoa and Cymru

Chair: Dr Caroline O'Sullivan

Hearing 'Hiraeth': Popular Music and Place Identity in Cymru (Ella Beavington, Prifysgol Caerdydd/Cardiff University)
Cultural Heritage and Music Festivals in Aotearoa (Alice Lintern, Aston University)
Dislocated by Spotify: How Digital Streaming has Forced Minority Languages to the Outskirts of Popular Music (Dan Mollenkamp, Oxford University)
'It's always a fruit salad of music': Genre, minority languages, and community in Aotearoa and Cymru (Joe O'Connell, Prifysgol Caerdydd/Cardiff University)

Tuesday June 30: 9.00 – 10.30

Music mapping at the edges data peripherality and the re-territorialisation of music ecosystems

Chair: Carlo Nardi

Beyond the Live Music Venue: Towards Full-Sector Music Ecosystem Mapping (Patrycja Rozbicka, Aston University, Mathew Flynn, University of Liverpool, Adam Behr, Newcastle University)

Mapping Music Infrastructures: Technical Solutions, Delivery and Challenges, (Martin Nicastro, University of Pavia/University of Liverpool, Richard Anderson, University of Pavia/University of Liverpool)

From Map to Mandate: Cross-Domain Cultural Decision-Making Through Multilayered Music Data (Flynn, Rozbicka, Behr)

Mapping music in the polycrisis: the case of Glasgow (Matt Brennan, University of Glasgow, John Williamson, University of Glasgow)

Pushed to the Periphery: The Role of Songwriters in the Eurovision Song Contest

Chair: Dr Barbara Barreiro Leon

‘Wasted Love’: The Decreasing Recognition of Eurovision Songwriters (Sam Murray, University of Leeds and Jenna Doyle, Middlesex University)

And a little Baile Funk’ – writing formulaic songs in standardised environments? Songwriting camps and the writing of Eurovision Song Contest Entries (Katherine Williams, University of Huddersfield)

The cost of becoming a professional songwriter (Emma Gale, Birmingham City University)

Songs as Carriers of Memory and Time Travelling: Forgetting, Losing and Remembering

Chair: Joe O’Connell

Except Sometimes: Involuntary Memory and the Syntax of Unresolved Love Songs (Richard Elliot, Newcastle University)

‘I like to be a time traveller’: Time Portals and Shared Memory in Annie Lennox’s 2025 Work Emma Longmuir (Newcastle University)

Popular Music across Asia

Chair: Dr Christina Ballico

The impact of festivalization on the Chinese indie musician career A thematic analysis (Yi Wang, University of Aberdeen)

From peripheral resistance to symbolic product: The reconfiguration and tensions of Du Li Indie-Pendent in the Chinese Music Industry (Dr Changbo Duan, Independent Scholar)

From Hyperpop to KPop The Suspended Peripherality in KATSEYEs Gnarly (Linzi Yang, The University of Birmingham)

Tuesday June 30: 11.00 – 13.00

Peripherality in Irish Popular Music

Chair: Dr Richard Elliott

Kneecaps Rebel Tunes from Self chosen Margin to International Epicentre (Dr Catherine Girodet, Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne)

Up de Flats Class based inequality in Irish popular music (Dr Caroline O'Sullivan, Dublin City University)

Voices from the Margins Making Contemporary Popular Music in Belfast (Dr Ioannis Tsioulakis, Queens University Belfast)

Irish Blood English Bands Analysing Irish Influence in the British Rock Canon (Thomas Windibank, Independent Scholar)

Musical Labour at the Peripheries

Chair: Dr Alex de Lacey

Structuring Participation Apprehension around Volunteer Pathways Retention and Empowerment in a DIY run Music Infrastructure (Seán Finnan, Technology University Dublin)

Keeping the Machines Alive Repairing and Maintaining the Fairlight CMI (Dr Paul Harkins, Edinburgh Napier University)

Escaping the Playlist?: Lofi Beats Tutorials as Visibility Strategy (Dr Joseph Coughlan-Allen, University of Oslo)

Backstage contracts front stage trials Platformed peripherality and the moral economy of metal labour (Prof Jan Herbst, University of Huddersfield)

WORKSHOP: Sonic Urbanisms: Listening as a research method (this session will include a sound walk in the second hour – Scottish weather permitting of course!)

Chair: Dr Christina Ballico

Panellists:

Prof Suk-Jun Kim, Department of Music, University of Aberdeen

Dr Georginana Mihaela Varna, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, University of Newcastle

Dr Ali Rennie (Sound Artist and Independent Scholar)

Dr Alp Arisory (Urban.Koop)

Dr Ismet Emre Yücel (Amasya University)

Wednesday July 1: 9.30 – 11.00

WORKSHOP: Mapping Live Music: Interactive data insights for peripheral and connected music ecosystems

Panellists:

Patrycja Rozbicka, Aston University

Adam Behr, University of Newcastle

Mathew Flynn, University of Liverpool

Richard Anderson, University of Liverpool

Martin Nicastro, University of Pavia/University of Liverpool

Matt Brennan, University of Glasgow

Wednesday July 1 09.30 – 11.00

Performing at the Peripheries

Chair: Sam Murray

Analyzing DJ Performance in the Dub Diaspora A Case Study in Grime Music (Dr Alex de Lacey, University of Groningen)

Spaces of the No Audience Underground (Dr Craig Stewart Johnson, Northumbria University)

Queer Music Scenes, Politics and Resistance

Chair: Dr Christina Ballico

Peripheral Sounds Plague Logic and the Politics of Mundanity in Trans+ Drag Music Cultures (Sarah Cooper, University of Bristol)

How Hyperpop Reimagines Queer Punk for the Digital Age (Jeremy Francoeur, University of Western Ontario)

Make the Resistance Louder Sound Amplification as Creative and Activist Tactic in the UK US, and Indonesia (Dr Rebekah E. Moore, University of Huddersfield)

Wednesday July 1: 11.30- 12.30

Music, Language and Tradition

Chair: Changbo Duan

Voices from the Edge: Language Choice Identity and Lithuanian Eurovision Performances (Dr Barbara Barreiro Leon, University of Aberdeen)

English in Polish Popular Music Beyond the Strategy of De-peripheralisation (Dr Monika Konert -Panek, Warsaw University)

Popular Music Histories

Chair: Dr Matthew Machin-Autenrieth

Peripherality beyond Capital Refusal and Deferral in Late Socialist Popular Music (Dr Sangheon Lee, University of Huddersfield)
Psychedelia in Andalusian Rock from the underground to the mainstream 1975- 2024 (Ana Belén López Lorente, Universidad de Córdoba)

Wednesday July 1: 13.30 – 15.00

PLENARY: Popular Music and the University - Navigating Crisis, Closure, and Institutional Change

Chair: Dr Christina Ballico

Panellists

Dr Caroline Ann O’Sullivan (Technological University Dublin)

Dr Samuel Murray (University of Leeds)

Dr Joe O’Connell (Cardiff University)

Prof Simon Zagorski-Thomas (London College of Music)