



Rodríguez, A., Odena, O. and Cabedo-Mas, A. (2018) Sound postcards: listening to transformations in the social fabric of the victims of armed conflicts. In: 3rd Research Symposium on Social Impact of Making Music (SIMM), Porto Polytechnic Institute, College of Education, Porto, Portugal, 19-20 May 2018.

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Deposited on: 22 March 2018

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## **Sound postcards: Listening to transformations in the social fabric of the victims of armed conflicts**

By Andrea Rodríguez (Jaume I University, Spain), Oscar Odena (University of Glasgow, UK) and Alberto Cabedo-Mas (Jaume I University, Spain).

Paper presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Research Symposium on Social Impact of Making Music (SIMM), Porto Polytechnic Institute, College of Education, Porto, Portugal, 19-20 May, 2018.

### **Summary:**

This presentation is part of a wider research project that analyses the benefits of collective musical programs in post-traumatic recovering of people that experienced violence as a result of the armed conflict in Colombia. Sound postcards, a research methodology derived from the field of socio-acoustics, contributed to ethnographical research with participants in the *Music for Reconciliation Program* of the Batuta Foundation in Colombia, and allowed researchers to identify the changes in the density of their social fabric, both before and after being victims of violent acts as a result of the armed conflict that caused, among others, forced displacement. The sound postcard consists of a sonic description of how the participant's environment is perceived in different and specific moments in their life. It is therefore an exploratory and qualitative research methodology that contributes to complement and provides additional information to other strategies such as interviews, questionnaires or observations. The sound postcards described by the participants allowed the researchers to identify drastic changes in their environment, their social relationships, their quality of life and their self-perception after the violent events. Moreover, the study found that the sound postcard describing present events enabled to recognize the importance that the participants acknowledged to joining in the collective musical program in a number of areas. These areas included reconfiguring their personal identity, recovering

social cohesion and transforming the normalized cultural violence within the social groups of those who have lived through the war. A more detailed discussion of the use of sound postcards in the study of the *Music for Reconciliation Program* can be found in a recent article by the co-authors in *British Journal of Music Education* (Rodríguez-Sánchez, Odena & Cabedo-Mas, 2018).

### **Reference:**

Rodríguez-Sánchez, A., Odena, O., & Cabedo-Mas, A. (2018). Using life histories with sound postcards to investigate a music programme for social reconstruction in Colombia. *British Journal of Music Education*, 1-14, FirstView, doi:10.1017/S0265051717000298 [published online 4 March 2018]

### **Authors' biographies:**

**Andrea Rodríguez** is a social worker and musician. Her work focuses on peace building through collective musical programmes in Colombia. She is a PhD candidate at UNESCO Chair of Philosophy for Peace - Institute for Social Development (University Jaume I of Castellon, Spain), with a doctoral project entitled “A study on the collective musical programs as spaces for social reconstruction in communities with victims of the Colombian armed conflict”. She undertook a research exchange at the Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change of the University of Glasgow between September and December of 2015. Currently she is member of the Peace Programme at the National University of Colombia.

**Oscar Odena** is Reader in Education at the University of Glasgow, UK. Previously he held posts in Spain, England and Northern Ireland, where he completed a study on the potential of music education to diminish ethnic tensions. His areas of expertise include qualitative research approaches, social inclusion and music education. He is past Co-Chair of the Research Commission of the International Society for Music Education (2012-2014) and

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**Alberto Cabedo-Mas** is Associate Professor in Music and Education at the University Jaume I of Castellón, Spain. He is author of several publications in international and national books and refereed journals. He is co-director of the journal “Eufonía: Didáctica de la Música” and serves as editorial board member in several national and international academic journals. His research interests include music education, musical heritage, coexistence, interculturality and the transmission of music across cultures.