

The Agency of Music in the Process of Integration

Understanding the purpose of music in the process of defining Identity



3rd Simba.R meeting in October 2017 in Café Roland, Pforzheim
Photo by Christian Schmidt

Research Overview

After having met the group ‚Forum Asyl‘ in Pforzheim before, some members of the forum and I were able to form a group with the aim of making music in October 2017.

A few meetings later we were a solid team of around eight members attending regularly. In the time of six months, we covered kurdish, arabique, romanian, croatian and german songs by singing and using a range of instruments that we later performed at open mic nights. Performances consisted of singing, playing, and dancing.

Research Experience & Key Findings

Some personal interviews in the beginning, as well as group discussions, have shown that some members found it important to identify with music from their country of origin.

However, it has been most interesting to find throughout the course of research that many people of foreign origin soon preferred to cover german songs and were very keen to learn about german traditions (i.e. christmas carols), particularly eager to identify with the newly met culture.



Traditional Dance Performance at Open Mic Night „Offene Bühne“
in Café Roland, Pforzheim
Photo by Jackie Gavis

Methodology

1. Participant Observation
2. Structured and Unstructured Interviews
3. Questionnaires
4. Performance Recordings



Group Logo „Simba.R“ created by group member Aras

*„...and I will never forget my country [...],
but now it's more important to get to know the new one.“*

– Rabin D. (group member)