

Society for Interdisciplinary Musicology (SIM): Bylaws

Revised 2019

Aim

The primary aims¹ of SIM are to promote collaboration between humanities and sciences² in musicology,³ high academic standards, and high ethical standards.⁴

Executive committee

The executive committee of SIM has three members with different functions: president, vice-president, and secretary. At least one executive committee member is primarily a humanities scholar and at least one is primarily a scientist.⁵ The executive committee promotes the aim of SIM and the academic interests of its members, responds to their concerns, involves them in important decisions, and informs them about the society's activities and decisions.

Any researcher who has contributed academically to SIM can become a member. Any member can stand for election to the executive committee. Executive committee members are elected by current SIM members.⁶ There is no quorum for executive committee elections. The term of office is three years. Committee members can be re-elected, but the maximum period of service in a given function is six years.

Organs

The Conferences on Interdisciplinary Musicology (CIM) and the Journal of Interdisciplinary Music Research (JIMS) are organs of SIM. CIM, JIMS and SIM have the same primary aim, as stated above.

Procedures

Everyday administration is managed by the SIM secretariat. Personal resources for the secretariat are made available by the executive committee. The secretariat documents all SIM activities, including all voting procedures.⁷

The working language of SIM is English. All official documents and communication are in English.⁸

Any member of the executive committee may make a recommendation to any CIM director or any JIMS editor on any relevant issue.⁹ CIM directors and JIMS editors should inform the executive committee when making critical decisions or major procedural changes.

These bylaws can be changed at any time provided the executive committee and half of all current SIM members agree in writing.¹⁰

Membership

Any (co-) author of a previous CIM presentation or JIMS contribution, and any member of any CIM or JIMS committee, is eligible for membership of SIM.¹¹ Membership is free of charge.¹²

The main benefits of membership are the right to assert membership (e.g. in CVs) and the right to vote at elections.¹³

Prospective members are asked to email the SIM secretariat.¹⁴ The email should include name, affiliation, music research areas (30-60 characters), references to previous presentation/s at CIM (in any well-known format), references to published contributions to JIMS (similarly), and the following statement: "I support the aim and bylaws of SIM in the version dated (insert date here)".

Members agree to publication in the internet of the above details plus the year of joining. The secretariat maintains a confidential list of current email addresses (available only to members) and periodically asks members to update their information.

Any member may terminate her or his membership at any time without giving a reason by emailing the SIM secretariat.

Explanatory footnotes

1 The aim of the society is expressed simply and directly to optimize the chance of achieving the aim. The society also encourages interactions between research and practice, but other infrastructures already exist for that purpose. In bringing together humanities and sciences, SIM also brings together historical musicologists, ethnomusicologists, and systematic musicologists, as well as researchers from outside musicology. SIM is not a “systematic” society, just as CIM is not a “systematic” series, and JIMS is not a “systematic” journal. “Systematic musicology” tends to address general questions about music, and includes music acoustics, music psychology, music sociology, music philosophy, music physiology and music computing. Historical musicology and ethnomusicology tend to address specific styles, traditions, cultures, genres, composers and so on. To the extent that CIM and JIMS have been dominated by “systematic” musicologists, these infrastructures have only partially been achieving their main aim; there is a constant need to explore new ways of involving humanities scholars in SIM activities. SIM might also be a platform for meta-interdisciplinarity, i.e. it might bring together existing interdisciplinary communities that themselves bring together different subsets of musically relevant disciplines.

2 In all SIM activities, humanities and sciences are considered fundamentally equal in importance. The word “science” is used only in the sense of natural, social and formal sciences. In non-English-speaking countries, “science” is often erroneously equated with *Wissenschaft*. The correct English translation of *Wissenschaft* is academia, or all scholarship, research and teaching. We avoid the more general use of “science” as *Wissenschaft* because it treats humanities as academic Others and contributes to discrimination against the humanities.

3 Musicology is the study of music and includes all research about all music.

⁴ Ethical standards mainly involve avoiding harm to humans, other animals, or the environment.

5 As far as possible, executive committee members should also be diverse with respect to gender, first language, cultural background, and age.

6 The secretariat should confirm that all members received the message inviting them to vote.

7 Public reports may be prepared by the executive committee with the support of the secretariat (e.g. every 1-3 years or at the end of a period of service). The documentation of a voting procedure is confidential and may take the form of a computer file into which the text of all relevant emails has been copied, and a summary table. Records should be maintained in two different geographical locations. It is important to conform to all relevant data security regulations.

8 If documents are available in more than one language, one of them must be English. SIM promotes English as a common language at the same time as promoting linguistic diversity and the use of minority languages.

9 The usual procedure for making recommendations is to send an email to those concerned, with copies to executive committee members. If appropriate, executive committee members should also consult previous executive committee members, or committee members of previous CIMs or of JIMS with relevant expertise or experience. CIM organisers and JIMS editors should take suggestions from the executive committee seriously, but are not bound to implement them. When SIM is founded, the CIM council will become redundant and will be discontinued.

10 The usual procedure for changing the bylaws is to describe and motivate the change in an email and collect replies. If a situation arises that was not foreseen in these bylaws and there is insufficient time for to change them, the executive committee may act autonomously, provided all three members agree and existing informal procedures within SIM and/or the bylaws or procedures of other relevant academic societies are appropriately considered.

11 Members must demonstrate their ability to contribute to international research in interdisciplinary musicology, so that SIM will be taken seriously by other societies. Contributions to CIM or JIMS satisfy this criterion because they involve independent, anonymous, expert reviews. No formal academic qualification is required for membership, because we aim to promote the society’s long-term sustainability through the participation of students and other potential future researchers.

12 There is no membership fee because we are initially aiming for a large membership and have limited administrative capacity. A membership fee may be introduced in future if the executive committee and half of all members agree (in exchange e.g. for discounts on CIM or JIMS).

13 Both the cost of joining SIM and the benefits are modest. The cost is merely the time to write a short email. For many people, the benefit of membership will be primarily altruistic: SIM offers musicologists of in all disciplines and subdisciplines the opportunity to publicly declare their support for constructive interactions between humanities and sciences in music research. Possible future benefits include the opportunity to participate in internet discussion groups.

14 Currently, the secretariat is staffed by Michaela Schwarz, zsmw@uni-graz.at (administrative assistant at Parncutt’s “Centre for Systematic Musicology”). In future, secretariat contact information will be available on the SIM homepage.