

ISMMS



Universidad Nacional
Autónoma de México

International Society for Metal Music Studies
5th Biennial Research Conference
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Mexico's National Autonomous University
Mexico City, Mexico

Call for ABSTRACTS

“Heavy Metal Music in the Global South:
Multiregional perspectives”

Heavy metal scholarship has come a long way in a relatively short period of time. One of the main characteristics of the emerging scholarly work in the field of metal music studies is a call for the exploration of the many axes of diversity (related to geographies, identities, and worldviews) manifested within metal music. Although the call for understanding metal from a diverse set of geographies and lived experiences has been made, gaps remain. For example, further attention needs to be placed on developing a rich understanding of the perspectives of people and communities making and consuming music in the Global South. The Global South encompasses a marginalized geographical space made symbolically distant from Europe and North America, while also including communities living experiences of marginalization within spaces in the Global North associated to issues like race, ethnicity, gender, and poverty, among other catalysts of social exclusion. Therefore, metal in the Global South encompasses both geographical and symbolic spaces where oppression has traditionally been manifested. Although previous academic events and existing publications have aimed to approach metal from a global perspective, the particular voices from the Global South are still frequently drowned out in this process. Barriers to participate in these events and disseminate the valuable academic production in the Global South still persist. Lack of economic resources, language differences, and an unspoken preference for academic work published in the Global North are only some of the most salient obstacles preventing the sharing of scholarly activity carried out in other regions of the world. This conference aims to bring together scholars engaged in the study of heavy metal music in the Global South, and the Global North, to reflect on this musical genre from a multiregional perspective and to generate a mutual knowledge and dialogue that will produce new ways and lines of investigation.

Topics: Some of the topics to address in the conference include, but are not limited to:

a. The Global South, metal and politics

- Explorations of the interrelation of metal music in the Global South and liberation practices.
- Examinations of the role of political violence on heavy metal production in the Global South.
- Changes within metal scenes in light of recent political shifts and tensions in the Global South. Specifically, changes in personal relations within scenes in light of external political shifts.
- Intersections of the history of dictatorships and heavy metal music production in the Global South.
- Examinations of the role of colonialism in heavy metal music.
- Gender perspectives in metal with special emphasis on the Global South.
- The role of race and ethnicity in metal with special emphasis on the Global South.

b. The Global South in metal music, lyrics and artworks

- Explorations of linguistic dominants in oral/written practices within metal music in the Global South.
- Examinations of the influence of urban legends, literature, and other narrative forms in heavy metal lyricism.
- Influence of indigenous/native narratives on heavy metal music in the Global South.
- Examinations of the influence of the environmental perspective in heavy metal lyricism.
- Semiotic approaches to metal iconography in the Global South.
- Influence of local culture on the development of metal subgenres (e.g. pre-Columbian metal).

c. Metal scenes in the Global South

- Historical approaches on the development of local scenes in the Global South.
- Experiences of LGTTBQ members within metal scenes.
- Examinations of market influence, commercialization, and professionalization in metal music in the Global South.
- Sociological/Anthropological approaches to community and identity building in the respective metal scenes in the Global South.
- Intersections and/or cross-fertilization between a country's local culture and heavy metal music in the Global South.

d. Interactions between the Global South and the Global North

- Examinations of the ways in which metal from the Global South is consumed in the Global North
- Examinations of the ways metal in the Global South is perceived and constructed from the North American/European gaze.
- Explorations of the interrelation of metal music in and social oppression, with emphasis on the Global South and/or comparison with the Global North.
- Examination of hybridity in heavy metal music in the Global South and how these are related/or react to the Global North.
- Phenomenological approaches towards the lived experiences of metal fans in countries in the Global South, and how these are in dialogue with the Global North.

e. Local analysis from Global North perspectives.

- Historical approaches and recent transformations in the local scenes in the Global North.
- Analysis of the scenes in the Global North with their political contexts.
- Analysis of imaginaries, art, and lyricism in heavy metal from the Global North.
- Contributions from gender studies to metal in the Global North.
- Cultural industries and the metal market in the Global North.
- Influence of local cultures on metal in the Global North.
- Contributions from theoretical perspectives and methodologies for approaching heavy metal studies from the Global South and North.

Characteristics of the proposals:

Proposals for oral presentation and panel presentation must include the following in a single document:

1. Title.
2. Suggested topic from the call for abstracts.
3. Summary of the presentation (500 words, in English, Spanish or Portuguese).
4. Author's full name.
5. Email.
6. Brief author description (250 words).

7. In the case of panel proposals you must include the names of all presenters in the proposal and assign one person to be responsible for coordinating the panel. It is necessary to include a 500 word abstract for each of the presentations in the panel.

Proposals for an academic poster must include in a single document:

1. An abstract (500 words, in English, Spanish or Portuguese) with the following information: poster title, research problem, objectives, methodology, research status, and bibliography.
2. Once the academic poster proposal has been accepted the image and design must be sent by mail before **April 15, 2022**.
3. The characteristics of the image for an academic poster are the following: image for printing at 1.5 meters tall x 1.10 meters wide.
4. The organizing committee of the event will provide the printing, base, and assembly of the academic poster.

Once your proposal is accepted by the academic committee of the Conference, you will need to finalize your registration before **March 15th, 2022** in order to appear on the program. Enrollment in the conference entitles you to participate in the event, attend all its activities, and receive a certificate of participation. You will receive an email with specific information on accommodation and food options suggested by the event organization.

You can send your proposal via the following links:

English: <https://bit.ly/3od3LF6>

Spanish and Portuguese: <https://bit.ly/3us6MCv>

Once the proposal is accepted the registration fee for scholars of the global north will be of Seventy five (\$75) dollars.

The conference organizers reserve the right to select the presentation format depending on the final conference program. Participation in the conference is possible for all metal researchers, regardless of a membership in the ISMMS. However, we encourage all interested applicants to become members of the ISMMS.