

This research project seeks to investigate the contribution of Polish and Lithuanian music cultures to political and cultural independence before and after 1989. As the basis of comparative approach oppositional musical networking has been chosen, that in addition resulted in politically and socially engaged collaboration between Polish and Lithuanian musicians since late 1970s. Such transnationally oriented study of impact of musical cultures in Eastern Europe does not exist yet. To address the chosen topic, the research aims at providing a space for deep engagements in music and its various contexts. We will approach and conceptualize the rhythmic synchronization and the comparative typology of diffusion process of information, people, and ideas in Poland and Lithuania at the end of the Cold War and in the post-communist period (late 1970s–2000s).

Based on theoretically informed cultural musicology and an ensemble of interdisciplinary approach (including microhistory, social history, post-colonialism, semiotics, memory studies, Cold War studies, intertextual and comparative strategies etc.), the project partners share a conceptual framework to gain insight into how music's social and political engagement was formed in networks and how musicians collaborated affectively. The chosen research development directions will enable a complex analysis in several problem-based sections: the relationship between musical networking and the cultural and political change; the music's contribution to formation and transformation of changing collectivities; the transformative power of music in transnational diffusion; the historical impact of Polish-Lithuanian musicians' collaboration.

The project findings will be summarized in two scholarly monographs, one special issue of scholarly journal and several peer reviewed articles. The expected impacts are: 1. The promotion of the historical knowledge about the role of music in non-democratic countries and independence movements as European cultural history for scholarly, educational and cultural purposes. 2. The raising of awareness of repertoires and memories on the experiences learned from the socialist past and post-communist transformation. 3. The contribution to research innovation and internationalisation of the partner countries. The undertaken goals will contribute to international accessibility, visibility and diffusion of important part of European cultural experience and memory which is still silenced or neglected in general scholarly discourse.