



Three-Day International Conference

## **THE SOUNDTRACK OF CONFLICT: THE ROLE OF MUSIC IN RADIO BROADCASTING IN WARTIME AND IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS**

University of Göttingen, Germany, 15-17 September 2011

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

In 1936, roughly a decade and a half after the first commercial radio broadcasts, concern regarding the implications of the new medium for the disturbance of the peace was great enough for several states to sign the *International Convention concerning the Use of Broadcasting in the Cause of Peace*. This agreement committed them to preventing and prohibiting broadcasts from their territory which constituted incitement to war or otherwise endangered the peace. Even at this early stage, it was recognised that radio was a powerful medium in conflict situations - not least because of its ability to reach a large audience, and to transgress the borders of the sovereign state. Indeed, radio played an important part in the transmission of official ideology in both Third Reich Germany and Fascist Italy, and became a crucial medium during the Second World War. In the information warfare which characterised the Cold War, radio's role would arguably become even more important, with major world powers dedicating sometimes significant resources to funding radio broadcasts into different and "enemy" countries. Not only major powers made use of this medium, however: precisely because radio is relatively cheap, extremely portable, and before or in the absence of the Internet the easiest and safest way to transmit information over international borders or across territories in times of war, radio has been and remains important in various conflicts in and between smaller countries.

Since the advent of the mass medium radio and the – positive and negative – potentials associated with it for the transmission of information, but also for information warfare, scholars from various disciplines have also addressed this topic. However, a number of aspects remain under-researched, including the role of music in propaganda for war and in times of conflict. The few existing studies on this topic have tended to focus on the Second World War and the Cold War, and with regard to more recent conflicts there is also a tendency to focus on censorship issues rather than the complex issue of how music is actively used to fulfil a number of functions in radio programmes in times of war and conflict.

This international, interdisciplinary conference will aim to promote a broader and comparative approach to this topic by bringing together researchers from several disciplines to present and discuss papers on the role of music in radio broadcasting in a range of conflict situations from around the world. **We are particularly keen to promote a global and interdisciplinary perspective on this topic and to highlight lesser known examples and lower-profile conflicts.** We encourage

scholars in the fields of musicology (all branches!), history, law, political science, social and cultural anthropology, sociology and other relevant disciplines as well as practitioners to submit abstracts for papers or posters relating to any aspect relevant to the general topic.

Abstracts of no more than 300 words plus a brief biography (max. 200 words) should be sent

by e-Mail to (preferred format: RTF or PDF)

[mcs-info@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:mcs-info@uni-goettingen.de)

or by post to

**Georg-August-Universität Göttingen**  
**Research Group “Music, Conflict and the State”**  
**Musikwissenschaftliches Seminar**  
**Kurze Geismar Str. 1**  
**37073 Göttingen**  
**Germany**

to arrive no later than **31 January 2011**. Please indicate whether the submission is intended as a paper or poster contribution.

Successful applicants will be informed by late February 2011. The conference language will be English. Pending successful funding applications, we will endeavour to assist all presenters with travel and accommodation costs for the conference.

The research group “Music, Conflict and the State” is committed to creating a barriers-free research environment for all scholars.