

# GENDER SOUNDS

## GENDER SOUNDS IV

### (Contra) Natura

3-4/4/2025

ESMUC - Museu de la Música - L'Auditori

#### Call for Papers, Performances, Works

The symposiums **Gender Sounds**, coordinated by the **Department of Cultural and Musical Studies** of the **Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya (ESMUC)**, aim to promote debate on gender perspectives in music, creation and culture.

The 4th edition, subtitled “(Contra) Natura”, will take place on April 3 and 4 2025, featuring lectures, performances, roundtables, concerts and an audiovisual sessions.

This year we are collaborating with **L'Auditori** and **Museu de la Música**, sharing the subtitle “(Contra) Natura” (which could be translated as (Un)Natural). On the one hand, it allows and invites us to keep exploring—through a gendered and intersectional lens—the sonic relationships between humans, non humans and the environment. On the other hand, we interrogate and indeed reclaim the expression “(Contra) Natura”, too often used in discriminatory discourses, in order to invite works that challenge prejudices and focus on non-normative authors, works, spaces, forms, identities, expressions and behaviors in music, sound and creation.

The title Gender Sounds itself may be interpreted as “sounds of gender” or “gender sounds” thus manifesting an intention to both amplify silenced perspectives and explore the sonic world through gender. Both “gender” and “sound” are understood in the most inclusive sense. Gender is viewed as a social construct and an individually perceived identity, not necessarily limited to a binary organization.

Gender Sounds includes and invites femininities, masculinities, and queer/non-normative/dissident identities. Gender is also approached intersectionally, considering other biological, social, and cultural parameters that may give rise to discrimination, such as age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class, (dis)ability, nationality, ethnicity, religion, or culture. In the framework of this symposium transdisciplinary approaches and perspectives on sound are also encouraged.

Attendance is free and open to the public; events are entirely livestreamed and added to the ESMUC YouTube channel.

#### Call for Participation

Participation is established through an open call addressed to academics and students in music, musicology, sound studies, social sciences, humanities and arts researching sound and gender; music and sound professionals interested in gender and intersectional studies; professionals working with music and gender in the fields of culture and communication; artists researching or exploring gendered sounds; other profiles interested in the intersection of gender, music and sound studies.

Formats include conventional and performative lectures, live performances, soundworks and more.

Proposals must align with the thematic lines of the conference.

#### Thematic Lines

For the upcoming Gender Sounds 2025 conference, we are seeking proposals that:

- Draw inspiration from or interrogate nature, soundscapes, interspecies sonic relationships; challenge the dichotomy between the artificial and the natural; address the intersections of sound, music, and ecology; explore the sonic dimensions

of societal technologization and the environmental crisis, while considering gendered and intersectional implications from historical and (trans)cultural perspectives.

- Critically examine silenced or tacit contexts, exploring, through music and sound and from a gendered perspective, the relationships among humans and the environment.
- Reassess the construction of the canon as a “natural order” from diverse perspectives (gender, behavior, expression normativity; historiographical and memorialist constructions; sociodemography, etc.).
- Explore other themes related to music, sound and the construction of femininity, masculinity, or queer/non-normative/dissident identities or critically analyze misogynistic, homophobic, transphobic, ableist, racist, ageist, and other discriminatory discourses.

#### Proposal Submission

Proposals must be submitted by **February 15 2025**, via one of the four forms linked to the corresponding format:

- **Lecture**
- **Performative Lecture**
- **Listening session: soundwork**
- **Live Performance**

For proposals in alternative formats (DJ set, video, other formats) please select the form that most closely matches the proposal and provide further details in the comments section and by emailing [gendersounds@esmuc.cat](mailto:gendersounds@esmuc.cat).

The selection process will be carried out by the scientific committee and acceptance will be confirmed during the first half of March 2025.

**esmuc**