

PhD Research Project "Sound Transformations in Live-Electronics"  
Differentiation November 2012

A review of the research activities of the last year had been presented as part of this differentiation. According to the initial plan, most of the first year had been invested in finding / developing an appropriate methodology which will allow the researcher to create a verbal system of concepts for sound transformations of acoustic instruments in live-electronic ensemble music.

A pre-study carried out in this first year did focus on written word descriptions in music scores. The researcher delineated several categories for written sound transformation descriptions, deducted from a sample of 11 scores. This study showed that the aforementioned descriptions are defined at wildly varying points in time during the creation of a new composition. They are also addressed at different target audiences and it is often not clear if the composer attempts to describe an action that is to be carried out actively by a live-electronics musician, or if a sound transformation occurring from the inner workings of a music technology apparatus is described for illustration purposes. From this study the necessity for new tools describing sound transformations becomes even more apparent. The upcoming research work will look into mixed-method approaches towards the creation of a system of concepts concerning spoken language between musicians and composers.