

**ILLUSTRATING
TRANSDISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH INNOVATION AT
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY:
MUSIC, HEALTH, AND WELLBEING**

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24 June 2024

2024 IAML Congress | 23-28 June | Stellenbosch | South Africa



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INTRODUCTION

- to illustrate transdisciplinary research innovation in health, arts and performance at Stellenbosch University
- to discuss the implications of music-related transdisciplinary research for music libraries
- to better understand the important role of the music library in music-related transdisciplinary innovation



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OUTLINE



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1. Transdisciplinarity: Setting the stage

2. SU Health, Arts, and Performance Initiative (HAPI)
3. SU Music Department transdisciplinary supervision and curricula
4. Transdisciplinary publishing
5. Exploring the vital role of music libraries

1. SETTING THE STAGE FOR “WICKED PROBLEMS”!

- Changing 21st Century performing and creative arts landscapes globally
- Higher music education and music research institutions are responding to these changes
- Wider variety of relevant, important topics and developing fields: e.g., graduate employability, dynamic curricula, stylistic diversity, cultural identities, rethinking histories, digital archiving, student wellbeing, trauma-informed approaches, contemporary commercial music, AND MANY MORE!

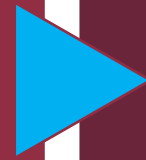
“Wicked problems” are multifaceted, interconnected, and complex issues, that cannot be solved with reductionistic or traditional problem-solving approaches (Lawrence, *et al.*, 2022).



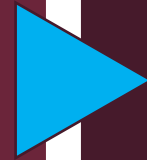
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Multidisciplinary



Interdisciplinary



Transdisciplinary

Multidisciplinary

Utilising several disciplinary perspectives, but may often be in “exclusive service of the home discipline” (Nicolescu, 1999)

Cooperation of researchers from different disciplines but each working in their own context with little cross-fertilisation

Governed by the frameworks of disciplinary research

Interdisciplinary

Transdisciplinary

(Bernstein, 2015; Jahn, 2008; Lawrence *et al.*, 2022; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2014; Nicolescu, 1999; Rigolot, 2020; Van Breda & Swilling, 2018)

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Interdisciplinary

Integrating, exchanging, & transferring disciplinary perspectives, knowledge, & methods

Can lead to the development of new disciplines due to the very close disciplinary interactions

Achieve more comprehensive understandings by combining expertise

It may still be governed by disciplinary frameworks

Transdisciplinary

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Can lead to the development of new disciplines due to the very close disciplinary interactions

Achieve more comprehensive understandings by combining expertise

Although variable, still governed by disciplinary frameworks

Transdisciplinary

-Builds on & augments interdisciplinary collaboration

-Theoretical unity of knowledge transcends disciplinary boundaries

-Social engagement: Addressing complex real-world, societal challenges with new perspectives, enabling practical & sustainable solutions

-Transformative approaches, & integration & implementation sciences

-Includes multi- & interdisciplinary research

-Includes non-academic stakeholders in knowledge *co-production*

-Orientation to the common good

OUTLINE

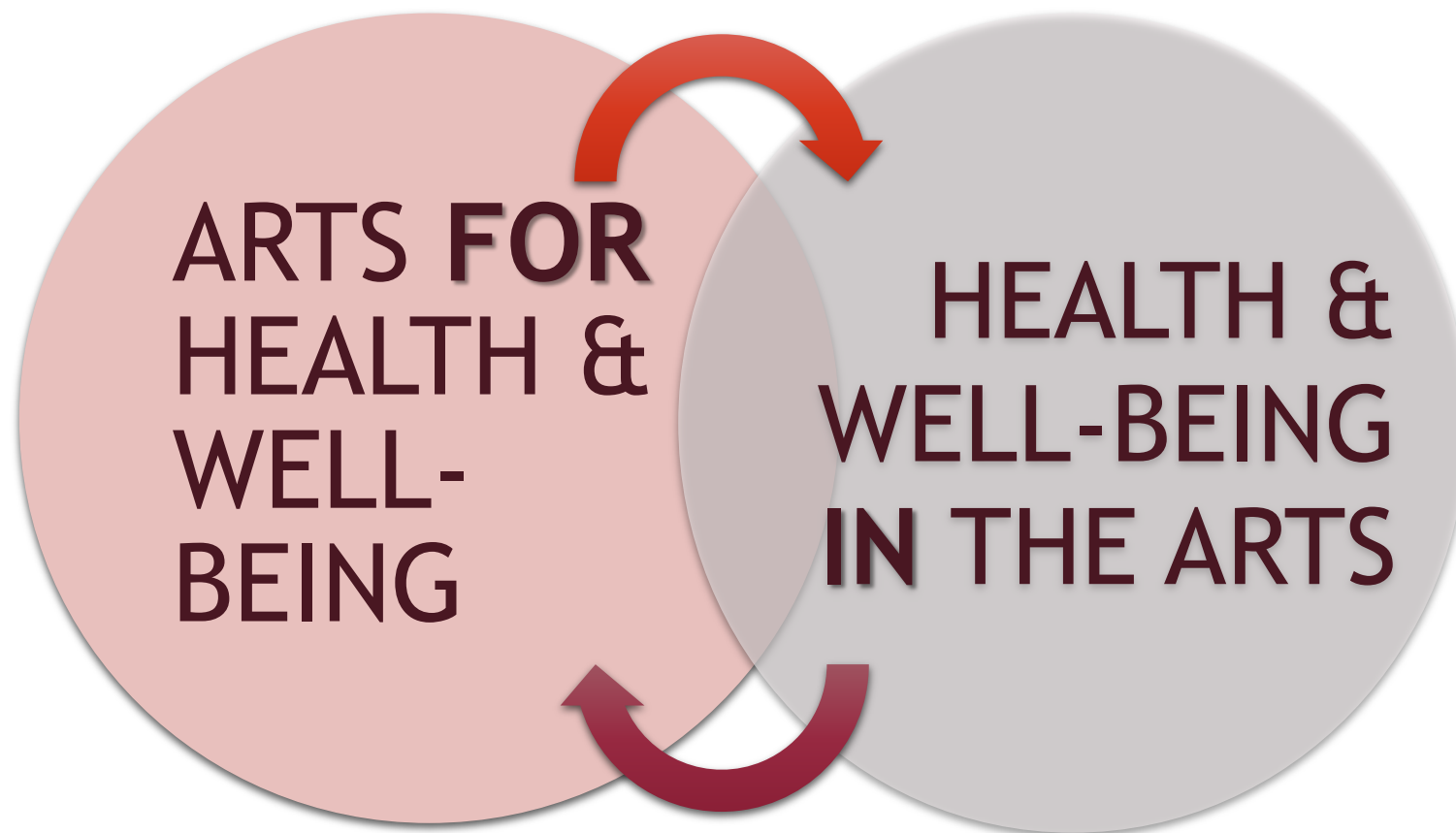


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2. Health, Arts and Performance Initiative (HAPI)



ARTS FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING



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- Positive impacts of music and all performing, creative & healing arts for societal & individual health, wellbeing, social cohesion & social change

HEALTH & WELLBEING IN THE ARTS ?



- Within the SA performing & creative arts, wellbeing & health promotion are not considered
- Complexity & diversity of conditions & needs in the SA creative sector

RESEARCH ON MUSICIANS' HEALTH AND WELLBEING



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- **High rates of musculoskeletal and psychological work-related health issues (and hearing and vocal health issues)**
- Nearly 5 decades of research from the global North, including literature on prevalence, risk factors, prevention, health education, systematic reviews, ...
- A small body of recent research from South Africa
- Very limited research utilising African settings, arts practices, perspectives, epistemologies, and conceptual frameworks.

(Ballenberger, Avermann, *et al.* 2023; Borger, Nel, *et al.*, 2021; Cruder, Soltini, *et al.*, 2023; Devroop, 2014; European Commission, 2023; Evans, Rennie-Salonen, *et al.*, 2024; Fernholz, Mumm, *et al.*, 2019; Matei & Ginsborg, 2022; Panebianco-Warrens, *et al.*, 2015; Pecen, Collins, *et al.*, 2018; Rousseau, Taha, *et al.*, 2023; Spahn, Voltmer, *et al.*, 2017; Stanhope, 2016; Wijsman & Ackermann, 2019; Zao, Altenmuller, *et al.*, 2024)

CHALLENGES HERE IN SOUTH AFRICA

- vulnerability and precarity of the performing arts sector
- lack of evidence-based research data on the needs of SA artists
- lack of clear policy frameworks
- lack of awareness
- socioeconomic issues, including health care inequality and inequity
- need for health professionals as key role-players in collaborative research and action

Health, Arts & Performance Initiative (HAPI)

- Health promotion & well-being both IN & THROUGH the performing & creative arts
- Transdisciplinary research: health, medicine, social & behavioural sciences, & arts & humanities; together with the performing & creative arts (music, drama, dance & visual arts)
- Translational applications in practice, education, & research
- African creative arts context: innovation & transformative, reciprocal synergies, social impact, new knowledge



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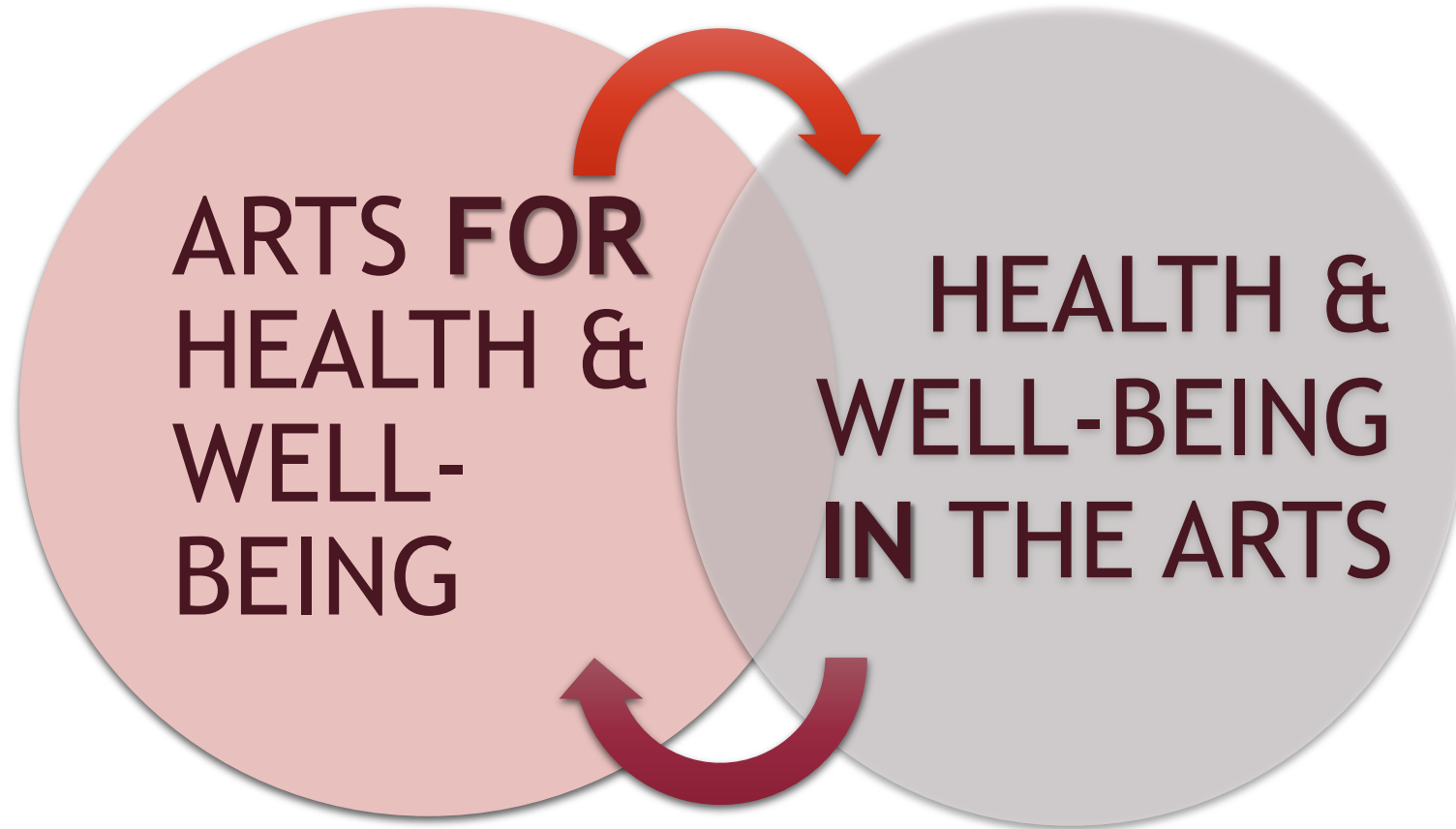
Health, Arts and Performance
Initiative (HAPI)

Health in the Arts for Health of the Nation



Dr Bridget Rennie-Salonen, PhD
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Health, Arts and Performance Initiative (HAPI)



Health for all and all for health

#CHOOSEHEALTH



“The application of well-being concepts can bring policy coherence across sectors and galvanize action”

“Wellbeing, as a policy concept, unites the health, economic, social, and environmental aspects of the sustainable development agenda”

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SU PG RESEARCH TOPICS - examples

- **Jazz, pop, and rock drummers' health:** developing a drummers' health education course
- **Self-determined motivation** and musicians' performance efficacy
- **Neurodivergent music learners** in the school music classroom
- Music students' **hearing health** behaviours
- **Guitarists'** performance related musculoskeletal disorders
- **Contemporary Commercial Voice** pedagogy and practices
- Musculoskeletal disorders in South African **musicians of diverse genres**
- Music students' perceptions of their **employability**
- Musculoskeletal symptoms in **double bass players**
- **Community Choirs:** societal benefits of community choral activity
- The development of a personal **teacher identity**
- **Embouchure Overuse Syndrome**
- **Sound formative brass teaching** in South Africa
- **Music as catalyst for social justice and inclusion** of marginalized communities in South Africa

Service-Learning in Music*



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- Diverse module content taught by specialists from each respective field.
- Integrate theories of community development with the practice of community work
- Assist students in the provision of music services to learners with little or no access to music activities
- Enhance critical awareness of the student's own cultural norms, assumptions, and values
- Acquaint students with ethical considerations for diverse workplace contexts.
- Provide fundamental musicians' health promotion information
- Introduce students to Music Therapy
- Acquaint students with concept of artistic citizenship: *“a skill or collective term for artistic actors, institutions or educational programmes seeking to interact and create dialogue with society”* (Holgersen & Skov, 2020).

**The convenor of this course is Mrs Pamela Kierman, and I thank her for providing this overview for us today*

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JOURNALS (only a few examples!)

Research Studies in Music Education

International Journal of Music Education

Music Educators' Journal

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

The South African Music Teacher

Frontiers in Psychology

Psychology of Music

Musicae Scientiae

Psychological Medicine

International Journal for Community Music.

Journal of Music, Health, and Wellbeing

Medical Problems of Performing Artists

Health Promotion International

Journal of Occupational Rehabilitation

Applied Ergonomics

Performance Enhancement & Health

Music and Arts in Action

South African Journal of Arts Therapies

Journal of Music Therapy

Nordic Journal of Music Therapy

Voices: World Perspectives on Music Therapy

Artivate: A Journal of Entrepreneurship in the Arts

Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

Journal for Transdisciplinary Research in Southern Africa

Psychological Medicine

HERRI journal



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TELLING THE STORIES



- Narrative vignettes: the lens to probe the occupational health and well-being of the creative arts sector from macro- and micro-perspectives
- Ecosystem: individual and environment in a reciprocally interactive ecology
- Symbiosis: an artist's individual well-being with well-being as the pervasive connective mycelium of the whole ecosystem

The Charter of Rights for South African artists - provides the framework to analyse well-being issues and rights applicable in each vignette

Creating a healthy arts sector ecosystem: The Charter of Rights for South African artists.

HERRI journal. [Online] Issue #06.

<https://herri.org.za/6/bridget-rennie-salonen-yvette-hardie/>

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5. EXPLORING THE VITAL ROLE OF THE MUSIC LIBRARY



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ENABLERS

CHALLENGES

SUGGESTIONS

EXPLORING THE VITAL ROLE OF THE MUSIC LIBRARY



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ENABLERS

Library Service is one university-wide connected entity which supports collaboration across disciplines, departments, and faculties: automatically enabling multi-, inter-, and trans-disciplinarity

Library research support is not specific to separate academic units.

Increasing availability of electronic resources and less dependence on physical resources

Subject-specific music librarians always collaborate with their counterparts in other disciplines to access resources and support teaching, learning, and research

CHALLENGES

SUGGESTIONS

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CHALLENGES

Budget limitations: practical and systemic restrictions, (e.g., costs of journals, 'niche' resources, etc.)

Despite budget cuts: Need a core collection to support an important innovative transdisciplinary field

Some lack of communication channels between different subject-specific libraries

Lack of university management understanding of the role, skills, knowledge and experience of the subject-specific music librarian

Music libraries housed in independent conservatory settings may not have access to other discipline's libraries

SUGGESTIONS

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SUGGESTIONS

Identify practical strategies to overcome budget limitations

Proactive planning, communication and collaboration between researchers and subject specific librarians to facilitate access to resources

Collaboration between faculty librarians can be initiated by the research project leaders

Identify the specific components of the vitally important role of the MUSIC library in supporting transdisciplinary music-related teaching, learning and research

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The music library and music librarians are essential role players in music-related transdisciplinary (TD) teaching, learning, and research.

- What are the enablers and challenges you have experienced in this area?
- What are some of the solutions you discovered and successes you have had in this area?
- How can researchers help to better enable the role of the music librarian in TD research?
- Could you share your best-practice recommendations for how music libraries can support, and be supported by TD research?

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Thank you | Enkosi | Dankie

