

To Professor Manuel Pedro Ferreira
Chairman of CESEM, Lisboa, Portugal

Evaluation of CESEM annual reports for 2016

The CESEM consists of 5 research groups, 1. Early music studies, 2. Music in the modern period, 3. Contemporary Music, 4. Education and Human Development, and 5. Critical Theory and Communication.

The 2016 annual report contains a brief overall report on the development in 2016 emphasizing the substantial increase in funding reflected also in a corresponding increase in researchers, now 222 at the end of 2016. The report mentions the overall growth of the CESEM and pointing out, however, a slight decrease in international peer reviewed journal articles, which, on the other hand, is made up for by the increase in publications in other categories. I believe it is generally interesting to look at quantity in publications, especially within the individual categories. However, small variations from year to year will necessarily occur, also because publication in the humanistic fields often, and in varying measures, is a slow process. In any case, it is often more important to look at the individual journal in which an article is published and the length of the article, not to mention the importance of actually reading and evaluating the contents. The fact that substantial articles were published in the *Journal of the American Musicological Society* and *Acta Musicologica*, two absolute top-journals within musicology (as also mentioned in the general overview on p. 1), is far more important than a simple count of numbers of articles.

The graphs and tables on pp. 2–3 indicating funding rates and publication figures (divided according to the 5 research groups as well as giving the total rates) give a clear overview of the general progress and again (as in 2015) show an overall convincing output from the CESEM in 2016. As already pointed out such graphs and tables are instructive and important, but small variations should not be over-interpreted. The general positive tendencies are clear in any case, and the increase in funding from 2014 to 2016 extremely impressive.

As stated, results during 2016 have altogether been very positive. The listing of numbers of fellowships and grants is impressive. Particularly interesting is the mentioning of the new collaborative strategic project of CESEM *História Temática da Música em Portugal e no Brasil* which was started in June 2016 and which will involve all 5 research groups of the CESEM over five years. I will look forward to get to know more along the way about its structure and plans for the future, and how the project has developed so far. The project would, it seems provide a new possibility for demonstrating the fruitfulness of the having the 5 research teams alongside each other in the CESEM. The monthly internal symposia begun in 2015 in order to further mutual reflection and discussion of research from individual researchers

across the 5 groups with internal peer reviewing of work in progress has continued in 2016. I suspect that this is an important tool also for the new collaborative integration of the 5 teams in the new major research effort.

Also the new research project "The Anatomy of Late 15th- and Early 16th-Century Iberian Polyphonic Music" within the Early Music group appears as an interesting new analytical approach to materials studied by the group, which has already resulted in publications.

The report is as in the previous annual reports divided in 5 detailed reports from the five research groups, giving overall summaries of activities for each group in 2016. The listings confirm the already mentioned impressions, also concerning finished theses and dissertations during 2016, the academic services provided, as well as other activities, workshops and conferences, concerts, new compositions, and outreach activities. Activities have altogether remained at a high level everywhere, and even increased, numerically and, most importantly in my view, in terms of attempts to integrate the activities of the 5 research teams in an overall agenda (as mentioned above).

As in previous years I would have liked to know more about internal discussions in the internal symposia, as well as concerning the new integrated research strategy. In any case, there is absolutely no doubt that CESEM is on a very good path, functioning at a high, even excellent level, so that I can conclude my overall evaluation with the statement that the CESEM in 2016 has again progressed significantly, and is carrying out research at the highest international academic level.

Copenhagen 31 May 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nils Holger Petersen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'N' and a long, sweeping tail.

Nils Holger Petersen