

The AEC White Paper on Artistic Research

Welcome everyone



AEC

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**Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland**



FULLSCORE

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Why key concepts?

- Particular demand by AEC members
- To establish widely-agreed notions across AEC members and beyond of often-used terms
 - “Especially those where there may be some confusion or controversy as to their meaning or how they should be interpreted and developed”
- To support member organisations in their internal and external communication
- To support AEC Council, ExCom and Office in their advocacy activities
- Therefore, definitions have to be inclusive but clear enough

History of White Paper

- Council March 2012: Suggestion made by to start a Key Concepts series, beginning with Artistic Research
- Two years of debate and discussion, including extensive work between Council meetings
- Council April 2014: Final version of the Key Concepts document 'Artistic Research' approved; Decision taken to launch document as a 'Green Paper' to stimulate discussion
- 28th April 2014: Green Paper on Artistic Research disseminated through a special piece in the AEC Newsletter

History of White Paper

- EPARM April 2015: Discussion in five breakout groups; collecting extensive feedback from about 100 participants
- June/September 2015: Approval of the revised document by ExCom and Council
- 5th November 2015: Dissemination of the English, French, German and Italian version to all EPARM participants
- 13th November 2015 : Presentation and discussion at the AEC Annual Congress

Main topics in these discussions

- Inclusivity regarding different form of artistic research
- At the same time a substantial definition of main principles
- Research question – new knowledge
- Methodology
- Documentation – Dissemination
- Relation between scientific research about music and artistic research through music
- Relation between artistic practise (artistic output) and artistic research

Structure of the White Paper

- PART ONE: The Basic Concept
Rationale
Definition
- PART TWO: Developing the Concept
The place of Artistic Research in the wider research context
Characteristics of Artistic Research in the context of conservatoires
Features of Artistic Research that will confirm it as a fully-established discipline
- PART THREE: Summary of AEC's overarching beliefs and policies on Artistic Research
AEC believes
How AEC will support the development of Artistic Research
- Former part three about literature was left to a more up to date online document that has to be developed

PART ONE: The Basic Concept

-Rationale-

- Research has an important role to play as a means of promoting the understanding and development of the musical arts
- Freedom of institutions as to whether they want to participate and how
- Not every conservatoire will necessarily wish to participate in explicit research activities
- AEC specifically wishes to endorse an inclusive approach
- AEC acknowledges that precise definitions are not only difficult to achieve but might prove limiting to the valid research ambitions of some member institutions

PART ONE: The Basic Concept

– Definition –

- Artistic Research may be defined as a form of research that possesses a solid basis embedded in artistic practice and which creates new knowledge and/or insight and perspectives within the arts, contributing both to artistry and to innovation.
- Artistic Research commonly displays all, or most, of the following features:
- It is usually conducted by the artist-researcher or through the collaboration of artists within a research team

PART ONE: The Basic Concept

– Definition –

Features continued

- It promotes critical dialogue within the artistic field, with other relevant fields of knowledge and between the scholarly and professional domains
- It is supported by critical reflection on the content and/or context of the research topic
- It articulates and reflects on methods and work processes
- It shares relevant professional knowledge with the wider artistic community and disseminates it in the public sphere to the enrichment of cultural understanding

PART TWO: Developing the Concept

The place of Artistic Research in the wider research context

- Artistic Research needs to fit inside the general frame of research whilst, at the same time, asserting its specific and distinctive character
- Artistic Research should aspire to the same procedural standards that apply across the whole research spectrum – replicability (especially of procedures), verifiability, justification of claims by reference to evidence, etc. – even though, especially in areas such as replicability, it must be allowed the freedom to achieve these standards in ways particular to its own nature, and to the individual and subjective nature of artistic practice

PART TWO: Developing the Concept

The place of Artistic Research in the wider research context

- Not every type of research conducted in conservatories is necessarily Artistic Research
- Components of Artistic research can count as pure research, others as applied, and still others as developmental or translational research
- Artistic practice is the source from which Artistic Research draws its questions and also the target towards which it addresses its answers

PART TWO: Developing the Concept Characteristics of Artistic Research in the context of conservatoires

- The Centrality of Artistic Processes and Products
 - Artistic Processes or Products in Relation to Other Elements
 - Artistic Research as a Collaborative Process
 - Students and Teachers
- Teachers as part of their on-going professional development
Research in the 2nd Cycle may primarily be of benefit to the growth of the individual student
Research in the 3rd Cycle and beyond should be capable of having an impact on the wider community

PART TWO: Developing the Concept Characteristics of Artistic Research in the context of conservatoires

- Communication of Research Results
Comprehensibility among peers
New ways, more closely embedded in the artistic component
- Appropriate Dissemination of Research Results
Need not be confined to the written word
It is not enough to perform a work and call this a
'communication of research results'

PART TWO: Developing the Concept Features of Artistic Research that will confirm it as a fully-established discipline

- Its own national and international associations
- Its own journals
- Its own distinctive discourses (not just one discourse)
- Its own acknowledged leading experts in the field
- Its own regular conferences
- Full-time faculty positions in conservatoires
- Relevant Doctoral training and Post-Doctoral development
- Research funding programmes specific to it
- Funding for graduate students

PART THREE: Summary of AEC's overarching beliefs and policies on Artistic Research

AEC believes

- Artistic Research has the potential to play an important role in the life and work of conservatoires
- Artistic Research should complements the artistic activity

PART THREE: Summary of AEC's overarching beliefs and policies on Artistic Research

How AEC will support the development of Artistic Research

- Publications (e.g. recently the handbook on research in 2nd-Cycle programmes)
- EPARM
- 'Polifonia' database of student research projects and supervisors
- 'living' online bibliography
- Encouraging institutions who are seeking to develop Doctoral programmes
- Ensuring that the concept of Artistic Research be understood adequately and widely