

# MOVING INTO THE FIELD OF POPULAR MUSIC – A SHIFT IN SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS, VALUES, QUESTIONS AND METHODS WITH EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

*Günter Kleinen*

University of Bremen, Germany

## Background

About 150 years after v. Helmholtz' pionier work about musical acoustics ("On the sensation of sound"), so-called Systematic musicology was developed in the "natural" context of classical music. But by critical review, it has been revealed that the classical canon of European art music has a historic starting point as well as an end, at least in its absolute recognition (cp. Cook). So today, popular music changes music psychology, the horizon of questioning, the spectrum of methods, the results, and consequences.

## Aims

Moving from the classical style into the area of popular music causes a shift of our scientific focus. The concepts and methods of research have to be adapted to the new area. The older subjects are seen under new perspectives and scientific paradigms, with implications on music education (cp. Webster).

## Main Contribution

The shift concerns topics of high relevance for music psychology, like perception, talent, creativity, hierarchy of tone parameters in music reception, experience of body and rhythm, self taught learning versus formal education, emotions and meanings, evaluation. Especially the frames of reference and the methods of scientific research are enriched by the experience of pop music research in the cultural studies (cp. Frith).

The consequences in music education are remarkable and concern the center of musical learning in schools, i.e. aims, the methods of teaching and learning, the relation to new media, the evaluation of music lessons by students, teacher colleagues, parents, school image, the improvement of general living conditions in schools, the inclusion of outside activities etc. Results of the BACKDOOR-project will be discussed under these perspectives.

## Implications

The implications concern music education in schools but also musical learning by individual initiatives and activities in instrument learning and playing in groups or bands (cp. Green).