

## Editorial

The latest issue of *Music and Arts in Action*, an open access peer-reviewed journal published by the SocArts Research Group of the University of Exeter, UK,

In *Music enhances empathic engagement with characters in film*, Steven Brown, Matthew Howe and Michel Belyk report the results of an experiment carried out with the aim to discover the effect of music on people's empathic engagement with fictional characters. By selecting video clips with low empathic scores for the main character and adding emotionally-congruent background music to them, the authors found that the music increased participant's empathy with the character.

Next, Nkululeko Sibanda and Novuyo Nkala, in *A gendered discourse analysis of Clement Magwaza's Istambo Sami song text*, propose a way to understand the gendered Ndebele / Kalanga society by means of an analysis of Magwaza's song text. By doing so the authors expose how gendered discourses are articulated in and through the song. At stake are the discursive ideological meanings and operation of power in local gendered relationships, which this article intends to reveal.

Finally, in *Building bridges, opening doors: arts in multi-lingual senior housing*, Maureen Kellen-Taylor shows through a practice-led project how the arts may be an important means to reduce isolation of the elderly and foster intercultural communication. By providing classes in exercise, crafts and Asian Brush-painting to multi-ethnic residents of three low-income senior buildings in Los Angeles, the arts successfully connected people and helped empowering participants. Although the arts may help dissolve boundaries, the author stresses that initial connections must be built upon in order to increase individual relationships and a greater sense of community.

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