

**Keynote: Anja Volk, *Computational pattern search in folk music: challenges and opportunities***

**Abstract**

In this talk I address current challenges and opportunities of computational analysis of folk music, by taking the specific angle on how automatic pattern search enables us to scrutinize what it is that we really know about a specific folk music style, if we consider ourselves to be musical experts. I elaborate my hypothesis that musical knowledge is often implicit, while computation enables us to make part of this knowledge explicit and evaluate it on a data set. Specifically, I address the questions as to when we perceive two folk melodies to be variants of each other, and how to unravel style characteristics. With examples from my research on patterns in Dutch folk songs, Irish folk songs and Rags, I demonstrate what both experts and non-experts gain from developing computational methods for analysing folk music.