



Transition pathways towards gender inclusion in the changing musical landscapes of Nepal (amplifyHer)

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Addressing the globally set Sustainable Development Goals (UNESCO) requires that culture is seen as an important investment in the future. The *amplifyHer* project aims to increase understanding of the systemic interconnectedness of music tradition, social power dynamics, and gender hierarchies, as well as the potential of non-linear, emergent transformative change towards gender inclusion in and through musical arts and their public forms in society. The research will be conducted in Nepal where rituals and festivals feature patriarchal music making, where female music making is still associated with stigmatisation, and where gender inequality continues to be a key barrier to education and women's political agency. By seeking drivers for socio-political change, the research challenges views of musical heritage that stress social-political neutrality and conservation, and instead, emphasises that gender-inclusive musical practices can generate wider social transformation. It suggests that such transformation is possible through new social, spatial, musical reconfigurations that enable 'performing difference' in the public sphere.

Our objectives are to:

- Co-develop systems reflexivity through knowledge on the negotiation and boundary-crossing of Nepali women and girls who have been able to perform music amidst contradictory values and social expectations;
- Co-design systems interventions and leadership visions towards sustainable, gender-inclusive musical landscapes in Nepal;
- Co-construct gender-based conceptual systems frames to inform global research, practice, and policy that strives towards sustainable musical heritage; and
- Promote responsible music professionalism and heritage activism, and the international academic careers of the Nepali team.

The project's aims align with UNESCO's 2030 Agenda, as well as with policies that highlight the sustainability of vulnerable musical heritage. Social impact will be achieved through multiple activities that demonstrate the possibility of gender-inclusiveness in Nepal.

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Selected publications

Gurung P. & Treacy, D. S. (in press). Little publics as an approach to stimulating systems reflexivity on gender equality in music education. *The Journal of Public Pedagogies*.

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