

MARISA HOESCHELE, PhD THE NEW MUSICALITY AND BIOACOUSTICS RESEARCH GROUP

Monday, 29.10.2018, 13:15 at Lecture Hall 4, UZA II



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Music is found in all human cultures no matter how isolated, which suggests that music is not a purely cultural phenomenon, but has roots in human biology. Though there are differences in how music takes shape across cultures, all musical systems are founded in the same core abilities. These core abilities, such as a pleasure in rhythm and attending to relationships among discrete pitches, are collectively referred to as *musicality*. Specifically, musicality is defined as biological predispositions that form the foundation for the cultural evolution of music. But why does the human species have these biological predispositions and inclinations towards music from a very young age? One way to examine the biological origins of musicality is to consider ourselves in the context of other species. Do other species also have similar musical predispositions? I will discuss the work I have conducted on this topic comparing human and non-human animal acoustic perception and production and explain my new research group “Bioacoustics and Musicality” sheds light on the biological foundations of music.

Marisa Hoeschele completed her PhD in Psychology with a specialization in Comparative Cognition and Behaviour at the University of Alberta, Canada in 2013. In 2013 she moved to Vienna as a post-doc and built the budgerigar laboratory at the Department of Cognitive Biology at the University of Vienna. In October 2018 she moved to the Acoustics Research Institute at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna to build the “Musicality and Bioacoustics” research group.