

## **EXPERIMENTING WITH TRANSFORMATION**

### **DOMINANTE DE LA JOURNEE (KEYNOTE) - 2**

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Transformation: to change the form of something, to cross the borders of one state to reach another one. That is exactly what we do when we use technologies in creative processes. Transformation is one of main leading ideas that guide the activities of NuSom - Núcleo de Pesquisas em Sonologia (Research Centre on Sonology) at the University of São Paulo. In the last ten years a group of artists and researchers related to NuSom have been working on the interfaces between academic research and artistic creation, exploring local conditions and facilities to transform the artistic experience of its members and audiences. Most of our work is guided by the concept of experimentation. The term is taken here in a double sense: as an empirical method to test something; and as an attitude of exploring what is not yet established or finalized, sometimes by transgressing or reinventing artistic boundaries. In this talk I'll briefly present some initiatives at NuSom in the direction of transforming technologies, practices and concepts within a creative framework. These initiatives will be assembled in four thematic fields:

- 1) transforming spaces: extrapolating the ideas of sound projection and sound localization often recalled when one think about spatiality in music, we present a few projects that explore space as a musical parameter, among them, a series of network concerts and installation projects;
- 2) transforming context: leaving the concert hall to explore other social spaces can lead to very rich experiences in terms of reallocating the roles of artists and audiences; part of our works focus on the incorporation of contextual situations as the material for music creation;
- 3) transforming forms: by recombining musical practices, technologies and genres, we try to transfigure regular approaches to music creation into new ones, for example, by recreating electroacoustic music as instrumental performances or revisiting standard music works in collective recreations;
- 4) transforming actions: the "classic" issues of music interaction and gesture are taken into consideration in an experimental perspective to construct new instruments and performative instances.

For each of these four fields we will provide a couple of examples among the works created by the NuSom in the last years and will point out a few issues related to the use of music technology in a creative way.