

A WORD OF WELCOME FROM ISMMS

Hail all MHM delegates metal music scholars and practitioners! On behalf of the committee of International Society for Metal Music Studies (ISMMS), I would like to send you all warm greetings and a welcome to the MHM conference 2015, Helsinki, arguably in probably the most metal country in the world. Some of you may well be new to metal studies, others may have been to several conferences symposia and seminar events in the past, but whatever your engagement with the field we hope you will feel warmly received into this growing band of practitioners, researchers and scholars. Since the first metal studies conference held in Salzburg in 2008 the rapid growth and sustained interest in metal studies has been nothing other than remarkable, and we can *all* count ourselves proud to be part of witnessing its success.

It has been wonderful to see this Helsinki conference take shape and we owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Toni-Matti Karjalainen and his team at the Aalto University school of Business for their willingness to take on organising this behemoth of an event, together with the co-hosts University of Helsinki; University of Turku; Sibelius Academy; Åbo Akademi University; Finnish Jazz & Pop Archive. It demonstrates a truly national initiative. They have truly managed to put together an astounding programme both in terms of the papers presented guest speakers invited and activities beyond the core conference itself. ISMMS trusts that you will gain much from the spirit of open discourse and dialogue, generous sharing of ideas and the opportunity to establish new research relationships and cement existing ones.

Thank you too to the reviewing committee for their time effort and insight in the evaluation and selection of papers. This volume reflects the high standards of scholarship and research that continue to flourish in our field and represents yet another achievement we can all be proud of. The works presented here are also very much representative of the egalitarian interdisciplinary nature of metal studies presenting a range of voices working at all levels of research and interest in metal music and its culture. It is testament to how research can be done across disciplines and free of hierarchy and prejudice.

We hope you will find details on joining ISMMS in your conference pack and take advantage of subscription to the organisations journal *Metal Music studies*, published by Intellect. Please feel free to send any enquiries about membership of ISMMS, ideas for future events as well as queries and submissions to the journal to Prof. Karl Spracklen (k.spracklen@leedsbeckett.co.uk) or me, Dr. Niall Scott (nwrscott@uclan.ac.uk)

We wish you an excellent time at MHM and in Helsinki and take advantage to take in this truly beautiful place and look forward to seeing you at future ISMMS events.

(,) Preston, Lancashire, 1 May 2015

Niall W. Scott
Chair of the International Society for Metal Music Studies