

The social semiotics of movement and music

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Reading list for seminar:

- Chapter 7: Movement in *Multimodality and Identity* (van Leeuwen, 2022)
- *Kinaesthetic Metaphors of (non-)directedness in Music* (Han, 2023)

Abstract: This seminar will explore the semiotics of movement through the lens of a social semiotic framework for the analysis of movement qualities (Han, 2021). This framework combines the approach taken by van Leeuwen and colleagues to describing semiotic media such as vocal timbre, colour, texture and graphic shape (see van Leeuwen, 2021 for an overview) with perspectives from movement analysis (Bartenieff and Lewis, 1980) and dance phenomenology (Sheets-Johnstone, 2015) to describe the physiological experience of movement (i.e. *kinaesthesia*) as a rich source of meaning potential across many semiotic modes. This seminar will focus on the semiotic analysis of movement qualities in music, drawing on a range of examples analysed in relation to their social, historical and cultural contexts. It will also examine applications of the framework to multimodal analysis, including the analysis of multimodal communication in music educational contexts.

References

- Bartenieff, I., & Lewis, D. (1980). *Body movement: Coping with the environment*. New York: Gordon and Breach Science Publishers.
- Han, J. (2021). *A social semiotic account of music-movement correspondences*. (PhD Thesis). UNSW, Sydney.
- Han, J. (2023). *Kinaesthetic metaphors of (non-)directedness in music*. Manuscript submitted to *Semiotica* for peer-review and publication.
- Sheets-Johnstone, M. (2015). *The phenomenology of dance* (Fiftieth Anniversary ed.). Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- van Leeuwen, T. (2021). *Multimodality and identity*. London: Routledge.