



*The Social Production of a Mallorcan Bagpipe Bag:  
Collaboration, Technology, Ecology and Internationalisation*

Vortrag  
von

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(Eingang via Garnisongasse 13)



# The Social Production of a Mallorcan Bagpipe Bag: Collaboration, Technology, Ecology and Internationalisation.

## Abstract

Through the cultural, social, ecological and technological description of the Mallorcan bagpipe bag, this talk underlines the role of tangible objects in shaping intangible heritage. In line with Allen's urge to use the material links between culture and nature to support cultural sustainability (2019, 56) and answering Dawe's call for more 'detailed in-the-field study' to showcase how musical instruments, far from being inert and insignificant objects, are 'entangled in webs of culture' (Dawe 2003, 278), it highlights the highly social nature of the production of a musical instrument and underlines the role of instrument-making towards the sustainability of a musical culture.

Historically made from one-year-old goats, Mallorcan bagpipe bags went through different phases of innovation, from rubber and Goretex® bags to purposefully factory-made hybrid bags. At the core of these changes are the musicians and the instrument makers, working together to create an instrument that can meet increasing musical and technological demands whilst supporting the cultural and ecological relevance of the instrument. Together, these elements work towards sustaining the identity of the instrument, removed from the shepherding profession it was traditionally associated with but symbolising the island of Mallorca, its land, language and culture, through a revitalised and modernised practice. With the bagpipe bag at its centre, this paper pulls together its social networks (musicians, instrument makers, product providers) and its ecology (from local resources to synthetic materials), both marked by technological advancements and international influences to create an instrument with a musical, cultural and social identity.

This paper is based on a chapter due to be published in a forthcoming book edited by Stephen Cottrell entitled *Shaping Sound and Society: The Cultural Study of Musical Instruments*, published by Routledge.



## Biography:

Dr Cassandre Balosso-Bardin is a Senior Lecturer in Music at University of Lincoln, UK, and is a member of the British Forum for Ethnomusicology committee. She holds a PhD in ethnomusicology from SOAS, University of London, and was a postdoctoral researcher for an interdisciplinary project around musical instruments at Sorbonne Universités. Cassandre specialises in musical instruments, with a specific interest in bagpipes, and is the founding director of the International Bagpipe Organisation. She was recently awarded the Chester Dale Fellowship at the Metropolitan Museum in New York to carry out the first in-depth study of their bagpipe collection (2022-23). Cassandre is also a professional musician and has a background in Early Music and European folk music.