

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION, MUSIC, AND HUMAN RIGHTS
**Community participation as a human right and how music can play a role in the feeling
of ‘connectedness’**

An Abstract of Thesis by *Taylor, Christopher*

This study looks at how members of the Give Something Back to Berlin (GSBTB) Community conceptualize what it means to feel belonging and connection to a community. It looks at the literature surrounding concepts of belonging and connection and how they relate to community, starting with roots in Self Psychology but focusing on more modern definitions of belonging. Furthermore, this study looks at the historical context of Germany’s relationship with ‘community music’ and how it has been formalized today in academic settings. Using participatory research practices and a Self Constructionist framework, GSBTB community members share their thoughts and experiences in semi-structured interviews in which participants expressed how the community building organization GSBTB helps connect, and helps members ‘feel connected’ to what they see as a community here in Berlin, Germany.

Additionally, participants share their thoughts on the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic and how it affects their feelings of connection. Community members pose questions on what more can be done to enhance these feelings, as well as how the thoughts and experiences in this study can be shared with the larger community.