

COST Cooperation



EVALUATION FORM for APPLICATIONS for SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS

COST Action : ConGAS 287 _____
 Working Group : 1 _____
 Proposing Applicant : IPEM – Ghent University _____
 Host Institute: HUT – Helsinki University _____

GENERAL CRITERIA

CRITERIA	MARK*	COMMENT
➤ <i>Scientific quality of the application</i> . originality . feasibility of approach		
➤ <i>Compatibility with the COST Action</i> . compatibility with the MoU . added value to Action . extended network of contacts . timeframe of application . timeframe of Action		
➤ <i>Realism of the Application</i> . feasibility within timeframe proposed . justification of the finance requested		
➤ <i>Qualifications of the Applicant</i> . research being undertaken . research already undertaken . publications . participation in international research cooperation		
➤ <i>Application of Results</i> . impact for Action . dissemination of result		
Overall Evaluation		

Recommend to Accept	
Recommend to Reject	
Recommend to Modify	

* Please indicate one of the following : (NA = not applicable, 1 = poor, 2 = average, 3 = good). The subdivisions of the criteria only indicate examples of the factors to be considered and do not require an individual evaluation. If your recommendation is "modify" then please explain how.

SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS

APPLICATION FORM

For the attention of the chairperson of the Management Committee COST Action 287 :

Please complete using a typewriter or in BLOCK CAPITALS

FROM

Name : LI

First Names : Henbing

Organisation : IPEM – Ghent University

Street : Blandijnberg 2

Town and Postcode : Ghent, 9000

Country : Belgium

Telephone : +32 9 2644125

Telefax : +32 9 2644143

E-mail Address : lihenbing@belgacom.net

1. Description of candidate

- 1.1. I apply for the period from 11/01/2005 to 15/01/2005 and from 13/02/2005 to 18/02/2005
- 1.2. COST Action and title: 287, ConGAS

Project Number or Working Group number and title (if any) : WP I
- 1.3. Academic qualifications (Title, Degrees): Master in music and musicology from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China
- 1.4. Nationality: Chinese
- 1.5. Date of birth: 21 May 1976
- 1.6. Present employer (if different from organisation above): not employed, but currently PdD-student at UGent

2. Detailed Work Plan

The collaboration between the Department of Musicology at Ghent University (IPEM) and the Laboratory of Acoustics and Audio Signal Processing at Helsinki University of Technology (HUT) aims at (i) making a physical model of the Chinese Guqin instrument, and (ii) modeling the typical gestural techniques of portamento playing using dedicated software available at HUT. The result will allow (i) the computer synthesis of Chinese classical music for Guqin, (ii) further experimental studies concerning the perceived expressiveness of the Guqin instrument using the gestural controlled physical model.

The collaboration will consist of four phases, including two visits of Ms. LI to HUT: from 11/01/2005 to 15/01/2005 and from 13/02/2005 to 18/02/2005.

Phase I: Recording of Guqin and presentation of work:

During the first phase, Ms. LI will visit HUT. Two tasks will be worked out.

First, the Guqin instrument will be recorded in an anechoic room (Ms. LI is a very qualified player of the instrument) and a physical model will be constructed on that basis. The synthesis model for her Chinese instrument will be a modification of the acoustic guitar model and perhaps the Renaissance lute model, both of which are working models available at HUT. Experiments will be set up which consider the tone quality and acoustics of the instrument to see how the synthesis model must be modified.

Second, Ms. LI will present the work on an acoustical analysis of gesture techniques of portamento playing. This work consists of a catalogue and classification of gesture forms, measured in terms of time, frequency, and intensity. The analysis shows that each gesture (portamento type) consists of a sequence of more elementary basic movements. Collaborators from HUT, as well as from the Sibelius Academy with whom HUT is collaborating will present the rule-based system for gesture modeling. A detailed planning will be made of how the two approaches (musicological analysis and catalogue, rule-based gesture modeling system) can be matched together.

Phase II: Physical Modeling of Guqin, Preparation of gesture catalogue and gesture rule-system:

Work at HUT will lead to a physical model of the Guqin, possibly some adaptations of the rule-based system for gesture modeling might be needed. Work at IPEM will be concerned with the final preparation of the gesture catalogue according to the format of the rule-based system.

Phase III: Implementation of gesture catalogue and testing

Ms. LI will again visit HUT. The main task is to implement the gesture rules in the rule-based system and to start the first tests. The result will be a working physical model of the Guqin with rule-based control of expressiveness according to the gesture catalogue of M. LI.

Phase IV: Exploitation of Results

Further work at IPEM and HUT will lead to at least two publications:

- one publication written from the viewpoint of the musicological analysis with presentation of the gesture techniques on the Guqin in function of the physical modeling, with first author from IPEM
- one publication written from the viewpoint of physical modeling of the Guqin in function of the musicological analysis, with first author from HUT

The resulting model will be used in further studies concerning the perception of Guqin expressiveness.

Some information about the Guqin and the doctoral dissertation of Ms. LI:

Guqin, often called as “Chinese long zither”, is the oldest Chinese string instrument which is still available today; the structure of the instrument has been finalized since more than a thousand years ago, except for the fact that the silk strings were changed into nylon enlaced metal, several decades ago. Guqin music took a very important place, not only in the history of Chinese music, but also in the ancient society and culture, therefore, it is well documented through the historical times. Guqin has not faded out of the stage of history like other ancient instruments have, due to it’s unique sound quality and playing techniques.

Guqin is a plucked string instrument and portamento is one of the most important and characteristic playing techniques for the Guqin music. Traditionally, a distinction is made between 4 different portamento-gestures: 1) vibrato discreetly, 2) vibrato greatly, 3) ascending, 4) descending; and there are about 50 defined variations, in which more than 10 are frequently used. These ornamental playing techniques make Guqin music extremely expressive and emotional but up to now, there has been a lack of scientific documentation about these portamento-gestures.

The doctoral dissertation of Ms. LI precisely addresses this point. The thesis consists of a study of the portamento gestures used in Guqin music with the following goals:

- 1) Build up a database of individual sliding pitches taken from Guqin performance recordings from the same repertoire by different players, also from different repertoires by the same player.
- 2) Make an acoustical analysis of the gestural movements of each individual pitch from the database, with the aim at finding out the basic units of the movement (specified by time, frequency, intensity), and classification of the different movements in groups according to the gesture type.
- 3) Musicological analysis of the expressiveness of different types of portamento, and personal style of different players. This part of the PhD has to be completed and the physical model will be of tremendous help to test several aspects of the Guqin expressiveness.

The combination of the musicological analysis with the techniques of physical modeling will largely contribute to a better understanding of the role of gesture in Guqin-music. The case-study will come up with particular hypothesis concerning the nature of gestural control in relation to musical style. We believe that this contribution is highly relevant in view of the aims and goals of the ConGAS COST 287 action.

3. Detailed estimation of the funding requested

- Amounts in EUR and national currency

Travelling Visit 1: 300 €
Hotel Visit 1: 4 * 100 = 400 €
Daily allowance Visit 1: 4 * 50 € = 200 €
Total Visit 1: 900 €

Travelling Visit 2: 300 €
Hotel Visit 2: 5 * 100 = 500 €
Daily allowance Visit 2: 5 * 50 € = 250 €
Total Visit 2: 1050 €

Global total: 1950 €

- Amount requested from CEC : - travel costs, - subsistence allowance

1950 €

- Indication of contribution from other sources (national and/or private)

None for M. Henbing LI

- Indication of other previous CEC financial support or current requests to the CEC (COST or other Commission activities)

None for M. Henbing LI

Details of bank account :

NAME: Li Henbing
ADDRESS: Sint-Amandplein 3, 9000 Gent, Belgium
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 434-6248541-96
IBAN : BE65 4346 2485 4196
BIC: KREDBEBB

5. I enclose the "Acceptance by the host institution" of the work plan duly signed.

I would be pleased to provide further information if requested to do so.

I, the undersigned, declare that the information provided above and enclosed is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.

Date :

Signature:



SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS

Acceptance by the Host Institution

This declaration is to be completed by the head of the host research group and returned to the grant applicant.

Please complete using a typewriter or in block capitals

Name :

First Names :

Organisation :

Street :

Town and Postcode :

Country :

Telephone :

Telefax :

E-mail Address:

(i) I, the undersigned _____ am willing to receive _____, in my institution on a short-term scientific mission in the frame of the COST Action ___287___ to undertake the work described in the attached work plan.

(ii) The duration of the request is from

11/01/2005 to 15/01/2005 and from 13/02/2005 to 18/02/2005

Date:

Signature :