

## **Spaces of Creative Work in the Digital Age: The Case of indie Musicians**

**Brian J. Hracz - Uppsala University**

After a decade of technological change and industrial restructuring it is now estimated that 95% of all musicians in Canada operate independently of record labels. These workers have become responsible for the entire range of creative and non-creative tasks associated with the production, promotion and distribution of music-related products. Performing everything from live shows to web design and song writing to social networking, indie musicians oscillate between a range of physical and virtual spaces within and across cities. Despite research interest in the creative industries, the evolving spatial dynamics and experiences of specific occupational groups including musicians remain poorly understood by geographers. Drawing on 65 interviews with indie musicians in Toronto, this presentation will demonstrate how and why this form of creative work is being fragmented across time and space. In so doing, some of the spaces musicians occupy including the home, the stage, bars, cafes and online forums and websites will be explored. Extending existing research on aesthetic and emotional labour, the presentation will also highlight the ways in which musicians experience and conduct themselves in different work environments. In particular, the presentation will investigate the extensification of work into the home and why new attitudes toward collaboration and networking are shifting these activities from physical to virtual spaces. These findings will help to nuance our understanding of the spatialities and challenges that creative workers in the digital age now face.