

Internal Research Agenda Update — EISS Division: Zero

Dated: 15 January 2026

Classification: Internal / Staff Circulation

Subject: Strategic Transition of Primary Research Focus — Phase 2 Programme

Following the completion of the internal review cycle for the 2023–2025 Research Programme, the Division Board has approved a formal transition of primary thematic focus effective Q1 2026.

The first phase of Division: Zero work established a rigorous foundational corpus concerning sub-audible phenomena, silent culture formation, and the associated cultural collapse cycles of early 21st century electronic music contexts. This phase has now been designated as archival complete for the purposes of active field priority.

Phase 2 Research Theme (2026–2028)

The Global Economy of Listening: architectural resonance, sonic financialization, and post-human auditory augmentation.

The Division will allocate priority efforts toward the classification, comparative analysis, and longitudinal monitoring of emergent sonic infrastructures, with particular reference to:

Resonant design as an architectural instrument of behavioral modulation.

The financialization of acoustic rights, silence derivatives, and sonic exclusivity.

Post-human listening — firmware, implant, and augmentation ecosystems shaping future auditory stratification.

This shift reflects the Board's assessment that the cultural, economic, and technological vectors shaping future sonic environments are converging at a systemic level, requiring proactive theoretical and methodological alignment.

Project leads are requested to align ongoing work packages and literature reviews accordingly, and to submit updated work package amendments to the Programme Secretariat by 31 January 2026.

Further methodological guidelines and citation framework updates will circulate in February.

— Office of Programme Strategy & Alignment

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European Institute for Sound Studies