Epistemology and procedure in aural training: In search of a unification of music cognitive theory with its applications.

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# Epistemology and Procedure in Aural Training: In Search of a Unification of Music Cognitive Theory with Its Applications

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## **Abstract**

This paper reflects a reexamination of the desired knowledge base of aural cognition, the theoretical basis for constructing it, and the means of evaluating the success of its training. Reasons for the frustrations generated by the gap between current cognition research and its applications are presented. The pervasive model of knowledge acquisition, one rooted in objectivist theory, is examined, and the limitations of the training effected through this model are noted. A distinction between well-structured and illstructured content domains is introduced. Next an alternate, constructivist paradigm for training in ill-structured domains is proposed, and its advantages are cited. A further inconsistency in the epistemological/procedural relationship is cited regarding teaching of analysis vs. teaching aural cognition. The article concludes with a call for a broadening of the epistemological basis of all the interrelated areas of aural training, instructional design, and cognition research itself.

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