

# **Aspects of the Definability of the Sequence Phenomenon in Tonal Music**

Ram Reuven

Department of Musicology, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel

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## **Abstract**

This talk proposes a new definition of the phenomenon of sequential repetition in Western tonal art music and addresses the grey areas of several aspects thereof, which are direct or indirect corollaries of the definition. Standard elements of the theoretical toolbox are employed, along with methods taken from the field of music cognition. The theory of natural schemata is a key concept to the definition, with an emphasis on a shift within a circular system and curves of changes over time (contours). Even though some elements of the definition restrict sequential repetition to the surface level of the musical organization, a closer look raises the possibility that there can be sequences at higher levels of organization.