

Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

Summer Term 2019

Module Focus

Course Title Sounding the Posthuman | Seminar

Course Times and Location Tuesdays, 10:00 – 14:00 | EIN 112

Instructor [Jacob Eriksen](#)

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Course Description

The notion of the posthuman has in the last decades been constituting the predominant theoretical discourse in the humanities, science and technology. With subcategories such as transhumanism, post-humanism (including post-colonial and feminist theories), anti-humanism, non-anthropocentrism and ecology, the posthuman is propagating new epistemologies questioning the role of the human in and as part of the world. This development has also made a great impact on 21st century art practice and theory - which also applies specifically to the sonic arts.

Through examination of contemporary as well as earlier works of sonic art the course will focus on mapping the field of posthuman theory in order to unfold an understanding of how these theories are - or can be - represented aesthetically and conceptually in the sonic arts.

The seminar is aimed at students interested in academic reading and artistic research. After completion the students will be able to contextualize and reflect upon auditory artistic practices from a posthuman theoretical perspective.

Exam / Credit Points

2CP (graded: Theory; non-graded: Free Focus): Regular attendance and 20' presentation in class.

4CP (graded: Theory; non-graded: Free Focus): Additional term paper (8,000 words) due Nov. 1, 2019.

Requirements for Attending

Preparatory readings of texts for each seminar

The seminars are limited to 15 students.

Schedule

Tue	April 23	INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS THE POSTHUMAN? Ferrando (2013) TRANSHUMANISM Trippett (2018); McNamee (2006)
Tue	April 30	ACCELERATIONISM Williams and Srnicek (2013); Williams, Herndon, and Dryhurst (2016); Connor (2013)
Tue	May 14	SONIC FEMINISM Goh (2016); Goh (2017); Thompson (2017); Cuboniks (2018); Behar (2016)
Tue	June 04	MYTHOLOGIES, AFROFUTURISM Dery (1994); Weheliye (2002); Chude-Sokei (2016); Gaskins (2016)
Tue	June 11	ANTHROPOCENE, ECOLOGIES, ENVIRONMENTAL SOUND ART Kahn (2013); Bianchi and Manzo (2016); Helmreich (2015, pp. 137-154); Morton (2014)

Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

- Tue June 25 **INHUMAN, NON-HUMAN, NON-ANTHROPOCENTRISM**
Ireland (2016); Thacker (2011, pp. 1-9); Barcelos (2016)
- Tue July 02 **MATERIALISM, VIBRANT MATTER, SONIC ONTOLOGIES**
Bennett (2010); Sheldon (2015); Goodman (2012); Kane (2015)

Supporting Media

- Barcelos**, Lendl. "The Nuclear Sonic: Listening to Millennial Matter." In *Aesthetics After Finitude*, edited by Prudence Gibson, Amy Ireland, and Baylee Brits, 2016.
- Behar**, Katherine. *Object-Oriented Feminism*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, ed. 2016.
- Bennett**, Jane. *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things*. North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2010.
- Bianchi**, Frederick W, and V. J Manzo. *Environmental Sound Artists: In Their Own Words*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Chude-Sokei**, Louis Onuorah. *The Sound of Culture: Diaspora and Black Technopoetics*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2016.
- Connor**, Michael. "The Impossible Music of Black MIDI." *Rhizome*, September 23, 2013. <http://rhizome.org/editorial/2013/sep/23/impossible-music-black-midi/>.
- Cuboniks**, Laboria. *The Xenofeminist Manifesto: A Politics for Alienation*. Brooklyn: Verso, 2018.
- Dery**, Mark. "Black to the Future: Interviews with Samuel R. Delany, Greg Tate, and Tricia Rose." *Flame Wars: The Discourse of Cyberculture*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, ed. 1994.
- Ferrando**, Francesca. *The Posthuman: Philosophical Posthumanism and Its Others*. PhD, Rome: Università di Roma Tre, 2013.
- Gaskins**, Nettrice. "Deep Sea Dwellers: Drexciya and the Sonic Third Space." *Shima: The International Journal of Research into Island Cultures* 10, no.2 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.21463/shima.10.2.08>.
- Goh**, Annie. "GenDyTrouble: Cyber*Feminist Computer Music." *N.paradoxa International Feminist Art Journal*, January 2016.
- Goh**, Annie. "Sounding Situated Knowledges: Echo in Archaeoacoustics." *Parallax* 23. No.3, (2017): 283–304. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13534645.2017.1339968>.
- Goodman**, Steve. *Sonic Warfare: Sound, Affect, and the Ecology of Fear*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2012.
- Helmreich**, Stefan. *Sounding the Limits of Life: Essays in the Anthropology of Biology and Beyond*. Princeton Studies in Culture and Technology. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2015.
- Ireland**, Amy. "Noise: An Ontology of the Avant-Garde." In *Aesthetics After Finitude*, 217–27. Melbourne: re.press, 2016.
- Kahn**, Douglas. *Earth Sound Earth Signal: Energies and Earth Magnitude in the Arts*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013.
- Kane**, Brian. "Sound Studies Without Auditory Culture: A Critique of the Ontological Turn." *Sound Studies* 1, no.1 (2015): 2–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20551940.2015.1079063>.
- McNamee**, M J. "Transhumanism, Medical Technology and Slippery Slopes." *Journal of Medical Ethics* 32, no.9 (2006): 513–18. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jme.2005.013789>.
- Morton**, Timothy. *Hyperobjects: Philosophy and Ecology After the End of the World*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014.
- Sheldon**, Rebekah. "Object-Oriented Ontology and Feminist New Materialism." *The Nonhuman Turn*, edited by Richard Grusin, 31. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2015.
- Thacker**, Eugene. *In the Dust of This Planet*. Ropley: Zero, 2011.
- Thompson**, Marie. "Whiteness and the Ontological Turn in Sound Studies." *Parallax* 23, no.3, (2017): 266–82. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13534645.2017.1339967>.
- Trippett**, David. "Music and the Transhuman Ear: Ultrasonics, Material Bodies, and the Limits of Sensation." *The Musical Quarterly* 100, no.2 (2018): 199–261. <https://doi.org/10.1093/musqtl/gdy001>.
- Weheliye**, Alexander G. "'Feenin'." *Social Text* 20, no.2 (2002): 21–47. https://doi.org/10.1215/01642472-20-2_71-21.

Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

Williams, Alex, Holly Herndon, and Mat Dryhurst. "Re-Engineering Hegemony: Glass Bead in Conversation with Mat Dryhurst, Holly Herndon and Alex Williams." *Glass Bead. Site 0* (Castalia, the Game of Ends and Means), 2016: 13.

Williams, Alex, and Nick Snicek. "#ACCELERATE MANIFESTO for an Accelerationist Politics." Blog. *Critical Legal Thinking*. May 14, 2013. <http://criticallegalthinking.com/2013/05/14/accelerate-manifesto-for-an-accelerationist-politics/>

Online Repository

<https://cloud.udk-berlin.de/s/6TEakKrWwRpBRq2>