

# Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

## Summer Semester 2022

**Phase** Focus

**Module** Practice / Listening

**Course Title** **Sound, the Environment and Field Recording** | Workshop

**Course Times and Location** 9 – 13 May 2022 | LIE313

**Instructors** [Peter Cusack](#)

**Email** [pbcusack@gmail.com](mailto:pbcusack@gmail.com)

**Office Hours and Location** upon request

## Course Description

*Sound, the environment and field recording* explores our relationship with everyday sounds and soundscapes, particularly those in and around Berlin. The workshop asks how do we hear, and what do we learn by listening to, the places in which we live and explores ways to map, represent and be creative with environmental sound. It will also pay attention to local sounds that give insights into the big environmental issues of today, i.e. climate change, species extinction, re-orientating our whole relationship with the environment. All UdK's field recording equipment - location recorders and a wide range of microphones - will be available for in depth use and experimentation. We will spend time listening and recording in different Berlin locations, discuss what we find and also give some attention to the work of other artists and recordists with an interest in the sonic environment. The potential of live audio streaming from specific locations will also be introduced.

Format: a hands-on workshop

Goals: after the workshop you will have knowledge and hands-on experience of field recording techniques with a range of different microphones and of ways in which the sound environment can be mapped and represented. You will have also have explored how such sounds can be approached creatively and how paying attention to such sounds gives insights into the changing human relationship to the environment.

## Requirements for attending

attendance for the whole workshop and active participation.

It is not a requirement but if you have field recording equipment of your own please bring it along.

Class is limited to 12 Students.

## Exam / Credit Points

Passing the first assignment is mandatory for submitting the second assignment.

**2CP (non-graded: Practice, Listening, Free Focus):** Regular attendance and project presentation in class

**Consecutive assignment leading to 4CP for the course (optional; graded: Practice, Listening; grading: only the consecutive assignment is graded):** fixed media audio composition (2 or 4 channels, 6 to 12 minutes) due 1 Nov 2022.

# Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

## Schedule

- Day 1** am - Introduction to environmental sound, sound mapping, listening/discussion of artists' work and recordings  
pm - hands on exploration of Udk's wide range of location recording equipment including electromagnetic and underwater microphones
- Day 2** am - continuation of pm above, listening to recording made, discussion of equipment and techniques  
pm - time for individual exploration, recording
- Day 3** am/pm - day visit to interesting sonic location in or around Berlin, e.g. Vogelsang (large exSoviet military base now abandoned, reverting to nature and open to explore).
- Day 4** free day for own work - preparation for Day 5 presentation
- Day 5** am - follow up from the visit, listening to artists work  
pm - presentation of your work for 2CP

Please expect some flexibility in the schedule. Field recording is very dependent on weather, travel times etc.

## Supporting Media

### Sound mapping websites

- <https://aporee.org/maps/>
- <http://favouritesounds.org/>

field recording group on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/27878079184/about/>

### Field recording radio/podcasts:

Radio aporee continuous broadcast - <https://radio.aporee.org/>

Framework - <http://www.frameworkradio.net/>

Locus Sonus (live streaming) - <http://locusonus.org/soundmap/051/>

Reveil (worldwide dawn chorus streaming project - <http://soundtent.org>

### Record labels:

Gruenrekorder - <http://www.gruenrekorder.de>

Greenfield Records - <http://greenfieldrecordings.yolasite.com>

### Unusual books/stories concerning sound

Haskell, David Gordon. *The Song of Trees*. Viking, 2017

### Various short stories by science fiction writer

Ballard, J.G. *The Sound Sweep*. Nova Publications Ltd.,1960

Ballard, J.G. *Venus Smiles*. Nova Publications Ltd.,1957

Ballard, J.G. *Prima Belladonna*. Nova Publications Ltd.,1956

Ballard, J.G. *The Sound Sculpture*.

Gagliano, Monica. *Thus Spoke the Plant: A Remarkable Journey of Groundbreaking Scientific Discoveries and Personal Encounters with Plants*. Berkeley, California: North Atlantic Books, 2018.

## Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

### Classic writing concerning acoustic ecology, soundscape, sonic architecture etc;

**Augoyard**, Jean François, Andra McCartney, Henry Torgue, and David Paquette, eds. *Sonic Experience: A Guide to Everyday Sounds*. Montreal ; Ithaca: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2006.

**Blessner**, Barry, and Linda-Ruth Salter. *Spaces Speak, Are You Listening? Experiencing Aural Architecture*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2009.

**Carlyle**, Angus, ed. *Autumn Leaves: Sound and the Environment in Artistic Practice*. Paris, France: Association Double-Entendre in association with CRISAP, 2007.

**Carlyle**, Angus, and Cathy Lane, eds. *In the Field: The Art of Field Recording*. Reprinted with amendments. Axminster: Uniformbooks, 2014.

**Goodman**, Steve. *Sonic Warfare: Sound, Affect, and the Ecology of Fear*. Cambridge and London: MIT Press, 2012.

**LaBelle**, Brandon. *Acoustic Territories: Sound Culture and Everyday Life*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2019.

<https://doi.org/10.5040/9781501336225>.

**Schafer**, R. Murray. *The Soundscape: Our Sonic Environment and the Tuning of the World*. Rochester, Vt.: Destiny Books, 1993.

**Truax**, Barry, ed. *Handbook for Acoustic Ecology*. 2nd ed. Cambridge Street Publishing, 1999.

<https://www.sfu.ca/sonic-studio-webdav/handbook/index.html>.

For **field recordings and music** please check out: Chris Watson, Hildegard Westerkamp, Jez Riley French, Dawn Scarfe, Yannick Dauby, David Dunn, Andrea Polli, Martyna Poznanska, Kate Carr, David Velez, Francisco Lopez, The World Soundscape Project, Gilles Aubry, Sally Ann McIntyre, Christina Kubisch, Jenny Berger Myhre, ++++++++  
2 recent albums include;

Jez Riley French - previously, various

<https://engravedglass.bandcamp.com/album/previously-various>

Viv Corringham - Until I learn the Language of Vegetable Mineral

<https://linearobsessional.bandcamp.com/album/until-i-learn-the-language-of-vegetable-mineral>

Jenny Berger Myhre - *Lint*

<https://jennybergermyhre.bandcamp.com/releases>