

Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

Summer Semester 2022

Phase Focus

Module Theory

Course Title **Sonic Political Ecology: Capitalism, Extinction, Sound** | Seminar

Course Times and Location Thursdays | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | LIE314

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Office Hours and Location upon request

Course Description

This course addresses sound as a material force that reveals the possible assemblages that make a place by offering ways to rethink the relations between power, politics and space from a critical ecological perspective. Sound comes from the relations of things, and so this course will explore the methods that have been (and those that could be) used to examine the interaction between modes of production, accumulation and expansion in the context of an ongoing climate crisis. The call for sound to be thought of as a method for Political Ecology arises from scholarship on ways of knowing and inhabiting the world, gesturing toward disciplines concerned with sound, the politics of language, and the physical and philosophical environment. How sound is translated and interpreted? How is it mediated through oral, written, and other forms of language? The answers are contested and must always remain so as it is necessary to suspend assertions about what knowledge is and how it should be produced. This course can be understood as engaging primarily with Historical Materialism, Political Ecology and Sound Studies. As part of this we will be covering topics such as: the relationship between economic modes of production, the environment, colonialism, dispossession, as well as sonic methodologies, sensibilities, and ways of understanding, presenting and situating aural ecologies within the political.

The course is structured around seven seminars each divided into two parts. It will be oriented around the assigned readings, guest lectures and active discussions (which will sometimes be student-led). Although extra reading is encouraged, those enrolled in this course can expect to do between 50-70 pages of readings per week. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to engage critically with recent topics in sound studies and political ecology and connect the theory to global events in ways that are able to inform their art practice and academic pursuits. This class is ideal for students who are politically-engaged, interested in reading and discussing theory, and learning from each other.

Requirements for attending

It is expected that the students have read the assigned texts prior to every class

This seminar is limited to 15 students.

Exam / Credit Points

2CP (graded: Theory): Regular attendance, active participation, short assignments

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Consecutive assignment leading to 4 CP for the course (optional, graded: Theory, grading: mean of both grades):
Term paper (ca 8,000 words), due 1. Nov. 2022

Schedule

1 Political Ecology and Accumulation by Dispossession

Required Reading:

Part 1

Bennett, Jane. *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2010.

Cockshott, Paul. *The Impending Catastrophe and How to Plan for It - Change the System, Not the Climate*, 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tefMFipjPlg>.

Part 2

Nixon, Rob. *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*, 2013.

<http://www.vlebooks.com/vleweb/product/openreader?id=none&isbn=9780674247994>.

Coulthard, Glen Sean. *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition*. Indigenous Americas. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014.

Suggested Reading:

Peet, Richard, and Michael Watts, eds. *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. 2nd ed. London ; New York: Routledge, 2004.

Harris, Cole. "How Did Colonialism Disposess? Comments from an Edge of Empire." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 94, no. 1 (March 1, 2004): 165–82. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8306.2004.09401009.x>.

2 Environmental Sound

Required Reading:

Part 1

James, Robin. "Vibration and Diffraction: Acoustic Resonance as Materialist Ontology." In *The Sonic Episteme: Acoustic Resonance, Neoliberalism, and Biopolitics*, 87–125. Duke University Press, 2019.

<https://doi.org/10.1215/9781478007371-004>.

Kanngieser, Anja. "Geopolitics and the Anthropocene: Five Propositions for Sound." *GeoHumanities* 1, no. 1 (January 2, 2015): 80–85. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2373566X.2015.1075360>.

Part 2

Dyson, Frances. *The Tone of Our Times: Sound, Sense, Economy, and Ecology*. Leonardo Book Series. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2014.

Pisano, Leandro. "Terra Incognitae: Crossing the Borders of Sonic Ecology." edited by Raquel Castro and Miguel Carvalhais, 469–77. Sao Miguel Island, Azores, Portugal, 2017. <http://invisibleplaces.org/2017/pdf/Pisano.pdf>.

Suggested Reading:

Feld, Steven. *Sound and Sentiment: Birds, Weeping, Poetics, and Song in Kaluli Expression*. 3rd ed.; Thirtieth anniversary ed. with a new introduction. Durham [N.C.]: Duke University Press, 2012.

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3 Acoustemological Exploration for listening to the Anthropocene

Required Reading:

Part 1

Chilson, Phillip B. *Aeroecology*. New York, NY: Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2018.

Barclay, Leah, Sabine Feisst, Daniel Gilfillan, and Garth Paine. "The Listenn Project: Acoustic Ecologies of the American Southwest Desert(s) and Transmedia Dissemination." edited by Raquel Castro and Miguel Carvalhais, 298–310. Viseu, Portugal, 2014. <https://www.scribd.com/document/266323765/Conference-proceeding-Sound-Urbanism-and-Sense-of-Place>.

Part 2

Bianchi, Frederick W., and V. J. Manzo. *Environmental Sound Artists: In Their Own Words*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Gallagher, Michael, Anja Kanngieser, and Jonathan Prior. "Listening Geographies: Landscape, Affect and Geotechnologies." *Progress in Human Geography* 41, no. 5 (October 1, 2017): 618–37.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132516652952>.

Suggested Reading:

Goh, Annie. "Sounding Situated Knowledges: Echo in Archaeoacoustics." *Parallax* 23, no. 3 Sounding/Thinking (2017): 283–304. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13534645.2017.1339968>.

Abu Hamdan, Lawrence. *Lawrence Abu Hamdan - (Inaudible): A Politics of Listening in 4 Acts*. Edited by Fabian Schöneich. Berlin: Sternberg Press, 2016.

4 Cammack Lindsey Guest Lecture: Introduction to/about cyanobacteria/microalgae and toxic harmful algal blooms: A sonic practice approach

Required Reading:

Part 1

Mangialajo, Luisa, Nicolas Ganzin, Stefano Accoroni, Valentina Asnagli, Aurélie Blanfuné, Marina Cabrini, Riccardo Cattaneo-Vietti, et al. "Trends in *Ostreopsis* Proliferation along the Northern Mediterranean Coasts." *Toxicon*, Palytoxin-group toxins, 57, no. 3 (March 1, 2011): 408–20. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.toxicon.2010.11.019>.

Margulis, Lynn. "Individuality by Incorporation." In *Symbiotic Planet: A New Look at Evolution*, 43–51. Science Masters. New York: Basic Books, 1998.

Salmón, Enrique. "Kincentric Ecology: Indigenous Perceptions of the Human–Nature Relationship." *Ecological Applications* 10, no. 5 (2000): 1327–32. [https://doi.org/10.1890/1051-0761\(2000\)010\[1327:KEIPOT\]2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1890/1051-0761(2000)010[1327:KEIPOT]2.0.CO;2).

Part 2

Federici, Silvia. "The Great Caliban: The Struggle against the Rebel Body." *Capitalism Nature Socialism* 15, no. 2 (June 1, 2004): 7–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10455750410001691551>.

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Grigoryeva, Natalia Yu. "Studying Cyanobacteria by Means of Fluorescence Methods: A Review." In *Fluorescence Methods for Investigation of Living Cells and Microorganisms*, 1–8. London: IntechOpen, 2020.

<https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/73074>.

Suggested Reading:

Marx, Karl. "What Are Wages?" In *Wage Labour and Capital*, translated by Frederick Engels, 1891.

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/wage-labour/ch02.htm>.

5 In Sonic Defiance of Extinction

Required Reading:

Part 1

Kanngieser, Anja. "Climate Change: Nauru's Life on the Frontlines." *The Conversation*. Accessed March 24, 2022.

<http://theconversation.com/climate-change-naurus-life-on-the-frontlines-105219>.

Simpson, Leanne Betasamosake. *Dancing on Our Turtle's Back: Stories of Nishnaabeg Re-Creation, Resurgence and a New Emergence*. Winnipeg: Arbeiter Ring Pub, 2011.

Part 2

Gibb, Rory, Anja Kanngieser, and Paul Rekret. "In Sonic Defiance of Extinction." In *Turmoil CTM Festival 2018*, edited by Jan Rohlf, 26–29, 2018.

Hawkins, Harriet, and Anja Kanngieser. "Artful Climate Change Communication: Overcoming Abstractions, Insensibilities, and Distances: Artful Climate Change Communication." *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change* 8 (July 11, 2017): e472. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.472>.

Suggested Reading:

Álvarez, Lina, and Brendan Coolsaet. "Decolonizing Environmental Justice Studies: A Latin American Perspective." *Capitalism Nature Socialism* 31, no. 2 (April 2, 2020): 50–69. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10455752.2018.1558272>.

6 Zoe Levoyer and Ayoub Ait Taadout Guest Lecture: Ocean Space Sound, The out.of.the.blue.map project and sound mapping as navigation

Required Reading:

Part 1

Weizman, Eyal, and Fazal Sheikh. *The Conflict Shoreline: Colonization as Climate Change in the Negev Desert*. 1. edition. Göttingen: Steidl, 2015.

Calypso36°21. *On Drifting*. 1st ed. Calypso36°21, 2020. <https://calypso3621.com/en/publications/on-drifting-first-edition/>.

Part 2

Helmreich, Stefan. "An Anthropologist Underwater: Immersive Soundscapes, Submarine Cyborgs, and Transductive Ethnography." *American Ethnologist* 34, no. 4 (November 2007): 621–41.

<https://doi.org/10.1525/ae.2007.34.4.621>.

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Gallagher, Michael, Anja Kanngieser, and Jonathan Prior. "Listening Geographies: Landscape, Affect and Geotechnologies." *Progress in Human Geography* 41, no. 5 (October 1, 2017): 618–37.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132516652952>.

Suggested Reading:

Álvarez, Lina, and Brendan Coolsaet. "Decolonizing Environmental Justice Studies: A Latin American Perspective." *Capitalism Nature Socialism* 31, no. 2 (April 2, 2020): 50–69. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10455752.2018.1558272>.

7 Joanna Pope Guest Lecture: Creativity within Ecological and Musical Limits

Required Reading:

Part 1

Kallis, Giorgos. "Limits, Ecomodernism and Degrowth" 87 (May 2021).
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2021.102367>.

Andreucci, Diego, María J. Beltrán, Rita Calvário, Creighton Connolly, Julie De Los Reyes, Salvatore Paolo De Rosa, Irmak Ertör, et al. *Political Ecology for Civil Society*. ENTITLE - European Network of Political Ecology, 2016.
<http://www.politicalecology.eu/documents/events/94-entitle-manual-may-2016/file>.

Part 2

Comstock, Michelle, and Mary E. Hocks. "The Sounds of Climate Change: Sonic Rhetoric in the Anthropocene, the Age of Human Impact." *Rhetoric Review* 35, no. 2 (April 2, 2016): 165–75.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07350198.2016.1142854>.

Prior, Jonathan David. "Roles of Aesthetic Value in Ecological Restoration : Cases from the United Kingdom," July 1, 2013. <https://era.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/7855>.

Suggested Reading:

Cobussen, Marcel. "Towards a 'New' Sonic Ecology," January 1, 2016.
https://www.academia.edu/74135522/Towards_a_new_sonic_ecology.

Supporting Media

Apter, Emily. "Shibboleth: Policing by Ear and Forensic Listening in Projects by Lawrence Abu Hamdan." *October* 156 (May 1, 2016): 100–115. https://doi.org/10.1162/OCTO_a_00253.

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.

Bianchi, Frederick W., and V. J. Manzo. *Environmental Sound Artists: In Their Own Words*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2016.

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

Broglia, Simone. "The Meaning Of A Sound Place. G. Bohme, The Aesthetics Of The Atmosphere • Digicult | Digital Art, Design and Culture." Digicult | Digital Art, Design and Culture, March 1, 2010.
<http://digicult.it/it/digimag/issue-052/the-meaning-of-a-sound-place-g-bohme-the-aesthetics-of-the-atmosphere/>.

Born, Georgina. "On Nonhuman Sound—Sound as Relation." In *Sound Objects*, edited by James A. Steintrager and Rey Chow, 185–207. Duke University Press, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1215/9781478002536-010>.

Eshun, Kodwo. *More Brilliant than the Sun: Adventures in Sonic Fiction*. Reprinted. London: Quartet Books, 1999.

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- Feld**, Steven. "On Post-Ethnomusicology Alternatives: Acoustemology." In *Perspectives on a 21st Century Comparative Musicology: Ethnomusicology or Transcultural Musicology?*, edited by Francesco Giannattasio, 82–98. Intersezioni Musicali, book IM05. Udine: Nota, 2017.
- Gilmurray**, Jonathan. "Ecological Sound Art: Steps towards a New Field." *Organised Sound* 22, no. 1 (April 2017): 32–41. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1355771816000315>.
- Gumbrecht**, Hans Ulrich. *Production of Presence: What Meaning Cannot Convey*. Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, 2004.
- Hawkins**, Harriet, and Anja Kanngieser. "Artful Climate Change Communication: Overcoming Abstractions, Insensibilities, and Distances: Artful Climate Change Communication." *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change* 8 (July 11, 2017): e472. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.472>.
- Heller, Charles, Lorenzo Pezzani, and Situ Studio. "Report on the 'Left-To-Die Boat,'" 2012, 90. <https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/fo-report.pdf>
- Heynen**, Nik, Maria Kaika, and Erik Swyngedouw. *In the Nature of Cities - Urban Political Ecology and The Politics of Urban Metabolism*, 2006.
- Jakubowski**, Franz. *Ideology and Superstructure in Historical Materialism*. London: Allison and Busby, 1976.
- Kanngieser**, Anja. "Climate Change: Nauru's Life on the Frontlines." *The Conversation*. Accessed March 24, 2022. <http://theconversation.com/climate-change-naurus-life-on-the-frontlines-105219>.
- Kanngieser**, Anja. *Experimental Politics and the Making of Worlds*. Re-Materialising Cultural Geography. Routledge, 2016.
- Kanngieser, Anja. "A Proposition toward a Materialist Politics of Atmospheric Listening." London, 2013.
- Kanngieser**, Anja. "Geopolitics and the Anthropocene: Five Propositions for Sound." *GeoHumanities* 1, no. 1 (January 2, 2015): 80–85. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2373566X.2015.1075360>.
- Kanngieser**, Anja, and Nicholas Beuret. "Refusing the World: Silence, Commoning, and the Anthropocene." *South Atlantic Quarterly* 116, no. 2 (April 1, 2017): 363–80. <https://doi.org/10.1215/00382876-3829456>.
- Kanngieser**, Anja. "Towards a Careful Listening." In *Nanopolitics Handbook*, edited by Bue Rübner Hansen, Paolo Plotegher, and Manuela Zechner, 235–48. Minor Compositions. Wivenhoe / New York / Port Watson: Minor Compositions, 2013. https://www.academia.edu/11420204/Nanopolitics_Handbook.
- Kanngieser**, Anja and AGF. "INDIGENOUS SOUND w Anja Kanngiesser DISembTEChyb." *Mixcloud*, 2007. <https://www.mixcloud.com/poemproducer/indigenous-sound-w-anja-kanngiesser-disembtechyb/?play=fb>.
- Kautsky**, Karl. *The Agrarian Question: In Two Volumes*. London ; Winchester, Mass: Zwan Publications, 1988.
- Kohut**, Tom. "Noise Pollution and the Eco-Politics of Sound: Toxicity, Nature and Culture in the Contemporary Soundscape." *Leonardo Music Journal* 25 (December 1, 2015): 5–8. https://doi.org/10.1162/LMJ_a_00924.
- Kothari**, Ashish, Ariel Salleh, Arturo Escobar, Federico Demaria, and Alberto Acosta, eds. *Pluriverse: A Post-Development Dictionary*. New Delhi: Tulika Books and Authorsupfront, 2019.
- Kreuger**, Anders. "Lawrence Abu Hamdan's Trilogy of Truth." *Afterall: A Journal of Art, Context and Enquiry* 39 (June 2015): 60–73. <https://doi.org/10.1086/682837>.
- LaBelle**, Brandon. *Acoustic Territories: Sound Culture and Everyday Life*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781501336225>.
- Uneven Earth**. "Political Ecology - Uneven Earth," November 24, 2020. <https://unevenearth.org/2020/11/political-ecology/>.
- Uneven Earth**. "Slow Violence - Uneven Earth," March 29, 2021. <https://unevenearth.org/2021/03/slow-violence/>.
- Morton**, Timothy. *Ecology without Nature: Rethinking Environmental Aesthetics*. 1. ed. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 2009.
- Prior**, Jonathan David. "Roles of Aesthetic Value in Ecological Restoration : Cases from the United Kingdom," July 1, 2013. <https://era.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/7855>.
- S A V V Y Contemporary**. *The Long Term You Cannot Afford*. October 18, 2019. Research, performance and exhibition project. <https://savvy-contemporary.com/en/projects/2019/the-long-term-you-cannot-afford/>.

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Schneider, François, Giorgos Kallis, and Joan Martinez-Alier. "Crisis or Opportunity? Economic Degrowth for Social Equity and Ecological Sustainability. Introduction to This Special Issue." *Journal of Cleaner Production* 18, no. 6 (2010): 511–18.

Sterne, Jonathan. *The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003.

Surrallés, Alexandre, and Pedro García Hierro, eds. *The Land within: Indigenous Territory and the Perception of the Environment*. Copenhagen: IWGIA, 2005.

Thibaud, Jean-Paul. "The Backstage of Urban Ambiances: When Atmospheres Pervade Everyday Experience." *Emotion, Space and Society* 15 (May 1, 2015): 39–46. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.emospa.2014.07.001>.

Weizman, Eyal. *Forensic Architecture: Violence at the Threshold of Detectability*, 2019.

<http://www.vlebooks.com/vleweb/product/openreader?id=none&isbn=9781935408178>.