

Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

Summer Semester 2022

Phase Focus

Module Practice

Course Title Photophonic Sound | Workshop

Course Times and Location 4-8 July 2022 | LIE314

Instructor Dr. Rob Mullender-Ross

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Office Hours Upon request after class

Course Description

This workshop explores the creative possibilities in synthesizing sound from light. Experimenting with basic electronic, optical and mechanical techniques, students will develop methods of modulating and capturing light sources in order to create unique sounding analogue/digital 'photophonic' sound synthesis projects. Combining these techniques with amplification, feedback, room acoustics and performative concerns will be encouraged, as will the implications for any emergent works to be considered within audio-visual and/or installation contexts. Further, students will be encouraged to consider the role of documentation of the resulting works (particularly video) as a possible component of works themselves.

Photophonic audio production is necessarily trans-disciplinary in nature and this is reflected in histories and scholarship on the subject. The week will begin with a lecture/discussion which looks at both historical and contemporary photophonic practices and techniques, and this will directly inform the subsequent practice. The rest of the week will be taken up with development of supervised practical work, with formative assessment concluding the workshop.

This short course is intended for students who have a basic knowledge of general audio production as an art form (including an understanding of sound capture hardware and Digital Audio Workstations) and wish to experiment with interdisciplinary practical projects.

Format: A hands-on workshop

Goals: After this workshop, students will be able to convolve and/or modulate, then capture light sources (treating the resulting electrical signal as audio) for the purposes of sound synthesis. Practical skills learned will include electronics, fabrication and documentation. Students will also gain a broad knowledge of how photophonic sound's presence in experimental time-based media and the arts, alongside relevant theoretical discourses on the subject.

Requirements for Attending

Attendance for the whole workshop and active participation.

The class is limited to 12 students.

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Exam / Credit Points

2CP assignment (not graded: Practice): Regular attendance and project presentation in class
Passing the first assignment is mandatory for submitting the second assignment.

Consecutive assignment leading to 4CP for the whole course (optional; graded: Practice; only the consecutive assignment is graded): fixed media work (+documentation: max 10 pages, photos, sketches, text, audio/video also possible.) due 1 Nov 2021.

Schedule

10:00 c.t. -16:00 Monday
10:00 c.t. -16:00 Tuesday
10:00 c.t. -16:00 Wednesday
10:00 c.t. -14:00 Thursday
10:00 c.t. -16:00 Friday