

# Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

**Summer Term 2026**

**Phase** Focus

**Module** Listening

**Course Title** Sound, the environment and field recording | Workshop

**Course Times and Location** 8-12 June 2024 | LIE 316

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

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**Office Hours and Location** upon request

**Possible Credit Points** [Listening 2CP \(NG\)/4CP \(G\)](#), [Free Focus 2CP/4CP \(NG\)](#)

## 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, bio-diversity loss, 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.

max. 15 students

## Exam / Credit Points

**2 CP assignment (not graded: Listening, Free Focus):** Regular attendance and presentation in class

**Consecutive assignment leading to a total of 4CP for the course (optional, graded: Listening; grading: only the consecutive assignment is graded; not graded: Free Focus):** a fixed media audio composition (2 or 4 channels, 6 to 12 minutes) due 1 Oct. 2026.

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## 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 recordings 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 Day 3 visit, listening to artist's work  
**pm-** presentation of your work for 2CP credits

Please expect some flexibility in the schedule. Field recording is very dependent on weather, travel times etc etc. For Days 1,2 & 5 the workshop will run from 10.00am to 4.00pm, with an hour for lunch. On the Day 3 visit, which will probably involve travel outside Berlin so will be dependent on train times. Please expect to be earlier starting and later finishing. Details nearer the time.

## Supporting Media/ Recommended Publications

### **Sound mapping websites:**

radio.aporee sound map

<https://aporee.org/maps/>

Field Recording Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/27878079184/about/>

Locus Sonus (live streaming)

<http://locusonus.org/soundmap/051/>

### **Field recording radio/podcasts:**

Radio aporee continuous broadcast

<https://radio.aporee.org/>

Framework

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

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

### **Record labels:**

Gruenrekorder

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

Greenfield Records

<http://greenfieldrecordings.yolasite.com/>

Bandcamp has many field recording/music orientated releases. Search for 'field recordings' and listen to what comes up.

## Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

### Unusual literature concerning sound:

**Sounds Wild and Broken:** Sonic Marvels, Evolution's Creativity, and the Crisis of Sensory Extinction- David George Haskell, ISBN-10: 0571362095

**An Immense World:** How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us- Ed Yong, ISBN-10: 1529112117

**The Song of Trees-** David George Haskell, ISBN-10: 052542752X

**Various short stories by science fiction writer J. G. Ballard**, e.g. the Sound Sweep, Venus Smiles, The Sound Sculpture, Prima Belladonna.

**Thus Spoke the Plant:** A Remarkable Journey of Groundbreaking Scientific Discoveries and Personal Encounters with Plants - Monica Gagliano, ISBN-10: 1623172438

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

**The Soundscape** - R Murray Schafer

**Handbook for Acoustic Ecology** - edited Barry Truax

**Sonic Warfare** - Steve Goodman

**Acoustic Territories:** Sound Culture and Everyday Life - Brandon LaBelle

**Sonic Experience** - Augoyard & Torgue

**Autumn Leaves-** edited Angus Carlyle

**In The Field:** The Art of Field Recording- Cathy Lane, Angus Carlyle

**Sound Arts Now** - Cathy Lane & Angus Carlyle (interviews with many sound artists and field recordists- good representation of non-western artists)

**For field recordings and music please check out:** Chris Watson, Hildegard Westerkamp, Jez Riley French, Dawn Scarfe, Yannick Dauby, David Dunn, Andrea Polli, Kate Carr, David Velez, Francisco Lopez, The World Soundscape Project, Diane Barbé, Gilles Aubry, Sally Ann McIntyre, Christina Kubisch, Emeka Ogboh, Viv Corringham, Jenny Berger Myhre, Lawrence Abu Hamdan, ++++++

### Interesting/recent albums include:

Diane **Barbé**- A Conference of Critters <https://f-o-m.bandcamp.com/album/a-conference-of-critters>

Heike **Vester**- Marine Mammals and Fish of Lofoten and Vesterålen [https://www.gruenrekorder.de/?page\\_id=382](https://www.gruenrekorder.de/?page_id=382)

David **Dunn**- The Sound of Light in Trees <https://daviddunn.bandcamp.com/album/the-sound-of-light-in-trees>

Emeka **Ogboh**- 6°30'33.372"N 3°22'0.66"E (Nigerian field recording with beats)

<https://emekaogboh.bandcamp.com/album/6-30-33372-n-3-22-066-e>

Peter **Simon**- Sounds of the Inner Tree <https://p3c7.bandcamp.com/album/sounds-of-the-inner-tree?>

Phil **Jeck** & Chris Watson- Oxmadyke <https://philipjeck.bandcamp.com/album/oxmadyke?>

Nyokabi **Kariuki**- peace places: kenyan memories <https://nyokabikariuki.bandcamp.com/album/peace-places-kenyan-memories>

Chris **Watson**- Planet Ocean <https://chriswatsonreleases.bandcamp.com/album/planet-ocean?>

Toshiya **Tsunoda**- From DAT Archive #4 Portrait of Nagaura Port <https://toshiyatsunoda.bandcamp.com/album/from-dat-archive-4-portrait-of-nagaura-port>