

Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

Summer Term 2026

Phase Focus

Module Practice

Course Title **Floating Dystopia** | Seminar 1

Course Times and Location Thursdays | 10 am - 2 pm | LIE 316

Instructors [Prof. Georg F. Klein](#)

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Office Hours and Location upon request

Possible Credit Points Practice 4CP (G)

Course

We will explore ways of investigating our reality in a concrete environment, the exciting area of the **floating university** (floating-berlin.org) next to Flughafen Tempelhofer Feld:

"On the site of the Floating (University) the rainwater collection basin serving the former Tempelhof airfield, a diverse range of animals, plants and algae have taken root and given birth to a unique landscape: a human-made environment reclaimed by nature where polluted water coexists with the relatively new presence."

Sound and Biodiversity will be one aspect, but also utopian and dystopian aspects of forming a "*natureculture* (Haraway) or a *third landscape* (Clément)".

Teaching format will be a project oriented course with a lot of research time at the location (will be cleared in the first session, also due to my current health situation).

Participation at the DYSTOPIA sound art biennial

A realisation of a practical work after the final concept presentation end of June is obligatory for your **participation in the student section of the DYSTOPIA Biennial Berlin (Sept. 25 - Oct. 11 2026)**. The biennial is one of the biggest international sound art exhibitions in Berlin, organised by Errant Sound e.V. since 2018.

Requirements for attending

Max number of students: 6

(limited due to the possible participation in the student section of the DYSTOPIA sound art biennial 2026)

Schedu

Classes on project specific schedule

April 16: Introduction / schedule planning, UdK LIE 316

May/June: longer sessions on Thursdays or weekends at **location: floating university** (tbc)

June 25: final presentation and discussion, description for DYSTOPIA biennial

Mid September: realisation of your work at the DYSTOPIA sound art biennial

Setup time: 20.-25.9., Exhibition 25.9.-11.10. (maximum, tbc)

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Exam / Credit Point

ONLY 4CP assignment (graded: Practice):

Regular attendance, presentation in class and written concept by end of June.

Realisation of a sound art project (installation / sound walk / intervention, mixed media possible) by mid of September (DYSTOPIA Biennial) including documentation due Oct. 1st

Reading (optional)

Clays, Gregory. Dystopia – A Natural History, Oxford 2017.

Heller, Ágnes. Von der Utopie zur Dystopie (2016), Hamburg / Wien 2016

Haraway, Donna. The Companion Species Manifesto: Dogs, People, and Significant Otherness, Prickly Paradigm Press 2003,

German: Das Manifest der Gefährten, Merve Berlin, 2016

Klein, Georg. based on re-search, online lecture at UdK / SoundS, Nov. 6 2023.

PDF download: https://www.udk-berlin.de/fileadmin/2_dezentral/FR_Soundstudies/Veranstaltungen/SIAR/basedonresearch-3_UdK-article.pdf

Young, Ed. An Immense World. How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us, Random House, London 2022.

German: Die erstaunlichen Sinne der Tiere, München 2022. in particular Chapter 8 + 9

Websites:

floating university: <https://floating-berlin.org>

landzine: <https://landzine.com/topics/concepts-theories/third-landscape-referenced-theories/>

DYSTOPIE sound art biennial Berlin

2018: <https://www.dystopie-festival.net/2018/program/?lang=en>

2020: <https://www.dystopie-festival.net/2020/projects/?lang=en>

2024: <https://www.dystopia.berlin/2024/>