

Thursday, February 11

Evening Lecture

Venue: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Interdisciplinary Laboratory:
Image Knowledge Gestaltung, Sophienstraße 22a

19:00

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Introduced by Wolfgang Schäffner, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Patrick Feaster *Indiana University Bloomington*
Sound Archives *avant la lettre*: Audio Collections of the
Nineteenth Century (1850s–1890s)

Friday, February 12

The Significance of Sound Archives in the Humanities and Sciences

Venue: Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG),
Boltzmannstraße 22

10:00–10:15

Welcome Coffee

10:15–10:30

INTRODUCTION

Carolyn Birdsall *University of Amsterdam*
Viktoria Tkaczyk *MPIWG / Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*

10:30–11:45

THE SONIC CONSTRUCTION OF THE PAST AND PRESENT

Chair: Hansjakob Ziemer (MPIWG)

Sebastian Klotz *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*
Phonogram Archives as Synchronization Machines

Carolyn Birdsall *University of Amsterdam*
Voice Carriers: Sound Archives and the Sources of (Oral) History

11:45–12:00

Coffee

12:00–13:00

SOUND AND THE MIND

Chair: Rebecca Wolf (MPIWG)

Julia Kursell *University of Amsterdam*
Listening to More Than Sounds: Experimental Recordings at the
Berliner Phonogramm-Archiv

Viktoria Tkaczyk *MPIWG / Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*
Sound Archiving across Psychiatry and Psychology

13:00–14:00

Lunch

14:00–15:00

SOUND AND LANGUAGE

Chair: Carolyn Birdsall (University of Amsterdam)

Judy Kaplan *MPIWG*
The Acoustic and Archival Study of Living Language

Mara Mills *New York University*
Vocal Features: From *Stimmphysiognomik* to Speech
Recognition by Machine

15:00–15:15

Coffee

15:15–16:15

SOUND AND THE HUMAN

Chair: Kate Sturge (MPIWG)

Britta Lange *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*
Anthropology, Race, and Sound: Fritz Bose's
Investigations during the Nazi Period

Rebecca Lemov *Harvard University*
Twentieth-Century Sound Recordings in the Archives of the
American Southwest: Presence and Elusiveness

16:15–16:30

Coffee

16:30–17:00

SOUND AND ANIMALS

Chair: Anna Kvičalová (MPIWG)

Joeri Bruyninckx *MPIWG*
Samples, Assets, and Trophies: Archiving Bioacoustic
Specimens

17:00–17:30

CLOSING REMARKS AND PREVIEW

Wolfgang Ernst *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*
Sound, Surveillance, and Signal Analysis (project outline)

Jochen Hennig *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*
Conclusions

Saturday, February 13

The Lautarchiv of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Venue: Humboldt-Universität, Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum,
Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 1/3, Auditorium

09:00–09:30

WELCOME AND REVIEW

Carolyn Birdsall *University of Amsterdam*
Britta Lange *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*

09:30–10:30

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES I

Chair: Irene Hilden (Lautarchiv, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Ji-Won Song *Gugak Center, Seoul*

Lars-Christian Koch *Ethnological Museum, Berlin*
Songs of Longing: Perspectives from Berlin and Seoul on the
Edition of the Korean Recordings by the Gugak Archive

10:30–10:45

Coffee

10:45–12:30

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES II

Chair: Sharon Macdonald (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Bodhari Warsame *University of Gothenburg*

Anette Hoffmann *Berlin*
Towards a Decolonial Reading of Audiovisual Archival Material:
The Meandering Archival Traces of Mohamed Noor's Presence
in Germany

Anandita Bajpai, Heike Liebau, & Larissa Schmid
Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin
Voices from World War One: Exploring Sound Recordings of
Colonial Prisoners of War in Historical Research

12:30–14:00

Lunch

14:00–15:45

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES PANEL DISCUSSION

*Chairs: Jochen Hennig (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) &
Viktoria Tkaczyk (MPIWG / Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)*

**Sebastian Klotz, Manfred Krifka, Britta Lange,
Sharon Macdonald, & Wolfgang Schäffner**
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

In 1915, the Berlin phonetician Wilhelm Doegen initiated the Royal Prussian Phonographic Commission, one of the most systematic enterprises in early sound archiving. For this project, the phonograph and gramophone served as tools to collect and study a wide range of languages, music, and natural sounds. Contributors to the initiative included researchers based in disciplines such as phonetics, linguistics, Oriental and African studies, musicology and anthropology, zoology, medicine, and criminology. Between 1915 and 1918, over 1,030 Edison cylinders with musical recordings (today stored in the Berlin Phonogram Archive) and over 1,650 shellac recordings of the languages of prisoners of war were produced. Today, this collection forms part of the "Lautarchiv" held at the Hermann von Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

A century after Doegen's project, this conference reexamines the founding, use, and reuse of sound archives in the humanities and sciences. One of its aims is to contextualize pioneering scientific sound archives, and thus the development of recording technologies, archival practices, and new research methods and disciplines. A second objective is to explore the relationship between the history of scientific sound archiving and the role of contemporary sound archives in the creation and dissemination of knowledge. The archive's centenary also prompts questions about the status of sound archives in the present digital era: providing access to sound records opens up possibilities for new research agendas, but inevitably also raises complex ethical and legal issues.

Histories of Sound Data in the Humanities and Sciences

ORGANIZERS:

Carolyn Birdsall (*University of Amsterdam*)
Jochen Hennig (*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*)
Britta Lange (*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*)
Viktoria Tkaczyk (*Max Planck Institute for the History of Science / Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*)

For further information and to register, contact:
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If possible, please register before February 4, 2016.

VENUES:

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Interdisciplinary Laboratory: Image Knowledge Gestaltung
Sophienstraße 22a

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
Boltzmannstraße 22
14195 Berlin
Conference Room

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum, Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 1/3
Auditorium



LISTENING TO THE ARCHIVE

Histories of Sound Data in the Humanities and Sciences

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