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PHONOGRAMMARCHIV

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Workshop

Voices in Motion

Audio Letters as ‘Sonic Memory Objects’ in Migration Processes

15th of June

Wiener Postsparkasse, Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)

Georg-Coch-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna

Since the invention of the phonograph at the end of the 19th century, it has been possible to send spoken letters over long distances. While the early audio letters were often sent by travellers from the middle class, the later formats were also used by people in precarious migration contexts. This workshop aims to analyse how voice letters have been a vehicle for staying in touch over long distances, especially in times of migration and flight and how these objects created sonic memories of the absent world as they carried their acoustic tracks over distances and time. Furthermore, we want to examine how voice recordings were used by colonial anthropologists and modern border regimes. As we conceptualise them as ‘memory objects’ we want to discuss the entanglement of materiality and processes of substituting for the missing as well as processes of longing and of remembering.

For participation please register here: [Registration Voices in Motion](#)

- 9:00 Welcome with Coffee & Bread
Giovanni Tarantino, Kerstin Klenke and Eva Hallama
- 9:30 **Panel 1 – Voice Letters as Epistolary Practice**
Chair: **Kerstin Klenke**
- Thomas Levin**
Future Auditions:
On Gramophonic Voice Letters and the Inscription of the Absent Other
- Eva Hallama**
Voice Letters as Substitutes for the Missing in the SONIME project
- 11:00 Coffee Break

- 11:30 **Panel 2 – Voice Messages in Enforcement Contexts and as a Resistant Practice**
Chair: **Giovanni Tarantino**
- Anette Hoffmann**
Cautious Comments on Extractivism in the Kalahari Recordings of 1908
- Daniel Leix Palumbo**
The acousmatic question and the datafication of voice intimacy as the source of biometric control at the border
- 13:00 Lunch
Café Exchange, Kassenhalle, Georg-Coch-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna
- 15:00 **Panel 3 – Voice Letters, Migration and Memory**
Chair: **Luisa Simonutti**
- Wajid Yaseen**
Tape Letters: Migration on Tape
- Panayotis Panopoulos**
The memory of voice: Phonographic archaeology, ethnography and performance between anthropology and contemporary art
- Natascha Muhic and Christoph Freidhöfer**
Vinylograph – An Automatic Voice Recorder
- 17:00 Break
- 17:30 **Panel 4 – Panel Discussion “Analysing the Voice beyond the Spoken Word” with all speakers**
Chair: **Sylvia Mieszkowski**
- 19:30 Dinner
Café Engländer, Postgasse 2, 1010 Vienna

Organising Institutions:

- Cost Action 18140 People in Motion: Entangled Histories of Displacement across the Mediterranean, or PIMo – WG2
- Department of History – Central European University
- Phonogrammarchiv, Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Technisches Museum Wien mit Österreichischer Mediathek (Vienna Museum of Science and Technology)

Participants:

Nadia Al-Bagdadi, Christoph Freidhöfer, Eva Hallama, Anette Hoffmann, Johann Hinterstoisser, Dominik Ivancic, Kerstin Klenke, Britta Lange, Thomas Y. Levin, Sylvia Mieszkowski, Natascha Muhic, Daniel Leix Palumbo, Panayotis Panopoulos, Luisa Simonutti, Giovanni Tarantino, Wajid Yaseen