
Crafting a sonic urbanism: call for contributions

Thursday 26th September

09:00 - 17.00

MSH Paris Nord, 93210 Saint-Denis, France

[Extended deadline for proposals: 16th July 2018](#)

Notification of acceptance: 23rd July 2018

Contact: info@theatrum-mundi.org

Introduction

Attention is turning more and more to urban sound as a material to design with, as a form of conflict to be regulated, and as a medium carrying knowledge of the city. But going beyond the urban soundscape as an object, how could sonic thinking be built fundamentally into the making of cities?

A *sonic urbanism* implies one that does not just take interest in noise in the city, but is informed by the practices, concepts, politics, and aesthetics of making organised sound. As such, it implies one informed by music, not just as a cultural phenomenon taking place in the city but as a set of *ways of thinking* and *ways of doing* that operate in the realm of the audible.

Call for contributions

This colloquium invites both scholars and practitioners to present research, or works of sonic or spatial creation. We welcome presentations of projects that demonstrate how concerns for sound or techniques from music have been part of urban design and research, and vice versa, as well as theoretical papers making critical links.

Presentations can be 10 minutes long. They can focus on research, or on works of sonic or spatial creation shared in sound or video. We are able to accept only 12 presentations will be arranged into 3 panels of 4 according to links between the accepted proposals. Each panel will have 30 minutes for discussion, led by a chair, intended to explore links between the presentations and the light they shed on the core concerns of the colloquium, rather than as Q&A's.

Proposals should be in the form of a 300 to 500-word outline, or a link to a recording / video / project with a 100 to 200-word explanation.

Send to info@theatrum-mundi.org on or by 2nd July 2018. Presentation and attendance at the colloquium will be free, with lunch provided. Speakers will also be invited to join a dinner. Proposals

can be sent in French or in English. The colloquium will take place in both French and English.

Questions

- How can approaches to recording developed in sound art inform the way social and spatial phenomena are documented, in anthropology and sociology as much as in architectural practice?
- How have aspects of the structure of music itself – harmony, rhythm, tone, dissonance - been used to explain urban social phenomena?
- How can the crafts of music-making – composition, improvisation, listening etc. – be translated into practices of city-making?
- What different values are implied in visual vs auditory approaches to characterising places?
- How can the languages of musical analysis help go beyond a focus on noise levels to describe qualities of sound in places?
- What can be learned about architectures and geographies from the ways they shape music?
- What are the relationships between cross-cutting issues like authorship, authenticity, participation, contextualism, and universality in sound and spatial practices?

Context

The colloquium is being organised by *Theatrum Mundi* and hosted by the MSH Paris Nord in the framework of its research theme *Thinking the contemporary city*. It has its background in *Atelier TM*, an ongoing series of exploratory workshops bringing together sonic and spatial practitioners to explore issues such as the social effects of acoustics, performative techniques in research, and site-specificity. *Atelier TM* was initiated by *Theatrum Mundi* as a research activity within the Global Cities chair at CEM / FMSH, supported through funding from CGET.

The colloquium is presented in the context of the launch of a film about the project *Voi[e,x,s]*, a major project of musical and scenic creation that has emerged from *Atelier TM*, being carried out by *Theatrum Mundi*, *Cie MPDA* – Alexandra Lacroix, Marta Gentilucci, and IRCAM. The project *Voi[e,x,s]* captures the acoustic heritage of *Chapelle Charbon* – a wasteland in the north of Paris being transformed into a new public park by the city of Paris – and the voices of local residents as the material for a full commission to be premiered in the opening of the new site in 2020. The project offers the opportunity to investigate how the creation of new urban space and new music can interrelate.

You are invited to read some of the entries available on *Theatrum Mundi*'s digital library which have been put together over the years by those who participated to our events. They include '[Ways of hearing](#)' by Andrew Todd, '[Contraputal Thinking](#)' by Matthew Skjonsberg, '[The Sonically open](#)

[city](#)' by Richard Sennet or '[Idiorrhythmy](#)' by Silvia Maglioni and Graeme Thomson.

Links

theatrum-mundi.org

voixs.fr

mshparisnord.fr