

Seminar: Affective Atmospheres: Site-specific sound, neighborhood music and the social formation

**Center for Arts and Humanities, American University of Beirut
29th & 30th November 2018
All Day**

The seminar invites scholarly and artistic contributions that make thought-provoking connection between sound and the society. The aim is to consider the idea of social formation (Althusser et al) that comprises an ever-evolving atmosphere of a place. Sonic atmosphere (aka ambience or ambient sound) indicates the essential background sounds, which are present in a site, place, area or location. From a position of social awareness, it is crucial to understand how the emergent and contingent sonic atmosphere of a site is constituted with multiple social influences, including but not limited to neighboring and socially diffused music and site-specific sounds that are part of the everyday ambience, which is not static but historically transformative. Likewise, social music (LaBelle 2001), as well as sounds and music diffused in urban or rural environments (e.g. Azaan) generate site-specific associations such as ones emanating from and reflected within a specific street, area or a room. These elements are necessary for critical listening and investigation not only to understand the atmospheric layers they may suggest, but also to speculate their historical constituents, as well as their contribution to or influences from the processes of social formation. Often such an inclusive idea of atmosphere proliferates a sense of plurality and multiplicity embedded in the public and social life of a place engaging the sociality in a more affective means. In this seminar, the various everyday iterations and social aspects of site-specific music and sound will be examined to locate how they engage with the contingent collectivity and fluid historicity of the site within a spirit of inclusion, contributing to the studies of sound, ambiances and social life.

Contributions are invited with a concern for the following broad areas of research/practice:

1. Music as atmosphere
2. Everyday sounds and social life
3. Sound and the neighborhood
4. Site-specificity of sound
5. Diegetic music in film and media
6. Live music performances on the street
7. Radio broadcast and urban memory
8. Ambience and sound of public spaces
9. Acoustic territories of urban living
10. Domestic sound
11. Literary description of sound from a place
12. Social music
13. Religious music in urban environment
14. Archival field recordings
15. Migration and new sounds in the city

Please email your interest to bc09@aub.edu.lb, mail@budhaditya.org

Keynote speakers:

Professor Marcel Cobussen, ACPA, Faculty of Humanities, Leiden University

Professor Cathy Lane, CRiSAP, University of the Arts, London

Professor David Toop, CRiSAP, University of the Arts, London

Ashish Avikunthak, Communications and Film Media Department, University of Rhode Island

Other invited speakers:

Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Beirut, Lebanon/Goldsmiths, University of London

Dr. Friedlind Riedel, Bauhaus-University-Weimar

Dr. Maria Papadomanolaki, University of Brighton

Dr. Anette Vandsø, Center for Sound Studies, Faculty of Arts, Aarhus University

Budhaditya Chattopadhyay, Center for Arts and Humanities, American University of Beirut

**Live Performance Concert in association with the
Irtijal | International Festival of Experimental Music in Lebanon**

29th and 30th November 2018

8:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Venue: Beirut Art Center, Jisr El Wati area/Souk el Ahad - Off Corniche an Naher - Behind Impex Chevrolet, highway side. Building 13, Street 97, Zone 66 Adlieh, Beirut, Lebanon.

Potential concert performances by:

David Toop, CRiSAP, University of the Arts, London

Cathy Lane, CRiSAP, University of the Arts, London

Lasse-Marc Riek, Gruenrekorder, Frankfurt am Main

Maria Papadomanolaki, University of Brighton

Jad Saliba, Sonology, The Royal Conservatory, The Hague

Budhaditya Chattopadhyay, Center for Arts and Humanities, American University of Beirut

William Joshua Hudelson, FAAS (Music), American University of Beirut.

Screening:

Kalkimanthankatha (The Churning of Kalki, Ashish Avikunthak 2015)

Talking Field (Budhaditya Chattopadhyay 2017)

Publication:

Selected papers and keynotes will be published in a future issue of a peer-reviewed journal.

Organized by Dr. Budhaditya Chattopadhyay, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Arts and Humanities, American University of Beirut, with supports from the International Ambiances Network.