

**The Histories and Politics of Audio Archives.
Trans-disciplinary trajectories of audio recording, audio archives and hearing cultures
in South(ern) Africa**

Workshop

Basler Afrika Bibliographien

Tuesday, 1 July 2014

Historical audio recordings, voice and speech collections are increasingly receiving attention in cultural and social studies. Sound and hearing studies itself have become a small but burgeoning field and some scholars are claiming a “sonic” or “acoustic” turn in their fields of study. At the same time a general public, in constant search of “the authentic voice” yet long accustomed to the visibility of history, is turning eagerly to historical sound and music to “listen in” and “listen out” to voices assumed as having been “lost”, “silenced” or “forgotten.” Some have argued that the “visual turn” has not only exceeded its limits – it has resulted in the disjuncture of what is conceptually closely related to each other: visibility and acoustics in one field of experience, practice, knowledge production and representation.

This workshop (the first of two) seeks to engage specifically and purposefully with historical audio collections and its aspects of recording, collection and audience politics and, as such, with the epistemologies of “hearing” and “listening”. It is jointly organised by the Basler Afrika Bibliographien (BAB) and the “Archive and Public Culture Research Initiative” of the University of Cape Town (UCT), with support by the *Swiss South African Joint Research Project* (University of Basel). A follow-up workshop will take place at the University of Cape Town on Tuesday 9 September 2014.

Registration (see below)

Programme (subject to changes)

9h30

Welcome and Introduction

Dr Dag Henrichsen (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)

9h45

Dr Anette Hoffmann (University of Cape Town)

“Sounding out acoustic archives”

10h30 Coffee Break

11h00

Dr Memory Biwa (University of Cape Town)

„We Praise God with all our Instruments”: Khoekhoegowab composition and the tracking of histories through sound technologies in the Dammann archive“

Prof Dr Sian Sullivan (Bath Spa University)

“Text, sound and corporeality in recording KhoeSan contexts: a preliminary sharing of past and present ethnographic research in Namibia”

Dr Dag Henrichsen (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)

“Petitioning the Anthropology Professor? Recording technology, appropriation and the monologues of the deaf in Epukiro (Namibia) in 1954”

12h30 Lunch break (Theaterkantine)

14h00

Susanne Hubler (MA) & Anna Vögeli (MA) (Basler Afrika Bibliographien)

“What could it mean to recover noise, hisses and laughter? Unedited examples from the Ruth Weiss archives”

14h30

Dr Chris Low (London)

“New developments in digitizing audio and possible applications in Namibia“

15h00

Rudolf Müller (Memoriav, Bern)

“Memoriav and the development of audiovisual heritage in Switzerland: Sound projects and their specific challenges“

15h45 Tea Break

16h00

Regina Sarreiter (MA, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin)

"It goes to Europe, I come from there' - collecting voices in Tanzania and South Africa".

Dr Robert Heinze (Universität Bern)

"The indigenous music is gradually dying out': colonial radio and the ambivalences of a Zambian music archive"

17h30 End

18h30 Public Talk in the Exhibition “My very first question to you”

Public talk with the audio designer Ramon De Marco (Idee und Klang, Basel)

“Behind the sound clouds – Audio Design and Sound installation” (in English and German)

Registration

The workshop is open to everybody. Students are particularly welcome.

Kindly register with

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Workshop Venue

Basler Afrika Bibliographien

Klosterberg 23

Reading Room