I’m happy to announce a 2018-19 lecture series in Sound Studies, focusing on the theme of listening. Please share with colleagues and students who may be interested. Along with the lectures, we will convene a Sound Studies Working Group; please let me know if you would like to be added to the list. Several of the speakers will also be holding workshops, for which details will be circulated closer to the date.

The first talk of the series is:

“Hearing Heat: An Anthropocene Acoustemology”
Steven Feld
School for Advanced Research
Monday, September 17, 2018 • 12:00 PM
SAC 5.118

2018-19 schedule:

“Hearing Heat: An Anthropocene Acoustemology”
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Monday, September 17, 2018 • 12:00 PM
SAC 5.118

“The Position of Listening: The Sound Protocol of Naming the Moment”
Ultra-red (Dont Rhine & Robert Sember)
Vermont College of Fine Arts / Eugene Lang College at The New School
Monday, October 15, 2018 • 12:00 PM
SAC 5.118

“Sounds and Listening(s): Acoustic Colonialism and its Counter-Currents in the Mapuche Territory”
Luis Cárcamo-Huechante
The University of Texas at Austin & Comunidad de Historia Mapuche
Monday, November 5, 2018 • 12:00 PM
SAC 5.118

“Anagrams, Archives and Anamorphoses, or A Noisy Walk to the Archive”
Amy Cimini
UC San Diego
Monday, February 11, 2019
Time and location TBA

“Revolutionary Listening: Radio Broadcasting in Ghana’s June 4th 1979 Mutiny”
Jesse Shipley
Dartmouth College
Monday, April 1, 2019 • 12:00 PM
SAC 5.118

“The Pulse of Global Passage: Listening to Logistics”
Shannon Mattern
The New School
Friday, April 12, 2019 • 12:00 PM
SAC 5.118

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Listening is a way of being in and knowing the world, or what Steven Feld calls “acoustemology.”
Focusing on listening affords an understanding of sound as emergent through perception rather than an object in and of itself – a phenomenology amplified by the work of contemporary composers (Cimini). At the same time, listening is an attuning, whether toward a sound or toward one another. Sound, thus, is relational, composing human/nonhuman relationships in a time of planetary precarity (Feld, Mattern). The potential of audio technologies of radio and recorded sound to broadcast and circulate across horizons of space and time draw together wider publics, such that through listening, sociabilities emerge that might cohere around indigeneity, housing and racial activism, or post-colonial political transformations (Cárcamo-Huechante, Ultra-red, Shipley).

The interdisciplinary series is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, with support from the Department of Anthropology, Butler School of Music, the Digital Writing & Research Lab, and Native American and Indigenous Studies.

A Sound Studies Working Group will be convened in conjunction with the lecture series. For more information or to be added to the list please contact Marina Peterson (marina.peterson@austin.utexas.edu).

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Marina Peterson
Associate Professor of Anthropology
University of Texas at Austin
2201 Speedway, Stop C3200
Austin, TX 78712
(512) 471-0054
marina.peterson@austin.utexas.edu