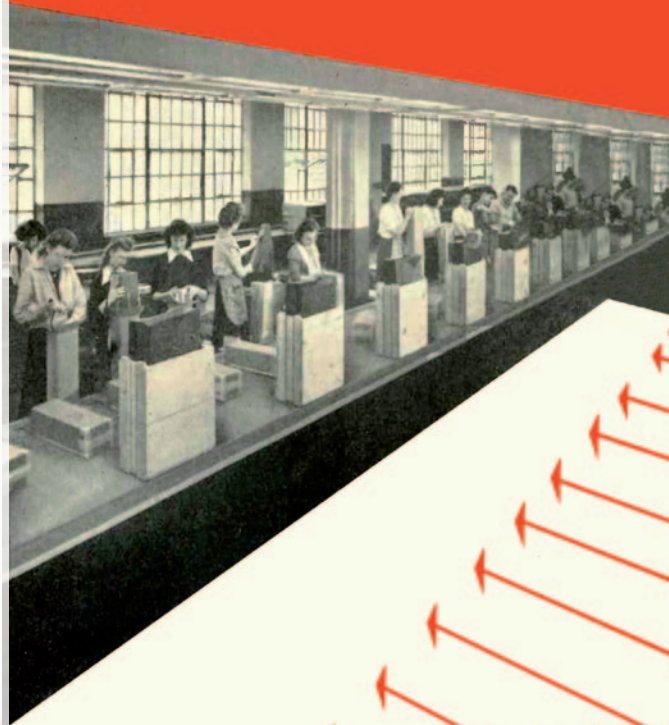


Over the twentieth century, managers and employees alike became increasingly concerned with workers' rhythms, postures, and movements; their internal states; and their capacities for focus, attention, and information processing. The mutual reconfiguration of work, worker, and work environment coincided with the rise of new professional fields of investigation, from interwar "Psychotechnik" to office automation, and was reflected in new kinds of artistic experiment. Drawing insights from applied psychology, ergonomics and human factors, architecture, or design, their techniques aimed to rearrange modern life in the office, factory, laboratory, and studio, and by extension also the home or the classroom.

This workshop examines the changing phenomenal and collective experience of "work" (not necessarily limited to "labor") in the twentieth century, focusing on one important modality of such experience—sound. We ask how corporations, scientists, and artists turned acoustic or musical sound and listening into a subject of knowledge-generation and intervention in the workplace, and how their investigations have, in turn, been characterized as work. How was sound used to articulate new theories of behavior, express new technological utopias, aestheticize corporate identities, manage affective and psychological states, or redefine productivity across different economic and industrial regimes?

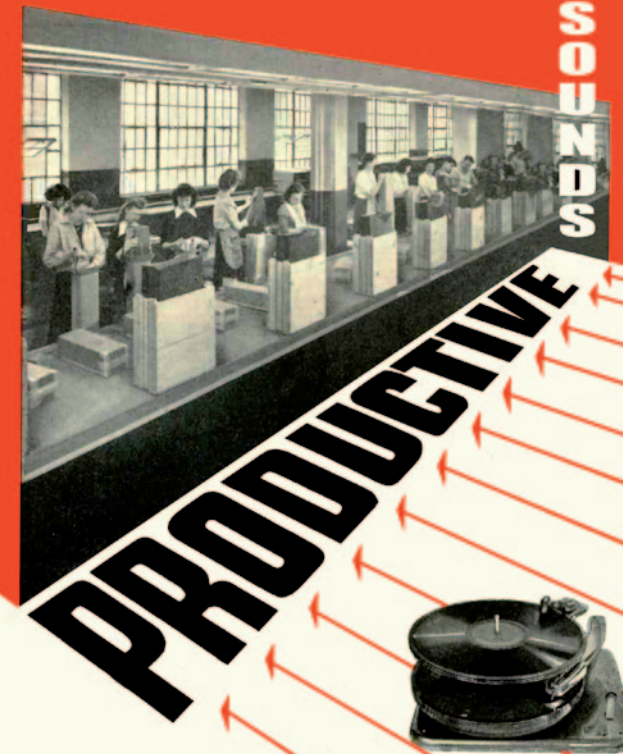


To register, please contact:
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MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

Productive Sounds in Everyday Spaces



Sounds at work
in science, art,
and industry
1920–present

Workshop
April 27–28, 2018
MPIWG (Conference Room)

Friday, April 27

10:00–10:20 Welcome + Introduction

Joeri Bruyninckx (MPIWG, Maastricht University),
Alexandra Hui (Mississippi State University)

10:20–11:40 Chair: Fanny Gribenski (MPIWG)

Claire Shaw (University of Warwick)
Dangerous Sounds, Productive Silences:
Deaf People in Stalin's Industrial Revolution

James G. Mansell (University of Nottingham)
Industrial Psychology and the Professionalization of
Sonic Knowledge: Millais Culpin's Defence of Noise

11:40–11:55 Break

11:55–13:15 Chair: Xiaochang Li (MPIWG)

Viktoria Tkaczyk (MPIWG, Humboldt-Universität zu
Berlin)
Back to Work: Early Concepts of Phonographic
Rehabilitation

Alexandra Hui (Mississippi State University)
An Audible House Organ: The RCA Plant
Broadcasting System, Personhood, and Panoptic
Listening, 1943–1945

13:15–14:10 Lunch

14:10–15:30 Chair: Martin Scherzinger
(New York University)

Dominik Schrage (Dresden University of Technology)
Psychotechnik und Radiophonie – revisited

Sarah Marks (Birbeck, University of London)
Therapeutic Sound in Socialist East Germany

15:30–15:45 Break

15:45–17:05 Chair: Joseph Clarke
(University of Toronto)

Max Stadler (ETH Zurich)
Office Ambience: Crafting the Surrounds of the
“New” Worker in West Germany, ca. 1950–1965

Joeri Bruyninckx (MPIWG, Maastricht University)
Herman Miller Action Office and the
Architectonics of Privacy

17:05–17:20 Break

17:20–18:00 Chair: João Romão (MPIWG)

David Suisman (University of Delaware)
Music and the Arts of War

18:45–20:30 Dinner

Saturday, April 28

9:30–10:40 Chair: Joeri Bruyninckx
(MPIWG, Maastricht University)

João Romão (MPIWG Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu
Berlin)
Musico-technical Labor: *Kontakte's* Realization Score
as a Cultural Artefact

Nikita Braguinski (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Building the Automated Composer: Experimental
Music Systems at Bellcore

10:40–10:55 Break

10:55–12:15 Chair: Viktoria Tkaczyk (MPIWG,
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Ekaterina Tewes (Freie Universität Berlin)
Shaping a Trans-Disciplinary Method of Production:
Sound and Noise in Solomon Nikitrin's Projection-
ist Painting and Theatre

Fred Turner (Stanford University)
John Cage, Friedrich Hayek, and the Sounds of
Early Neoliberalism

12:15–13:10 Lunch

13:10–15:10 Chair: Alexandra Hui
(Mississippi State University)

Shannon Mattern (The New School, NY)
Chirps of Completion: A Brief History of Product
Sound Design

Axel Volmar (University of Siegen)
Life Online and On Hold: Productive Sounds,
Automatic Call Distribution, and the Evolution of
Call Center Work

Jessica Feldman (Stanford University)
“The Problem of the Adjective”:
Affective Computing of the Speaking Voice and the
Labor of Listening

15:10–15:25 Break

15:25–16:00 Discussion, closing &
goodbyes

ORGANIZERS:

Joeri Bruyninckx
(MPIWG, Maastricht University)

Alexandra Hui
(Mississippi State University)