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**MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT  
FÜR WISSENSCHAFTSGESCHICHTE**



**MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**

# TESTING HEARING

**Authors' Workshop**

**October 21-22, 2016**

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

**What are the boundaries of hearing? By what parameters has hearing been measured and defined? From individuals to populations, humans to plants to whales—who and what have been the subjects of hearing tests? When does hearing become feeling? How has hearing been tested by new instruments and practices? How has hearing been used as a means of testing other phenomena, instruments, and practices?**

## FRIDAY, 21 OCTOBER

**10:15-10:30** Introduction by the organizers

**10:30-10:45** Information about proposal process  
(Marta Tonegutti, *Editor, Music, University of Chicago Press*)

**10:45-11:15** **Joeri Bruyninckx** (*MPIWG*)  
Introduction to the database “Sound & Science”

**11:15-11:30** Break

**11:30-12:15** **Viktoria Tkaczyk** (*MPIWG/HU*)  
The Testing of Hundred Listeners: Otto Abraham’s Studies on “Tone Consciousness”  
Comments by Benjamin Steege (*Columbia University*)

**12:15-13:00** **Sebastian Klotz** (*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*)  
Murray Island versus Aberdeenshire: Cross-cultural Hearing Tests and the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition to Torres Straits, 1898/99  
Comments by Jennifer Hsieh (*Stanford University*) and Viktoria Tkaczyk (*MPIWG/HU*)

**13:00-14:00** Lunch

**14:00-14:45** **Jennifer Hsieh** (*Stanford University*)  
“To Hear as I Do”: The Concessions of Hearing in a Noise Management System  
Comments by Sebastian Klotz (*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*)

**14:45-15:30** **Joeri Bruyninckx** (*MPIWG*)  
Electrified Equivalence: Testing Avian and Human Hearing in Twentieth-Century Bioacoustics  
Comments by Stefan Krebs (*University of Luxembourg*)

**15:30-15:45** Break

**15:45-16:30** **Mara Mills** (*New York University*)  
Useful Hearing  
Comments by Jonathan Sterne (*McGill University*)

**16:30-17:15** **Stefan Krebs** (*University of Luxembourg*)  
Testing Spatial Hearing: The Development of the Neumann KU80 Dummy Head  
Comments by Alix Hui (*Mississippi State University*)

## SATURDAY, 22 OCTOBER

**10:00-10:45** **Benjamin Steege** (*Columbia University*)  
The Test Is No Longer A Test: Günther Anders and the Experimentalization of Hearing Under the Bomb  
Comments by Lino Camprubí (*MPIWG*)

**10:45-11:00** Break

**11:00-11:45** **Roland Wittje** (*IIT Madras*)  
Absorption, Transmission, Reflection: Testing Materials in the Laboratory  
Comments by Mara Mills (*New York University*)

**11:45-12:30** **Lino Camprubí** (*MPIWG*), **Alix Hui** (*MSU*)  
Testing the Underwater Ear: Hearing, Standardizing, and Classifying Marine Sounds during the Cold War  
Comments by Roland Wittje (*IIT Madras*)

**12:30-13:30** Lunch

**13:30-14:15** **Jonathan Sterne** (*McGill University*)  
How Signal Processors Hear: Comparing Sonic Technologies and Their Models  
Comments by Joeri Bruyninckx (*MPIWG*)

**14:15-14:30** Break

**14:30-15:15**  
Closing discussion