

Research project – Peripher_ies / Institut Hyperwerk / HGK / FHNW

Abstract

Where does perception end and design begin, or is perception already principally to be understood as design? In the intercultural exchange program and research project Peripher_ies we compare and interpret soundscapes produced with field recordings by students and academics. We discuss the dimension of the intercultural differences in understanding, meaning and quality of the soundscapes and the dimension of the acoustic ecology which we receive through perception. All this is a way to think about two specific Common Goods—our landscapes and resources and our social and cultural relations—on a global and a local scale as starting point.

Keywords

Student & Academic online exchange / Soundscape & Landscape / Acoustic ecology / Commons / Intercultural Practices & Interpretation / Concepts of Periphery & Center

Background

Peripher_ies is based on an international network with around ten partner institutions from five continents founded on the basis of the former research project Cultural Spaces in Design. We are conducting online workshops concerning the production and shared interpretation of locally recorded soundscapes since April 2020. Through the creation of such a community of listeners we sought to explore how the shared perception of soundscapes can open up a differentiated intercultural dialogue and lead to a change in mutual understanding. This led us, in turn, to develop soundscape approaches to the question of landscape as a designable commons and ultimately to reflect on the self-conception of design as a discipline. This activity of commoning has been at the center of the discussion on the Commons for several years now (Elinor Ostrom, 2012, p.246). Can we understand design as an activity of jointly developing rules and procedures, as a practical aesthetic action? The experience of being involved in Peripher_ies has led us towards an ecological understanding of mutuality and away from hierarchies like periphery and center.

Research dimensions

- Soundscapes as a medium
 - Sonic experience and perception of sound. Acoustic ecology as emerging from sonic manifestations of actions of human and non-human beings.
 - Sound design as everyday practice, sonic agency, politics of sound
 - Aesthetic qualities of sound as medium of being, communicating and creating in the digital-analog world
- Collaborative design practices
 - Soundscapes and soundscape recordings as starting point, pivotal point, or catalysts of online educational exchange in Art & Design Studies.
- Intercultural practices and interpretation
 - Common understandings in social, cultural and educational dimensions starting from the concepts of periphery, decolonisation and commons.

Project plan

The project is divided into two parts.

1. The *practical exchange* includes international online exchange-workshops coupled with regional satellite projects.
2. The *theoretical framework* includes design, social and cultural sciences combined with international exchange (lectures and conferences). The work starts with the interpretation of the practical exchange.

Workpackage	Phase 1 : Kick off & Preparation 2021 (2nd half)				Phase 2 : Field research 2022				Phase 3 : Conclusion 2023				Phase 4 : Dissemination 2024 (1st half)			
WP 1 Coordination and administration	Coordination and Administration															
WP2 Methodology, Inter- and transdisciplinarity	Initial Method				1st iteration								Def. Best Practices			
WP3 Understanding: State of the art, new findings	Initial Analysis				1st iteration								Def. Best Practices			
WP4 International exchange program (workshops) incl. data collection			WS 1a	WS 1b				WS 2a	WS 2b							
WP5 Regional satellite programs incl. data collection			SP 1a	SP 1b				SP 2a	SP 2b					SP 3a	SP 3b	
WP6 Data analysis, interpretation, conclusions (good practices, findings)							Data Analysis & Interpretation						Data Analysis & Interpretation			
WP7 Dissemination (regional and online/global) and archiving																Dissemination, Archiving

Approximation Budget/Financing

Budget

Coordination, administration (WP1)	40'000
Methodology and Understanding (WP2&3)	60'000
Exchange program and Satellite programs (WP4&5)	120'000
Interpretation, Conclusions and Dissemination (WP6&7)	140'000
Material	40'000
Total	400'000
External costs (as part of this calculation)	80'000

Financing

Foundations	150'000
Research funds	150'000
Local funds	50'000
Sponsoring	50'000
Total	400'000

Network (Status 1.1.21):

Australia, Canberra	ANU, College of Arts & Social Sciences, Research School of Humanities and the Arts, School of Art & Design / Amanda Stuart, Pia van Gelder
Austria, Graz	FH Joanneum & University of the Arts, Sound Design / Daniel Fabry, Orhan Kipcak
Botswana, Gaborone	University of Botswana, Industrial Design and Technology / Richie Moalosi
Canada, Montréal,	Université du Québec, Faculté des Arts, École des arts visuels et médiatiques / Susan Turcot, Philippe-Aubert Gauthier
Finland, Rovaniemi	University of Lapland, Department of Art and Design / Tomi Knutilla
Greece, Thessaloniki	Artbox Creative Arts Management / Christos Savvidis, Lydia Chatziakovou
Island, Isafjörður	University of Akureyri, University Centre of the Westfjords Matthias Kokorsch
Japan, Niigata	Nagaoka, Nagaoka Institute of Design / Yorck Bühler
New Zealand, Auckland	AUT University, Faculty of Design and Creative Technologies, School of Art and Design / Dienneke Jansen, Fiona Amundsen, Rachel Shearer
Switzerland, Basel	Institut HyperWerk. Academy of Art and Design, FHNW Andrea Iten, Catherine Walthard, Max Spielmann, Daniel Hug
UK, Norwich	Norwich University of the Arts, Film and Moving Image Production

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