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University of Cologne
Cologne Global Study Program
Spring Semester 2019
Seminar “Sounds of Europe”
Tue 10.⁰⁰–11.³⁰ a.m.
Building 106, Room S15

Syllabus

Stefan Zweig dedicates two of fourteen chapters in his work “Decisive Moments in History” to musical pieces of historical significance. However, historians have only recently discovered tones, sounds and music for themselves, even though they are ubiquitous. Although the perception is mostly limited to the moment. Sounds of everyday life in particular are rarely preserved: usually through targeted recordings, often to a picture or film. Music – in the classic sense of the word – has always behaved differently: composed, written down and interpreted in a variety of ways. So, how can sounds – including noises, sounds and music as a term – be understood historically? Is there maybe something like a European collective memory of sounds? Or vice versa: can modern European history also be told through sounds? The course pursues these questions with concrete examples and traces the European history of the 19th and 20th centuries through the context.

Course Outline

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 1) 2 nd Apr 2019 | Preliminaries |
| 2) 9 th Apr 2019 | Introduction: Let’s make some noise |
| 3) 16 th Apr 2019 | Introduction II: Why sound history? |
| 4) 23 rd Apr 2019 | Sounds of Modernity |
| 5) 30 th Apr 2019 | “The Men-Machine” |
| 6) 7 th May 2019 | Open session |
| 7) 14 th May 2019 | Nations & sound memory |
| 8) 21 st May 2019 | Migration of sounds |
| 9) 28 th May 2019 | Mass media – Propaganda – Holocaust |
| 10) 4 th Jun 2019 | Open session |
| 11) 18 th Jun 2019 | Politics of sounds |
| 12) 25 th Jun 2019 | Environment – Progress – Digitization |
| 13) 2 nd Jul 2019 | “Go West”, “Wind of Change”, and the “end of history” |
| 14) 9 th Jul 2019 | Conclusion: Globalized world – globalizing sounds? |