Bells, stringed instruments, theater auditoria, pistols, phonographs, and synthesizers have a long history that is deeply entangled with the production of knowledge, science, and cultural heritage. The Working Group plans to bring these enmeshments to light, with a focus on three forms of sound objects: sound-generating, sound-transmitting, and sound-archiving objects. Alongside materially tangible objects (natural objects, artifacts, objets trouvés), the Working Group also considers immaterial sound objects (musical sounds, sounds of daily life, noise), passed on in written or pictorial form.

The Working Group asks when and how research objects became concrete objects, and what agency these objects have accrued in the domains of knowledge, science, and cultural heritage. We trace the role played by the objects' materiality in such processes. When did their materials, their value, their sound, their shape change? How did their spatial or cultural embedment mold their use? We are interested in the extent to which sounding objects formed part of codified actions, artistic or technological practices, and social networks. How did they collect or communicate tacit knowledge? At what points did sound objects mark the transition from practical action to scientific research? Did objects circulate between scientific disciplines? And where did sounding objects escape from their scientific contexts to become everyday, communicative, museum, or art objects? How was their sound described, visualized, measured, archived, exhibited, digitized? Finally, we ask where the history of these objects flows into conventional narratives and where they write their very own history over long periods of time.

SOUND OBJECTS IN TRANSITION:

KNOWLEDGE, SCIENCE, HERITAGE

MPIWG

Max Planck Institute
for the History of Science

Deutsches Museum

Sonderforschungsbereich 980
EPISTEME IN
BEWEGUNG

MPRG EPISTEMES OF MODERN ACOUSTICS
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
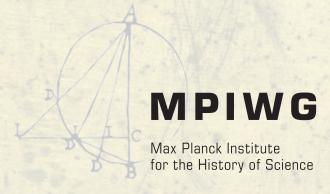**Boltzmannstraße 22**
D-14195 Berlin
Conference Room

To register please contact:
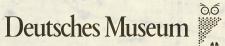**Birgitta von Mallinckrodt**
officeacoustics@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Thursday, September 15

10:00–10:15 *Welcome Coffee*

10:15–10:45 **Introduction**

Wave / Number

10:45–11:30
To Explain Consonance and Divide the Octave: Abstract Doctrines and Their Material Counterparts
H. Floris Cohen *Descartes Centre, Utrecht University*

11:30–12:15
Marin Mersenne and the Lost Knowledge of King David's Lyre
Jacomien Prins *University of Warwick*

12:15–13:15 *Lunch*

Glass / Metal

13:15–14:00
Music of Metallurgy: Bell-Founding Metal for Musical Instruments
Rebecca Wolf *Deutsches Museum, Munich*

14:00–14:45
Musical Glasses
Peter Pesic *St. John's College, Santa Fe*

14:45–15:15 *Coffee break*

Stage / Garden

15:15–16:00
Acoustic and Musical Realities: Performing Kunqu on Historical Stages and in Cultivated Gardens
Joseph S.C. Lam *University of Michigan*

Concert

17:00–18:00
Piano Recital "Music, Science and Nature"
Peter Pesic *St. John's College, Santa Fe*
Wayne Foster-Smith *Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler, Berlin*

Friday, September 16

10:00–10:15 *Welcome Coffee*

Air / Machine

10:15–11:00
Sounding the Voice Box: A History of Reconstructing the Avian Syrinx, 1750–Present
Joeri Bruyninckx *MPIWG*

11:00–11:45
Birds as Sounding Objects
Tiago de Oliveira Pinto *University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar & Friedrich Schiller University Jena / São Paulo*

11:45–12:00 *Coffee break*

12:00–12:45
Physical and Musical Objects: Vacuum Tubes throughout the Twentieth Century
Myles Jackson *New York University*

12:45–13:45 *Lunch*

Ear / Voice

13:45–14:30
The Ear and Its Objects: A *Longue Durée* View of Research in Auditory Physiology
Julia Kursell *University of Amsterdam*

14:30–15:15
Inner Voices: A Long History of Soliloquies
Viktoria Tkaczyk *MPIWG, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*

15:15–15:45 *Coffee break*

15:45–16:30
On the Nightingale: Myth as Sound Object(s)
Shane Butler *Johns Hopkins University*

16:30–16:40
Closing Remards
Karin Bijsterveld *Maastricht University*

Organizers:
Viktoria Tkaczyk (MPIWG / Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Rebecca Wolf (Deutsches Museum)