

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 Remarks
Karin Bijsterveld *Maastricht University*

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

To register please contact:
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Organizers:

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

Working Group
Workshop I

September 15–16, 2016

SOUND OBJECTS IN TRANSITION: KNOWLEDGE, SCIENCE, HERITAGE



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.



MPIWG
Max Planck Institute
for the History of Science

Deutsches Museum



Sonderforschungsbereich 980
**EPISTEME IN
BEWEGUNG**

For more information on the research group
"Epistemes of Modern Acoustics"



<http://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/en/research/projects/RGTkaczyk>