



**the sonic perspective**

**what does it mean to listen in a time when hierarchies, complexities, floods of violent information constantly reaching for our attention? how to truly listen, be open, be receiving and stay healthy? how to embrace dissonance?**



**dissonance**

**cultivate a culture of listening**



**“The practice of listening ... can not escape the concept of openness”**

**"the riskiness of listening comes partly from the possibility that what we hear will require change from us."**

**Susan Bickford in 'The Dissonance of Democracy: Listening, Conflict, and Citizenship'**



Hanoi, 2019

**sonic literacy - collective,  
networked, non-hierarchical,  
political listening & sound  
practice - *f*rom an  
eco-feminist sonic perspective**



**#sonicwilderness in Hanoi, Vietnam, Leninpark - 2019**



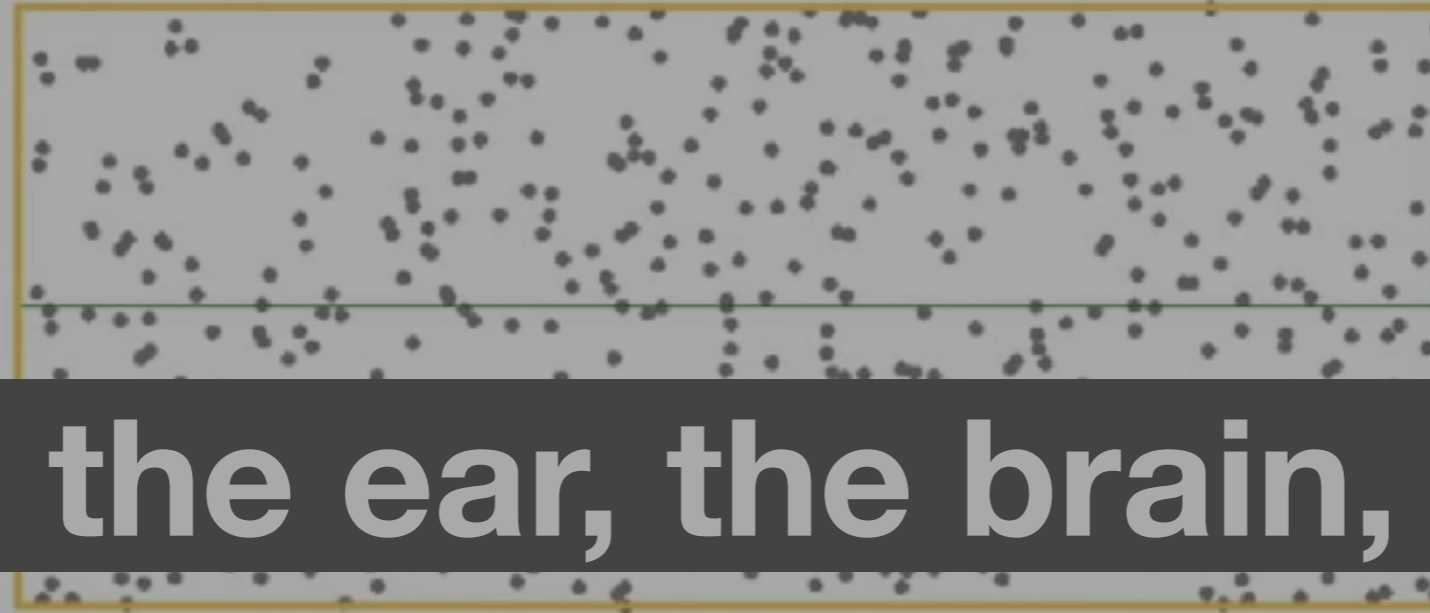
listening is one of the most fundamental things we do.  
more important than we realise or are taught to respect.

when we listen - someone listens back

this is such a simple notion.

by practicing listening we teach an essential skill: we  
embody sensitivity, build sensibility towards your  
environment, and eventually instil the ability to care.

# What is Sound?



body, the ear, the brain, the mind

**Air Pressure  
goes up and down**



**Ear Drum  
goes in and out**

## Sounds worldwide

The distances over which sound can travel underwater are amazing. It is believed that before the proliferation of engine-powered vessels, Antarctic whales could be heard by their Arctic cousins. Such vast ranges are possible partly because sound waves are absorbed far less in water than in air. At 1 kHz, absorption is about 5 dB/km in air (at 30 per cent humidity) but only 0.06 dB/km in seawater. Also, underwater sound waves are much more confined; a noise made in mid-air spreads in all directions, but in the sea the bed and the surface limit vertical spreading.



**Mike Goldsmith. "Sound: A Very Short Introduction."**





**how do we as (often) uprooted,  
generationally injured and removed  
from culture of listening "grown ups"  
take responsibility for teaching  
listening in our time?**

**What roles do society, education and  
parenting play? How do we teach  
universal! ethics, independent from  
religion, nationality, race, class, gender  
and other values that divide humans?**

# 'The norms that govern communication are not neutral' Susan Bickford

who listens, what is at stake, how much feeling is allowed to sound out?



kleefeld\_klangfeld what is at stake? circ  
score creation @poemproducer

Edited · 22 h



**"An argument for diversity in habitable places" Paullina Rautio, Oulu 2010**



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interspecific listening



# Pauline Oliveros: What is Deep Listening?



<https://paulineoliveros.us/>

<https://vimeo.com/801737889>

# Pauline Oliveros: What is Deep Listening?

This question is answered in the process of practicing listening with the understanding that the complex wave forms continuously transmitted to the auditory cortex from the outside world by the ear require active engagement with attention. Prompted by experience and learning listening takes place voluntarily. Listening is not the same as hearing and hearing is not the same as listening. The ear is constantly gathering and transmitting information - however attention to the auditory cortex can be tuned out. Very little of the information transmitted to the brain by the sense organs is perceived at a conscious level. Reactions can take place without consciousness.



## Lending An Ear

Sound artist  
Jessica

Ekomane on  
aspects of  
intimacy, the  
incomplete  
historiography of  
sound and noise,  
and the beauty of  
multiplicity in  
listening.

**the beauty of multiplicity in listening**

<https://berlinartweek.de/en/article/lending-an-ear/>

## Hearing Studies (2021) by Ruth Anderson and Annea Lockwood

Twenty-six studies designed to increase awareness of the physical and psychological processes involved in hearing and in listening, to music, to the environment and to others.



<https://www.annealockwood.com/>

<https://www.annealockwood.com/writings/>



# Jana Winderen

#fieldrecordings

[https://poemproducer.com/AGaudiiodrop/JanaWinderen\\_EcologyofListening.mp3](https://poemproducer.com/AGaudiiodrop/JanaWinderen_EcologyofListening.mp3)

<https://www.janawinderen.com>

**Under the surface we can hear the surrounding environment, the speed of the water, the creatures movement and communication, the wind on the surface, stones moved by water, plants, tree roots.**

<https://www.janawinderen.com/news/listening-around-the-surface-workshop-camp>

**Trinh Minh-ha 's film «Reassemblage» from 1983 and the idea of «speaking nearby» instead of «speaking about»**

**More:**

**Astrida Neimanis: Is representation always colonisation? This question has high stakes for feminist and anticolonial theories and practices. On the one hand, a more privileged we may be wary of usurping the voices of marginalised and oppressed others in an arrogant assumption that we might know what those others want or need; but on the other hand, we balk at staying silent in the face of injustice. When we extend these concerns into the domain of environmental stewardship, we encounter a similar conundrum. In our efforts to protect non-human natures, is it not a similar arrogance to presume to be able to faithfully represent the interests of these others – rendered passive and mute by our representing impulses? And is it not a similar fear that a lack of representation will lead to further incursion and devastation, in which we are thus complicit? In each case, technologies of representation trace a fine line between the much-needed redress of injustice done unto others, and the various violences that accompany speaking for them.**

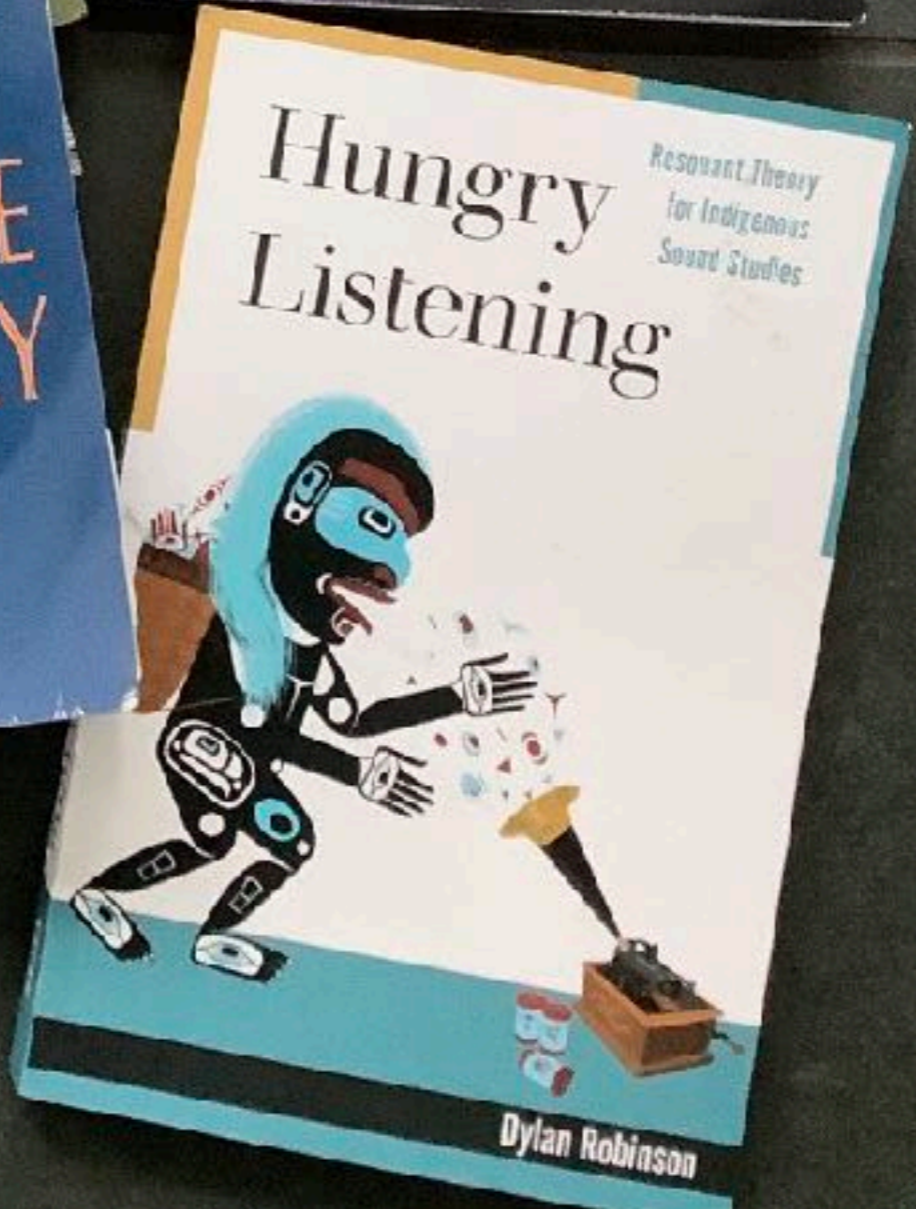
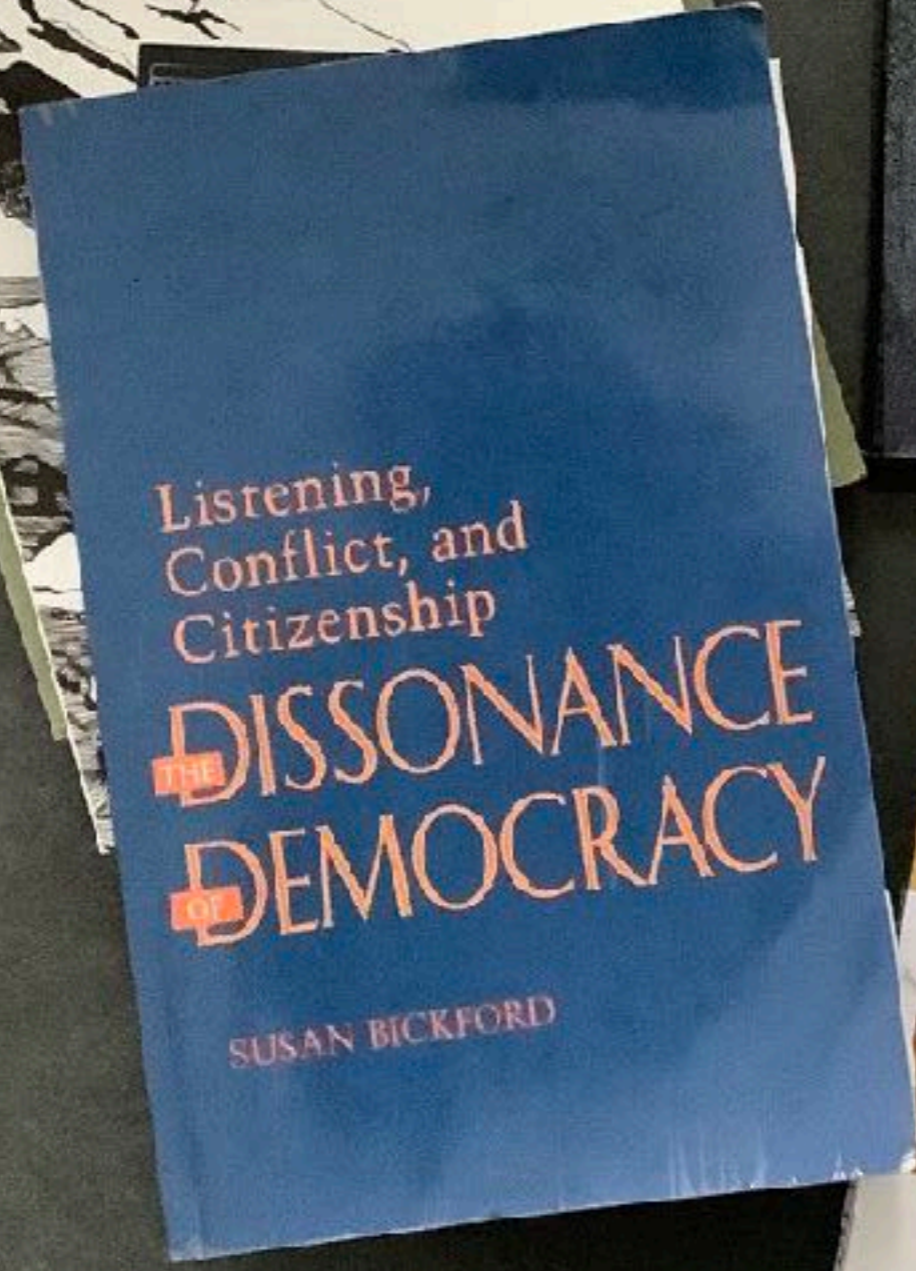
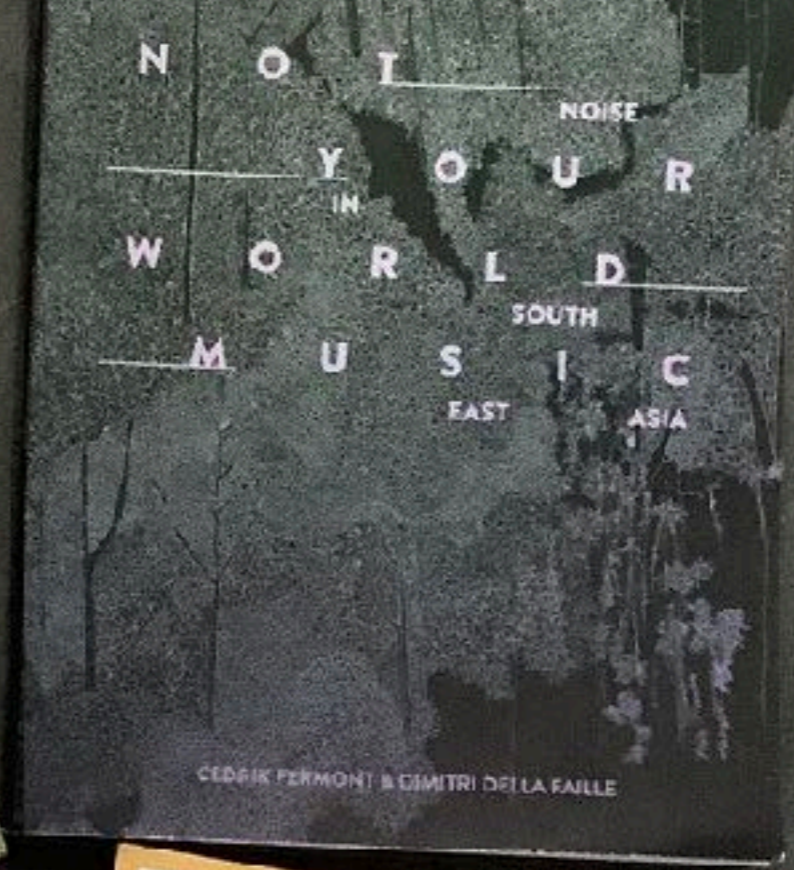
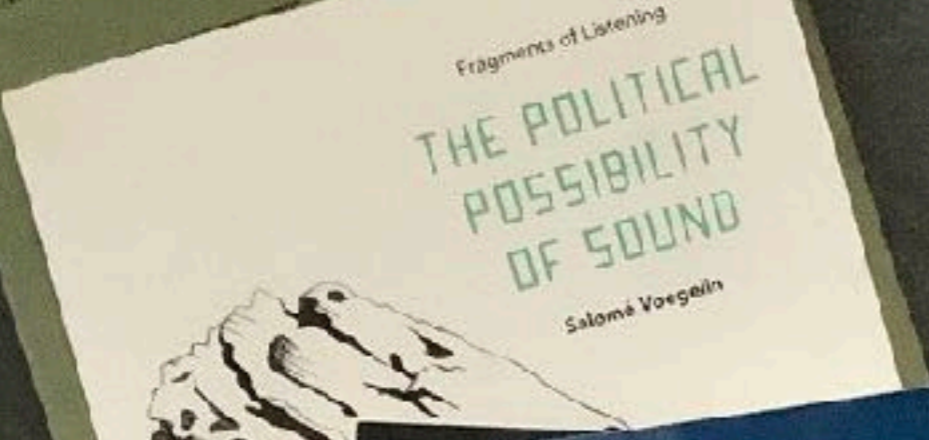
**While only occasionally theorised in such terms, this ‘problem of speaking for others’ (Alcoff 1991) is inevitably mired in the dilemma of representationalism.**

# Women pioneers in electronic music

<https://poemproducer.com/nerdgirls/>

*female:pressure*, founded in 1998, is a transnational network of over 3000+ women, non binary & trans artists from 80+ countries in the broader fields of electronic music and arts

[www.femalepressure.net](http://www.femalepressure.net)





## Limits in Listening

Modernity generally was as much about trying to control sound as producing it

It comes as no surprise that Western/European modernity's relationship to sound, noise and music is one of control and separation. In the West, music was instrumentalised as a marker of European distinction, and was evidence of the West's exceptional status in world history.

Panchia, Bhavisha.  
'Limits in Listening'. The Contemporary Journal 3 (June 2020)

<https://thecontemporaryjournal.org/issues/sonic-continuum/limits-in-listening>

# line of women in the rice field - sound of work #nusasonic 2018



**how to use listening to  
empower, change and improve our lives**

**how to use listening in solidarity**

**what are listening traditions in 'our'  
culture or socialisation or nearby?**



**#sonicagency**

**Listening is not neutral.**

**Listening shapes the reality we live in.**

**Listening is shaped by ethics and politics.**

**Listening is directly linked to memory and identity.**

**Listening is as important as speaking.**

**Listening is an active act.**

**Shilla from STRUMA+IODINE strumandiodine**

# What is political sound ?



**Klangverordnung**



like  
protest #Cacerolazo Chile

REC: on . 020

at sonic technologies ::

audio colle

# rec-on.org

{w} ORGan

POLITICAL  
\*/

ed and currently faciliated by Antye Greie-Ripatti (AGF); RECon is supported by Kone Foundation; design & code Joana Chicau; typeface Rudla-  
a Sanchez.



**#lastesis**





**what is collective listening?**

**is it even possible?**

**to overcome our separation?**

# Collective Listening

شنیدن  
باهم

The collective Khamoosh invites you for  
a series of collective listening sessions



<https://rec-on.org/khamoosh.html>

**25 August 2023, 5 CET**

A listening exchange between Khamoosh and Eastfloc communities

**29 September 2023, 5 CET**

Mangroves' plantation in Qeshm island [as part of Ja Ja Ja Nee Nee Nee radio residency]

**31 October 2023, 6 CET**

Discussion around collective work

■ For more info visit [here](#)





# Collective listening sessions with Khamoosh collective

## **a listening exercise**

- **decide a time for the exercise and set a timer.**
- **close your eyes and listen.**
- **listen to what is around you, behind you, in front of you**
- **Listen what is above and beneath you, all 360 degrees**
- **ask yourself: What is the loudest sound? What is the quietest?**
- **Which sound is pleasant? Which is disturbing?**
- **In your mind be sure to focus in on different sounds.**
- **Relax and just keep listening until the timer is up.**

**<https://exposingtheinvisible.org/en/articles/investigating-with-sound/>**

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*dimensions*

<https://www.unseen.help/agf-en/>



**embracing dissonance**

