
Listening in on Literature: A Soundtable on Power and Surveillance

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Recent studies at the intersection of sound and literature have begun to redirect scholarly attention away from the written word as the dominant medium of the literary and towards the recorded spoken word as a provocative mode of inscription and circulation. Scholarship such as Shuangyi Li's 2020 special issue of CRCL on "Sound in Literature" and Jason Camlot's 2019 *Phonopoetics* counter more than a century's emphasis on the printed text in favour of attending to the sounds of literature, and the ways in which the audiotext (the born or versioned acoustic text of a verbal creation) affords (and forecloses) certain forms of meaning and value.

This panel invites researchers to consider what happens to literary studies when we attune ourselves to the audible, recorded word (in readings, recitations, podcasts, audiobooks, audiodata, and related acousmatic events) and what insights this might afford regarding relations of power, mass surveillance, and systems of oppression. Outstanding contributions to the field of Sound Studies, such as Jennifer Lynn Stoever's *The Sonic Color Line* and Dylan Robinson's *Hungry Listening*, have foregrounded the politics of sound: what might it mean to bring such insights to the study of the audiotextual? How do our listening practices attune us to the dynamic between what Robinson calls "the listener and the listened to"? How, as Stoever asks, have visually-driven epistemologies rendered unhearable "sound . . . as a repository of apprehension, oppression, and confrontation"?

We propose what we hope is an engaging format for exchange: "The Soundtable." Panelists will share, in advance of the conference, a ten minute audio recording detailing what they are hearing at the intersection of sound, literature, and power. To ensure accessibility, accompanying written transcripts will also be made available. Panelists and audience members will have an opportunity to listen to (or read) the submissions in advance of The Soundtable, at which we'll build further on those contributions through dialogue and exchange, questions and answers.

Please note: proposals may be submitted as either written or sounded texts.