

Programme

Sounds of a Lifetime: Exploring Life Writing in Audio Media

29–30 January 2026, HOEK 38, Leuvenseweg 38, 1000 Brussels

DAY 0: January 28

15:00–16:30 at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Pleinlaan 2, Building C, 3rd floor, room 3C.204):

Pre-Conference Workshop: **Marit MacArthur, University of California, Davis:** *Slow Listening: How to Study Audio Recordings as Vocal Performance?*

Please register here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/DKGR0i8sCV>

DAY 1: January 29

9:00–9:20: Registration

9:20–9:30: Introduction

9:30–10:30: Keynote: **Julia Lajta-Novak, University of Vienna:** *Memoirs in Sound: “Reading” Anthony Joseph’s Auto/Biographical Jazz Poetry*

10:30–11:00: Coffee Break

11:00–12:30: **Panel 1: Personal and Collective Narratives on Radio** (3 papers x 20 min + 30 min Q&A)

- **Iana Nikitenko, Vrije Universiteit Brussel:** *Memories of Our Fathers: The Poetics of Family Life Writing in German Radio Drama (1970s–1980s)*
- **Matilda Jones, Freie Universität Berlin:** *Sounding Sororal Subjectivities in Kaitlin Prest’s ‘SISTERS’*
- **Lukas Kosch, University of Vienna:** *The Individual Voice Against Collective Forgetting: On the Function and Form of Jean Améry’s Radio Essays*

12:30–14:00: Lunch

14:00–15:30: **Panel 2: Sonic Self-Narratives and Autotheory** (3 papers x 20 min. + 30 min Q&A)

- **Desirée Henderson, University of Texas Arlington:** *What Does a Diary Sound Like? The Sonification of the Diary in Nonfiction and Fiction Audiotexts*
- **Kim Fox, The American University in Cairo:** *Sonic Testimonies: Student Audio Diaries as Intimate Life Narratives*
- **Hannah McGregor, Simon Fraser University:** *Scholarly Podcasting as Audible Autotheory*

15:30–16:00: Coffee Break

16:00–17:00: Keynote: **Matthew Rubery, Queen Mary University of London:**
Fraudiobooks?: Audio Fraud from the Analog Era to AI

19:00: Conference Dinner (*Les Petites Oignons*; Regentschapsstraat, 25, 1000 Brussels)

DAY 2: January 30

9:30–10:30: Keynote: **Jarmila Mildorf, University of Paderborn:** *A Life in Music: Ror Wolf's Radio Ballad* Leben und Tod des Kornettisten Bix Beiderbecke aus Nord-Amerika

10:30–11:00: Coffee Break

11:00–12:30: **Panel 3: Music and Creative Sound as Forms of Life Writing** (3 papers x 20 min + 30 min Q&A)

- **Valeriya Lindström, Lund University:** *Russian Anti-War Music and the Creation of Counter-History*
- **Ingibjörg Ágústsdóttir, University of Iceland:** *Rewriting Anne Bonny: Karlene's Musical Tribute to a Pirate Queen*
- **Manon Houtart, University of Namur:** *Les Rizières Duras (2003): Sonic Forms of Biographemes in Franck Smith's Radio Essay*

12:30–13:30: Lunch

13:30–15:00: **Panel 4: Experiments and Collaborations** (3 papers x 20 min + 30 min Q&A)

- **Virginia Madsen, Macquarie University:** *The audio portraiture of Kaye Mortley: 'the self, told, is at once a fiction'*
- **Louisa Léo, Sorbonne Nouvelle:** *The Radio Interview as Life Story or Self-narrative?*
- **Tien Phat Nguyen, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen:** *The Audio Construction of Identities and Memories in A Man of Two Faces by Viet Thanh Nguyen*

15:00–15:30: Coffee Break

15:30–17:00: **Panel 5: Diasporic and Indigenous Voices** (3 papers x 20 min + 30 min Q&A)

- **Bénédicte Ledent, University of Liège:** *From Biography to Autobiography: Caryl Phillips's Radiophonic Lifewriting*
- **Jason Wiens, University of Calgary:** *Exploring an Indigenous Literary Audio Archive as Individual and Collective Autobiography*
- **Preenika S., Anu Kuriakose, NIT Trichy:** *Podcasting as Feminist Life Writing: Resisting Gendered Public Spaces in Kerala, India*

17:00–17:30: Concluding Remarks