

Seminar Series

Topics in the Aesthetics of Music and Sound

Thursday, September 4, 2014
3:15-5 p.m. in U67



Sound as Environment: Towards an Aesthetics of Sonic Environmentality

Ulrik Schmidt, PhD, Assistant Professor in Performance-design at Roskilde University, Denmark. His main research is in cross-aesthetic issues in modern and contemporary culture. Schmidt has published in Danish and English on various topics including music production, sound art and sound design, ubiquitous computing, modern architecture, digital art, minimalism, silent comedy, surreal documentary, light art, and psychedelic animation. His book *The Ambient – Sensation, Mediatization, Environment*, Aarhus University Press, 2013 (in Danish), investigates the ambient as a major aspect of modern aesthetization in media, art, music, film, architecture, design, and urban culture.

Abstract: What is a sonic environment? What does it do? What are the performative and aesthetic aspects of sound as environment? Taking such questions as a starting point, this presentation will present and explore the concept of *sonic environmentality* as a central category in contemporary sound art. I understand sonic environmentality as the performative dimension of a sonic environment: what a sonic environment does and how it is presented and experienced *as* environment.

On this background, I will investigate the environmental qualities of different areas of aesthetic sound production such as the acoustic environment, sound as material, sonic media, the installation space, and the space of perception *as* aesthetic environment. Finally, I will propose three basic forms of sonic environmentality: atmosphere, ecology and ambient space.



All are welcome - also via Skype 🌿

- Cross-Disciplinary Interplay between the Humanities, Technology and Musical Practice
- Backdrop for the SDU-IKV Research Program