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Listening beyond Landscape: Music Ethnography and the Environmental Turn

The environmental turn potentially pushes us towards either new kinds of determinism or new kinds of epistemological fragmentation (as it decenters the human subject). Post-humanist philosopher Jane Bennett writes of a 'heuristic' or 'strategic' anthropomorphism that strives to keep human accountability and responsibility firmly in the frame (Bennett 2010). How might music and sound figure in such a 'framing'? What are the stakes of a 'heuristic anthropomorphism' from the perspectives of today's music studies? Martin Stokes' Lectures and masterclass will consider how to imagine the theoretical and political space 'beyond landscape' collaboratively and more capaciously. In the series of lectures, he will discuss both recent and ancient thinking about water and its relationship to landscape, cities and human life, focusing on his recent research along the Euphrates.

Anthropology of Music Lecture Series and Master Class

The Anthropology of Music Lecture Series is part of an ongoing initiative to strengthen and expand the focus on music at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies (ifeas) at the Johannes Gutenberg University (JGU) Mainz, Germany. The public lecture series is held by one of the field's most established representatives and is combined with a master class designed for young researchers to present their work. This format provides a unique opportunity to discuss ongoing research and reflect on the current state of anthropological engagements with music and sound. Different to the Lecture Series, the Master Class is not open to a wider public. However, we welcome students and scholars with a special interest in the topic. **Please contact us for registration and further information: anthro-music@uni-mainz.de**

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LISTENING
BEYOND
LANDSCAPE

LECTURE 1: AIR



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 5PM
AMA LOUNGE, CENTRAL LIBRARY

This lecture introduces the vocal art of Enver Demirbağ (1935-2010), whose world – a borderland world in the shadow of Empire - constitutes the broad frame of these lectures. Beyond him, it concerns the matter of song as and in the circulation of air, as breath sounded and heard, as breath interrupted or delegated, as breath regulated and governed, as a poesis fashioning moral subjects and communities in relation to their worlds (both human and beyond-human).

LECTURE SERIES
LISTENING BEYOND LANDSCAPE

LECTURE 2: WATER



THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 5PM
AFRICAN MUSIC ARCHIVES
CENTRAL LIBRARY, GFG 00.156

Musicology and ethnomusicology have a long history of thinking about music's relationship to water (rivers, seas, oceans, deltas, islands, etc.), or, viz. Silvers 2018, lack thereof. How is song implicated in the struggle over water? And how is water implicated in the struggle over song? 'Struggle' here admitting the possibility of agencies beyond the human... and an approach we might label 'hydopoetic'. The waters of the Euphrates are rich to think with, taking us from the Epic of Gilgamesh to the hydro-politics of the modern Turkish state.

LECTURE 3: RUBBLE



THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 12:30PM
AFRICAN MUSIC ARCHIVES
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Demirbağ's tragic death saw him memorialized in the city more as ruin than 'heritage' (viz. Stoller 2008), and perhaps (viz. Gordillo 2014), more 'rubble' than ruin. Heritage, ruin and rubble blend into one another in this landscape, inviting reflection both on human efforts to separate and exploit them, and the agencies that they possess. What might sonic rubble be – placed along such a continuum? And what might we learn from it when we try to situate it in a shatter zone landscape shaped by multiple temporalities of catastrophe - geological, ecological, political?