



STUDY GROUP
**Auditory
History**

Jan Brueghel the Younger, *Allegory of Hearing* (c. 1660), oil on copper, Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid.



COLLOQUIUM | FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | 17-18 CET | ONLINE

**Sophia Rosenfeld (Pennsylvania): Historical Ear, Auditory History,
and the Future**

The opening session of the spring term introduces our central theme: what is auditory history, what has become of the historical ear, and what might we listen for next? Sophia Rosenfeld will map the field as it stands, highlight questions likely to matter in 2026, and set the tone for the term's guiding debates.

CONFERENCE | MARCH 18-21 2026 | PARIS, FRANCE AND ONLINE

**“The Historical Ear: What is Auditory History?” Inaugural Conference of
the IMS Study Group Auditory History**

The big event is here: we will gather in Paris for the Study Group's first conference! Sixty-five presenters will deliver around sixty papers, alongside paired papers, panels, and a workshop, exploring what auditory history is and where it begins and ends. See our conference webpage for the full programme and abstracts.

COLLOQUIUM | APRIL 2, 2026 | 9-10 CET | ONLINE

**Jin Qiu (Melbourne): How We Used to Endure Noise: The Emergence of
Auditory Order in Modern China**

In this colloquium, Jin Qiu will use Lao She's 1930s short story *Sound Film* and other Republican-era novels, diaries, and memoirs to reconstruct early Chinese cinema as a sonically contested public space. Tracing loud talk, commentary, coughing, and audience disputes—practices inherited from opera-theatre culture—they will show how silent spectatorship emerged as a historically produced discipline and how “noise” became newly framed as incivility.

READING GROUP | MAY 14, 2026 | 16-18 CET | ONLINE | REGISTRATION REQUIRED ([FORM HERE](#))

Reading Sound, Reading (with) the Historical Ear

This reading group is a companion space to the March conference, offering additional time to return to, think about, and discuss the fundamental texts of auditory history. Registration is required ([link here](#)).

PANEL | JUNE 16, 2026 | 18-20 CET | ONLINE

**Subcontinental Sonorities: Modernity, Forms of Archives, and the Politics
of Listening**

This panel brings together five papers that explore modernity, archival memory, and the politics of listening in the Indian subcontinent, shaped by the complex histories of postcolonial South Asia. Convened by Nakshatra Chatterjee (IISER Bhopal, India) with Budhaditya Chattopadhyay (University of Bergen), the panel features presentations by Chattopadhyay, Chatterjee, Sayan Dey (Bayan College, Oman), Sebanti Chatterjee (SRM University-AP, India), and Shikha Jhingan (Jawaharlal Nehru University, India). Across these perspectives, the panel shares a common interest in unpacking the manifold voices and sonorities of the region and its situated acoustemologies.