

21A.505 / STS.065
Anthropology of Sound
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Sonic Privacy, Sonic Publics

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SOUND STUDIES
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Piano transductions: music, sound and noise in urban Taiwan

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ABSTRACT

While scholars have drawn attention to the production of space through sound, there has been less attention given to the interchange between multiple co-existing environments. This paper examines how the sounding of one place informs and produces the sounding of another by focusing on Western art music as it is multiply negotiated by urban residents in Taipei, Taiwan. Building upon Stefan Helmreich's provocation on the transductive quality underlying immersive soundscapes, this paper looks at how various instantiations of piano playing in apartment buildings, on municipal garbage trucks and on the Taipei Mass Rail Transit System produce expectations for sonic space in a relational, rather than isolated, context. By analysing a grassroots campaign to regulate household piano practice, this paper shows how cultural expectations for the sounding of one place is spatially and ontologically produced in relation to adjacent auditory environments throughout the city. Contributing to discussions for a sounded anthropology, this paper addresses how residents navigate diverse auditory environments and calls for ethnographic attention to the movement between, not only within, sounded spaces.

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urban

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Anthropology; Sociocultural

Education/Degree:

Ph.D. Stanford University 2017

M.A. Columbia University 2009

B.A. Harvard College, magna cum laude, 2007

About

Dr. Hsieh (謝, pronounced "shay") investigates sensory practices in institutional and technological settings, with an emphasis on urban East Asia. Her ethnographic sensibilities were cultivated during her time as a Congressional Page for the U.S. House of Representatives, which coincided with 9/11, and in which she witnessed the national response from within the House Chambers. This, combined with her background as a classically-trained pianist and studio audio engineer, led to her unique approach to anthropology that brings together sound and sensory studies, science and technology studies, and anthropology of the state. Dr. Hsieh uses a combination of ethnographic, historical, and experimental methods, including audio recordings, soundwalks, and GIS, to explore the multisensory configurations of human sociality. Of significance to her research is a sustained, interdisciplinary commitment to the history of technology, media and communication studies, musicology, and Asian studies. Since



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TAIWAN SOUNDSCAPES PROJECT 聲在台灣

scholarship art reflections listening sounding

LISTENING TO TAIWAN 聽台灣

GIVE US A SHOUT 呼叫我們

ABOUT OUR WRITERS 發聲者簡介

about taiwan soundscapes project

the taiwan soundscapes project documents and analyzes the sonic environment of contemporary taiwan. the goals of the project are to motivate further research on taiwanese public culture, religious practices, and vernacular aesthetics. together, authors of the project approach historical questions as well as current ones. the project contributes to understandings of sound and subjectivity, mass media and citizenship, popular music and placemaking

Search



SOUNDERS 發聲者



dj

真的還需要這樣嗎? really?
in 2022?

update

dance as experimental
practice (4): a
couple questions

MACK HAGOOD

Sound Researcher, Author, Audio Producer

Book

Podcast

Selected Publications

Appearances

Bio

BIO



I'm the Robert H. and Nancy J. Blayney Associate Professor of Comparative Media Studies at Miami University, Ohio.

Research: Ethnographic and archival studies of digital media, sound technologies, disability, and popular music.

Teaching: Sound studies, digital media, ethnographic methods, and audio production.

I have published work on subjects such as tinnitus, the use of noise-canceling headphones in air travel, the noise of fans in NFL football stadiums, indie rock in Taiwan, and the ontology of Foley and digital film sound.



Hagood, Mack. *Hush: Media and Self Control*. Duke University Press Books, 2019. © Duke University Press Books. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.



HELL YOU TALMBOUT - Janelle Monae f. Wondaland Records (video)

314,959 views • Aug 24, 2015

Janelle Monae f. Jidenna, Wondaland Records
HELL YOU TALMBOUT - (video)
Directed by BlackIce Bell

Starring:
Rio the Rtist
Supernova
Shiloh Bloodworth

👍 7.1K 👎 DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ✂ CLIP ⌵ SAVE

“[HELL YOU TALMBOUT - Janelle Monae f. Wondaland Records \(video\)](#).” YouTube.

“Silence is the enemy
and sound is the weapon.”



This image is in the public domain. Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#).

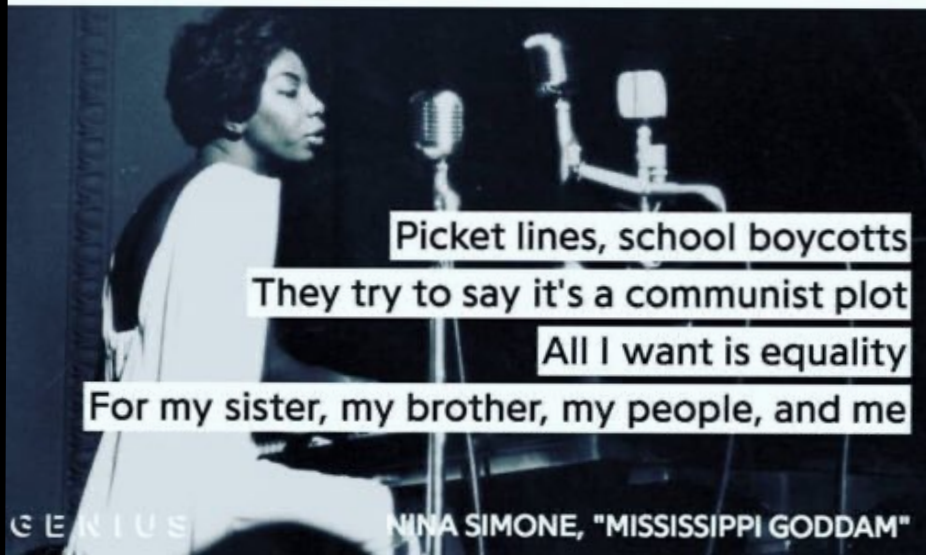
Woody Guthrie in March 1943 with his guitar labeled "This machine kills fascists"

MISSISSIPPI GODDAM!!!!!!

And I **MEAN** every word of it



Emmett Louis Till (July 25, 1941 - August 28, 1955) was an African-American boy who was murdered in Mississippi at the age of 14 after reportedly flirting with a white woman. Till was from Chicago, Illinois, visiting his relatives in the Mississippi Delta region where...



Picket lines, school boycotts

They try to say it's a communist plot

All I want is equality

For my sister, my brother, my people, and me

GENIUS

NINA SIMONE, "MISSISSIPPI GODDAM"

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MISSISSIPPI *@!!?*@!



BY NINA SIMONE

FROM THE ALBUM "NINA SIMONE IN CONCERT" PHS 600-135/PHM 200-135

This single has been issued for DJ's in answer to your many requests. It has been specially edited for air play, featuring the "BEEP-BEEP" in place of @*?!!!??.

"NINA SIMONE IN CONCERT" is proving to be a big exciting album. **MISSISSIPPI** @*?!!!?? is receiving tremendous recognition. It may be the most topical selection in years. This outstanding message song, with the great "SIMONE" feel and rhythm, makes this a @*?!!!?? hot disc.

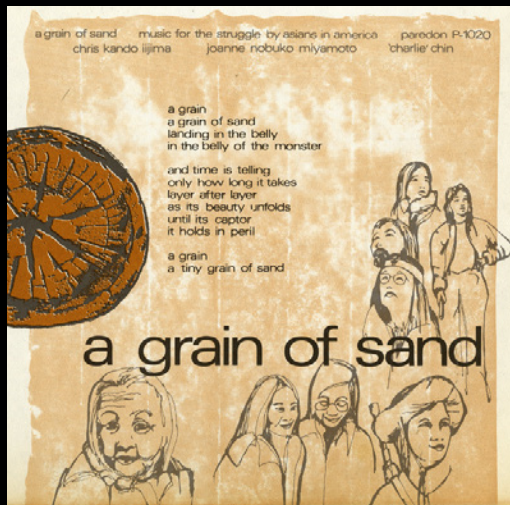
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b/w SEA-LION WOMAN

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"A Grain of Sand" by Chris Kando Iijima, Joanne Nobuko Miyamoto, and 'Charlie' Chin. Paredon Records, 1973. © Paredon Records. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

We are the children of the migrant worker
 We are the offspring of the concentration camp
 Sons and daughters of the railroad builder
 Who leave their stamp on America

We are the children of the Chinese waiter
 Born and raised in the laundry room
 We are the offspring of the Japanese gardener
 Who leave their stamp on America

—Lyrics from Yellow Pearl's "We Are the Children"

"We Are the Children." Written by Chris Kando Iijima and Joanne Nobuko Miyamoto. © Concord Music Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

Left to right:
 Charlie Chin,
 Nobuko
 Miyamoto and
 Chris Iijima
 during a
 Yellow Pearl
 performance
 in New York
 City, 1971.
*Photo by Bob
 Hsiang.*



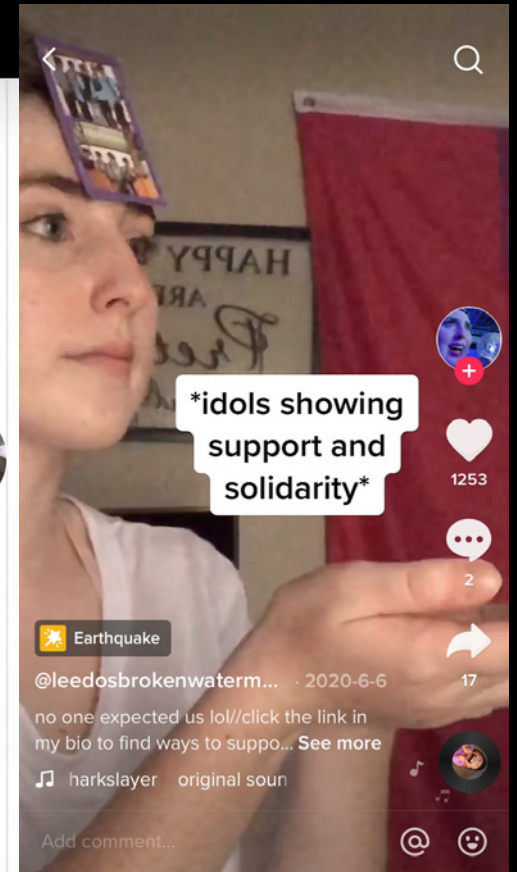
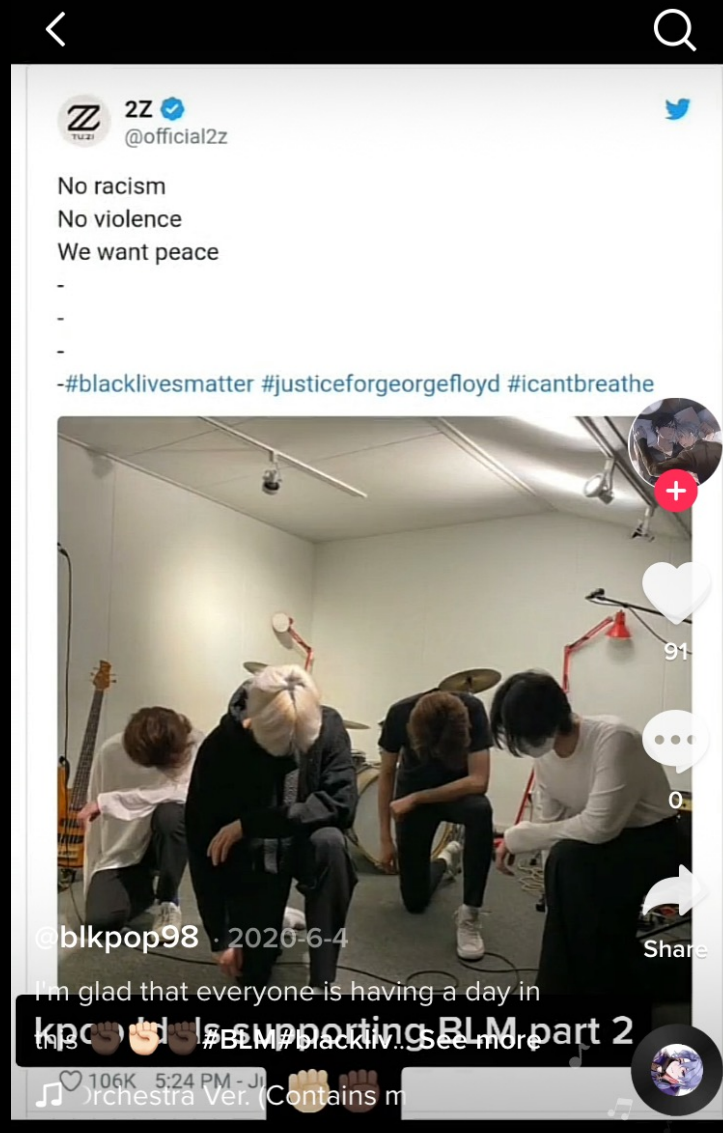
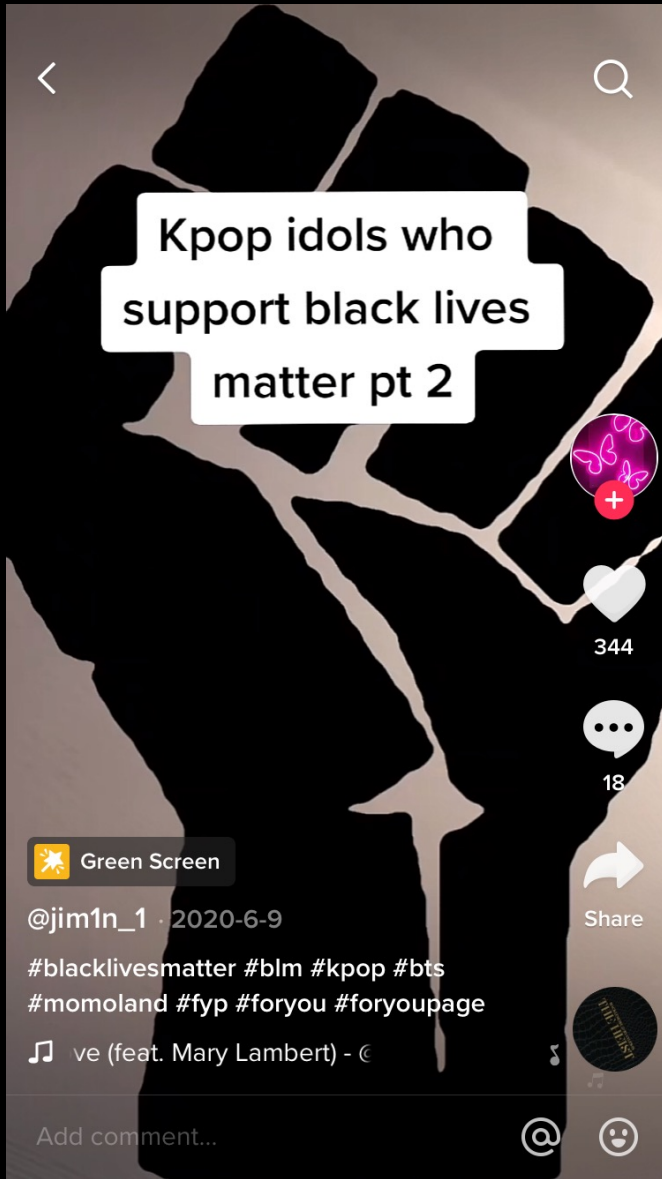
If asked to think about political folk music of the 1960s and 70s, names like Woody Guthrie or Bob Dylan may come to mind. In contrast, most people probably haven't heard of Chris Iijima or heard his band's songs about the Vietnam War and growing up Asian American in the 1950s and 60s. Iijima was a founder of Asian Americans for Action, one of the first Asian American-focused civil rights organizations of the 1960s. In the '70s, Yoko Ono and John Lennon invited his band Yellow Pearl to be on a national TV show along with Bobby Seale of the Black Panthers and Jerry Rubin of the Youth International Party. Iijima later became a law professor and wrote law review articles about discrimination against Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and members of other racialized and minoritized groups in the United States.

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JOAN BAEZ - We shall overcome - March on Washington - Live 1963

["JOAN BAEZ - We shall overcome - March on Washington - Live 1963."](#) YouTube.



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