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Animal voices on file

#animal sound recording #archives #knowledge transfer

From the 1930s onwards, animal sound recording started to flourish with the development of portable magnetic tape recorders that facilitated proximity to wild animals. As animal recordings and interest in them began to grow, wildlife sound archives emerged as new sites of specialist scientific data sets. To date, these archived recordings remain of relevance, from their commercial application in Apps, films, and computer games, to their ongoing use in ecological monitoring for environmental conservation. Focusing on the two largest wildlife sound archives in Europe, the British Library's Wildlife and Environmental Sounds collection, and the Animal Sound Archive at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, this presentation interrogates the role of sound recording technologies in mediating knowledge of animal lives.

Sandra Jasper is Assistant Professor for Geography of Gender in Human-Environment-Systems at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Deputy Director of the Integrative Research Institute on Transformations of Human-Environment Systems (IRI THESys). Her research interests span urban nature, sound studies, and feminist theory. She is co-editor of *The Botanical City* (Jovis, 2020) and co-author and producer of the documentary film *Natura Urbana: The Brachen of Berlin* (UK/GER, 72min). In her new research project „Re-Scaling Global Health. Human Health and Multispecies Cohabitation on an Urban Planet“ (2023–2026), she investigates the multiple links between health, biodiversity, and pollution in urban spaces.

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