Curating Sound for Difficult Histories

This colloquium is held as part of Arts Week 2018 and in collaboration with the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism, the Department of History (Birkbeck), the University of Hertfordshire and BIRMAC (Birkbeck Interdisciplinary Research in Media and Culture)

Organisers:
Kim Akass (University of Hertfordshire)
Silke Arnold-de Simine (FMACS, Birkbeck)
Janet McCabe, (FMACS, Birkbeck)
Diana Popescu (Pears Institute, Birkbeck)

Date: Tuesday 15 May 2018, 2pm-9pm.

Venue: Birkbeck Cinema, 43 Gordon Square

The talks, screenings and discussions explore how soundscapes – music, noise, voices, speech and silence – can evoke difficult histories. Scholars and practitioners will discuss what it is to create and edit sound, compose music and produce sonic landscapes for difficult histories, in this case the Holocaust. By investigating sound in film, music composition, installation art and museum exhibitions we will address questions around representation, remembering, authenticity and affect.

Timetable:

2.00 Welcome and introduction by the organisers

2.15 Music and composition
   Stephen Frosh (Birkbeck), an illustrated talk on Steve Reich’s composition "Different Trains" (1988)
   Chair: Janet McCabe

3.15 Installation art and soundscapes
   Between Listening and Telling - Installation art and soundscapes
   Esther Shalev-Gerz (artist)
   Chair: Diana Popescu

4.00 – 4.30 Coffee Break

4.30 Sound in museum exhibitions
   Ramon De Marco (sound designer, Idee und Klang Audio-Design), an illustrated talk on exhibition sound design in the new Holocaust Galleries, IWM
   Chair: Silke Arnold-de Simine

5.15 Sound editing
   Val Kuklowsky (Hollywood sound designer/editor), an illustrated talk on the use of sound in Son of Saul (László Nemes, 2015)
   Chair: Adele Fletcher

6.00 Screening of Son of Saul (László Nemes, 2015)