Modern hearing practices are inseparably intertwined with our sensory, cognitive and affective capacities which are configured by social and cultural processes increasingly mediated by technological innovations. This interdisciplinary workshop explores the history, cultural practices and theories of senso-enabling technologies that have been profoundly affecting our hearing practices and health. To grasp the impact of these multi-faceted developments, the workshop takes into account the potentials, promises and risks of both smart hearing practices and acoustic technologies of wellbeing. It will ask how technologies were decisive in the ways ‘normal’ hearing, hearing impairment or acoustic stress have been configured. Furthermore, we aim to analyse technologies, which have been developed to foster smart hearing practices that strive for acoustic wellbeing e.g. for people who deaf or hard of hearing. Such practices and developments are currently being embedded in an increasingly hybrid ecology with hearing devices and interconnected systems creating novel auditory environments. Their effects remain to be investigated to deepen the understanding of the complex interrelations between hearing enabling technologies and health.
Friday 22nd November 2019

9h – 10h: Reception and Welcome

Session 1: Historical Perspectives on Hearing, Sound and Health

10h – 12.30h:
- Mara Mills (New York): Testing Hearing with Speech
- Jens Gerrit Papenburg (Bonn): Pleasure and Pain with Amplified Sound. A Sound and Music History of Loudspeaker Systems, Germany ca. 1930
- Viktoria Tkaczyk (Berlin): Techniques versus Technologies. Smart Hearing around 1900
- Joeri Bruyninckx (Maastricht): Producing the Unquiet Quiet: A History of White Noise and Technologies of Sound Conditioning

12.30h – 14h: Lunch Break

Session 2: Cross-Cultural Imaginaries of Technological Mediated Hearing

14h – 16.30h:
- Jens Schröter (Bonn): Technologies of Silence. On their Archaeology and their Aesthetics
- Shintaro Miyazaki (Basel): Smart Hearing? The Relationship of Algorithms and Acoustic Well-Being
- Judith Willkomm (Siegen): Hearing like an Animal. Acoustic Wellbeing beyond Human Ears

16:30h – 17h: Coffee Break

Session 3: Neuroscientific Approaches, Design and Auditory Developments

17h – 18h:
- Stig Arlinger (Linköping): Hearing, Consequences of Hearing Impairment and Benefits of Hearing Aids
- Rainer Linus Beck (Freiburg): Enhanced Hearing – Signal Processing and Optimization of Hearing Aid Systems

18h – 18.30h: Wrap Up

19.30h: Dinner

Saturday 23rd November 2019


9.30h – 12h:
- Jörg Fachner (Cambridge): Reframing Music, Imagery and Emotion-Neural Dynamics of Shared Hearing in a Healing Setting
- Jürgen Tchorz (Lübeck): Measuring Listening Effort: An Attempt to Quantify Mental Exertion
- Mike Wright (Wrexham): Ambient Experience for Exposure to Varying Tuning Systems on a Set of Musical Compositions
- Jan Rennies-Hochmuth (Oldenburg): Better Hearing for All - Smart Solutions for the Clinical, Subclinical and Normal-Hearing Population

12h – 13h: Lunch Break

13h – 14h: Concluding Discussion and Further Planning