

Sounds like Hamburg

The communicative figurations of spatial identity-building in the past and the analysis of historic sound documents

Being part of a large-scale project on communicative figurations of mediated cultures and societies, I want to employ the theoretical concept of communicative figurations (Norbert Elias) to the field of sound history and to discuss benefits coming out of it.

So, I have to introduce the concept communicative figurations built up by communication and media scientists like Hepp, Hasebrink and Couldry and give some remarks on my current research as a media historian on space-related mediated identity-building.

At the center of the paper for the ESSA conference, there will be an in-depth reflection on the possibilities the before-mentioned theoretical concept and methodic approaches offer us. Dealing with four aspects of the concept, i.e. "forms of communication", "media ensemble", "constellation of actors", and "thematic framing", and considering four central analytic perspectives of the concept, i.e. "belongings", "rules", "segmentations", and power, I would like to outline the emerging chance given to sound history.

Along with this, core questions how mediated speaking and listening in the past (Lindenberger), how auditive media cultures (Volmar/Schröder) and soundscapes (Birdsall) can be analyzed, will be scrutinized by a brief case study. In it, some sound documents taken from the media metropolis Hamburg between the 1930s and the 1940s, addressing space-related local and regional identities, will be analyzed according to the concept put forward for discussion.

Contact

Dr. Hans-Ulrich Wagner
Hans Bredow Institute for Media Research
Rothenbaumchaussee 36, D-20148 Hamburg, Germany
E-Mail: hans-ulrich.wagner@uni-hamburg.de

Hans-Ulrich Wagner, Dr., is Senior Researcher at the Hans Bredow Institute for Media Research in Hamburg and head of the "Research Centre for the History of Broadcasting in Northern Germany" (www.rundfunkgeschichte-norddeutschland.de).