WFAE 2011 PAPER SESSION (12):

"Acoustic Ecology in the context of a broader Ecology. "

Thursday, 6/10/2011—17:00-17:30 -- Ionian Academy, Corfu

Session Chair: Kozo Hiramatsu[1]

Title of Presentation: "*Quiet without Silencing? Suggestions to make cultural breaks hearable in Northern Carelia and Northern Italy. "*

Abstract:
Quiet is a multiple and often an intangible phenomena. When asked, people often make a difference when they refer to "silence" (English) and "silenzio" (Italian) or "quiet" and "quiete". The previous refers to the lack of sounds whereas the latter associates to spaces of less sounds. The allusions these concepts mediate reveal collective meanings that persuade to study further the collectively used and consumed soundscapes.

In the middle of the current cultural and economical shift - materializing the immaterial – we are looking for ways to use quiet – previously understood as a common - as a commodity. It seems that specially "silence" is utilized as a dramatizing tool when marketing places. "Silencing", however, is a sensitive area specially in the field of tourism. Subjectively given and often overlapping cultural meanings and connotations of silence vary from absolute ideal to negative ones. The history, prerequisites, manifests and methods for the use of quiet change from place to place. Quiet environment with the variety of sounds it includes is a good target to study the practices and interpretation processes that our acoustic environment consists of.

I've studied this phenomenon in two different fields - Northern Italian municipality Cembra in Trentino province as well as in Finnish Ilomantsi and Koli in Northern Carelia. In both places soundscaping has become one form of designing the environment. My study concerns both inner (feelings and meanings) and outer (atmospheres of the environment) qualities of quiet. In the latter sense quiet is more and more important as a vanishing resource in tense human societies. That is why I've paid attention specially to the negotiating processes when constructing quiet and been listening to the "shouts for silence". It is easy to see an interest to create and cultivate opportunities for acoustic breaks, as one kind of cultural breaks. Preserving quiet areas require temporal, spatial and cultural buffers which reveal – all in their own way - how closely the sounds and sounding are linked to the changes in our values and lifestyles.

1**Kozo Hiramatsu**: Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University, Japan. Director of the London Office of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Member of Japanese Association for Sound Ecology and Soundscape Association of Japan. His works are on the field works of acoustic ecology in Kyoto and some other places and on the epidemiology studies of the noise effects in Okinawa and Narita in Japan. He has recently been involved in the epidemiology study in Thailand and the soundscape study in Laos.

AUTHOR

Noora Vikman, University lecturer, (ethno)musicology

Noora Vikman is a soundscape researcher with a current interest in the ways of approaching and applying the knowledge of rhythms of acoustic environments and the aspects of quietness in everyday life and community planning.

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Title of Presentation: "*Basic Research in Human-Computer-Biosphere Interaction. "*

Abstract:
This thesis presents the author's vision of Human-Computer-Biosphere Interaction (HCBI) to facilitate a sustainable society. HCBI extends the subject of Human Computer Interaction (HCI) from countable people, objects, pets, and plants into an auditory biosphere that is uncountable, complex, and non-linguistic. Utilizing HCBI to experience forest soundscapes can help us feel one with nature, unaffected by physical distance. The goal of HCBI is to achieve ecological interaction between humanity and nature through computer systems without causing environmental destruction.

To accomplish this, information connectivity must be created despite the physical separation between mankind and the environment. This combination also ensures ecological neutrality. This paper presents the concept overview, related work, method and developed interfaces. Using prerecorded animal calls, bio-acoustical feedback from the target wildlife was produced. This thesis focuses primarily on reviews of the design and evaluation of a bio-acoustic interaction system utilizing tracking collars, microphones, speakers, infrared cameras, infrared heat sensors, micro-climate sensors, radio-tracking devices, GPS devices, radio clocks, embedded Linux boards, high capacity batteries and high speed wireless communication devices.

Furthermore, this paper demonstrates that bio-acoustic based food chain information in a biosphere is a potential nonverbal information interface among human beings, computers, and the biosphere and can facilitate interaction with life in ecosystems such as wild animals. Furthermore, the study investigates the potential application of a wildlife presence detection method based on their animal call detection and remotely controllable capacitance sensors for wildlife telemonitoring in ecological studies, which could integrate computer systems into the global ecosystem.

AUTHOR

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