

CENTRE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN SOCIETY AND CULTURE



## THE SOUND OF THE SKY BEING TORN: THREE EXPERIMENTS IN AN ANTHROPOLOGY OF NOISE IN JAPAN

### Rupert Cox

Director of the Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology at Manchester University, and Editor of Visual Anthropology Review (VAR)

### Public Lecture

Monday, December 10, 2018

2 p.m.

Milieux Seminar Room: EV 11.705

This presentation will offer a series of reflections on three interdisciplinary, collaborative projects, one in Narita airport, Tokyo and the other two in the island of Okinawa, Japan that bring together practices and perspectives of acoustic science, sound art and social anthropology to achieve artistic outcomes that can have a public impact.

The association between aircraft noise, human health and everyday life is keenly negotiated in Japan. This is partly because the findings of acoustic science are based on modelling, rather than a thorough assessment of the sensory experiences of living with aircraft noise. I will discuss how these projects drew on the work of documentary traditions from within and outside Japan to translate acoustic science data into descriptive and immersive multi-media (sound recordings and film), revealing insights into the acoustic logic and complexities of evidence that are at stake as well as the landscape of Japan and Okinawa as an emotional topography. Finally, I will discuss the forms of the collaboration and consider what a social science perspective can bring to the Art-Science dyad.

### Graduate seminar

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

10 a.m.

Milieux Seminar Room: EV 11.705

'Just because you can, doesn't mean you should': tracking disciplinary trajectories and artistic imaginaries in practice-led anthropology.

Rupert Cox is a senior lecturer and director of the Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology at the University of Manchester. He currently serves as the Editor of the Visual Anthropology Review (VAR). He works on the anthropology of sound, investigating questions about the politics of noise from perspectives of acoustic science, sound studies and sound art, and focuses on projects in Japan. He has written books on the idea of the Zen Arts, Copying Culture and Material Heritage in Japan for Routledge Press and about forms of representation that lie 'Beyond Text' in anthropology for Manchester University Press and Wiley Press. He has recently completed a collaborative film 'Zawawa: the sound of the sugar cane in the wind' supported by the Toyota Foundation and is currently writing a book 'The Sound of the Sky Being Torn' about the cultural history of military aircraft noise, for Bloomsbury Press.

Co-sponsored by the Centre for Sensory Studies

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