



Drawing by José Manuel Fernández Lavado.



Design poster by Joel Aguilar Fuentes

**“If We Look Carefully There is
 More than Meets the Eyes”:
 An Audio-Visual Exploration
 of the Sky in Cuba**

This presentation reports on the results of two projects involving an audio-visual exploration of the Cuban sky. The first project gathered a series of ethno-graphic stories about the Cuban “aerial imagination.” This term is used to refer to how Cubans imagine things travelling above their rooftops, including viruses, radio waves and signals, bees, pigeons, and beliefs without apparent resistance. Produced in collaboration with the Cuban visual artist José Manuel Fernández Lavado, the ethno-graphic stories project develops an aesthetic, poetic and sensual engagement with how people imagine things circulating in the sky. The second project delved into the obscurity of the night in Guantánamo. Various clips from the film *Guardians of the Night* (2018; co-directed with Eleonora Diamanti) will be shown. The dark sky does not afford the same level of visibility for humans, so that other senses are awakened. With its fine and original soundtrack, the film *Guardians of the Night* invites us to listen to the poetics of a nocturnal soundscape. Through reflecting on these two projects, this presentation explores the sky as a medium of circulation and sensorial stimulation. Through being immersed by the sky, we discover that there is more than meets the eyes. The ethno-graphic stories and film offer sensorial ways to engage with invisible things.

Monday
January 28, 2019
6 – 7:30 p.m.
Hall Building: H-1120

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Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier's body of work explores the concepts of materiality, infrastructures, circulation, digital media, sonic design and experiencing social spaces through sound and vision, mainly in Cuba. Her practice centres on the production of audio-visual texts such as films, sound clips, drawings, shorter and longer videos, and audio-visual installations, which all form part of the research process and outcome. Alexandrine teaches Visual Anthropology, Ethnographic Film, and The Anthropology of Sound at the University of Victoria. She is the co-editor of *Urban Encounters: Art and the Public* (MQUP, 2017) and is in the process of co-editing *Organized Sound: Musicologies of Infrastructure* (Oxford, 2019). Alexandrine directed the film *Golden Scars* (2010), funded in part by the National Film Board of Canada, and co-directed the films *Fabrik Funk* (2015), *The Eagle* (2015) and *Guardians of the Night* (2018).

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