Syllabus

Stefan Zweig dedicates two of fourteen chapters in his work “Decisive Moments in History” to musical pieces of historical significance. However, historians have only recently discovered tones, sounds and music for themselves, even though they are ubiquitous. Although the perception is mostly limited to the moment. Sounds of everyday life in particular are rarely preserved: usually through targeted recordings, often to a picture or film. Music – in the classic sense of the word – has always behaved differently: composed, written down and interpreted in a variety of ways. So, how can sounds – including noises, sounds and music as a term – be understood historically? Is there maybe something like a European collective memory of sounds? Or vice versa: can modern European history also be told through sounds? The course pursues these questions with concrete examples and traces the European history of the 19th and 20th centuries through the context.

Course Outline

1) 2nd Apr 2019 Preliminaries
2) 9th Apr 2019 Introduction: Let’s make some noise
3) 16th Apr 2019 Introduction II: Why sound history?
4) 23rd Apr 2019 Sounds of Modernity
6) 7th May 2019 Open session
7) 14th May 2019 Nations & sound memory
8) 21st May 2019 Migration of sounds
9) 28th May 2019 Mass media – Propaganda – Holocaust
10) 4th Jun 2019 Open session
11) 18th Jun 2019 Politics of sounds
12) 25th Jun 2019 Environment – Progress – Digitization
13) 2nd Jul 2019 “Go West”, “Wind of Change”, and the “end of history”
14) 9th Jul 2019 Conclusion: Globalized world – globalizing sounds?