

Call for Participation

Sound–Resounds: Research and Sonic Production from Blinken Open Society Archives’ Sound Collections

We are pleased to announce *Sound–Resounds* – a unique opportunity for a CEU student or alumni to spend three funded months within Blinken OSA’s most sonically dynamic archives. The research will require the exploration and study of audio collections and will lead to the production of original audio materials.

Working under the supervision of a Blinken OSA mentor and a member of CEU’s ‘Sound Relations’ team, the chosen researchers will work within one or more of seven selected audio collections. By the end of the three month period the researchers will have conceived and produced original audio outputs based on the collections (e.g. a podcast mini-series, audio documentaries, soundscape, sound installation). The final material will form a key component within CEU’s podcast library (launch date December 2017).

Eligibility

The project is open to all PhD students and alumni (both MA and PhD). For students, permission must be granted by each applicant’s supervisor (if the applicant’s supervisor is not based at the same department, then approval must be sought from the department head/chair). Those students shortlisted for interview will be required to solicit a letter of recommendation from their supervisor.

Collaborative projects are welcome, but the payment will be transferred to one individual only. Applicants seeking collaborative partners (e.g. for archive specific, language or creative reasons) are encouraged to contact Zsuzsa Zadori, Senior Audio-visual Archivist (Zadori@ceu.edu) and the Sound Relations team (podcasts@ceu.edu) prior to submitting their application.

Familiarity with audio technologies (e.g. editing software, recording equipment) is not required, but students must be prepared to learn the appropriate skills (training will be offered on selected dates prior to the commencement of the research).

Project Dates

December 2017 – February 2018 (some flexibility is possible)

Type of contract: service contract, payment to be negotiated with the selected candidate.

Application

We encourage applicants to be creative and ambitious but also realistic with their proposals. Please send an email including the following to cmds@ceu.edu with ‘Sound–Resounds application + your name’ in the subject line:

- The *concept* of your proposed research based on the selected collections (see below)
- A *workplan* outlining how you plan to undertake the research and audio production

- The proposed research *output(s)*
- Your (short) CV

Deadline for applications: November 15th

Interviews with shortlisted candidates will be scheduled for: November 20-25th

Results will be communicated by: November 30th

Audio Collections

Researchers' project proposals should relate to one or more of the following collections. Please pay attention to the amount of recorded material available, as well as the collections' languages when designing your research.

1. Monday Free University lectures on the history of the Hungarian communist party

Access: The collection is available at the Research Room, Open Society Archives.

Volume: 12 hours of audio

Date of records: 1983

Language: Hungarian

Archival information: <http://catalog.osaarchivum.org/catalog/O8pMbnNo#context>

The collection contains digital copies of approximately 12 hours of audio recordings of lectures delivered by the historian Miklós Szabó in Szeged in 1983. The lectures were delivered and taped in the apartment of and by the mathematician Attila Jankó. Organized within the frame of the Monday Free University, a famous clandestine seminar series on various topics in history, philosophy, literature and political economy, Szabó's lectures attracted large audiences especially from the democratic opposition movement. Because of the relatively open nature of the lectures, agents of the state secret police infiltrated the audience quite early on, and informed the authorities about the proceedings. In the mid-1980s, the political content of the seminars became more prominent, and the audience began to use these occasions to manifest against the Communist regime in Hungary. Topically, the lectures cover the history of the Hungarian Communist Party from 1917 to the early 1980s. The recordings are invaluable in documenting both the recent history of Hungary and the period of proliferating political counter-culture of the Kádár régime.

2. Radio Liberty (Radio Svoboda) Russian Broadcast Recordings

Access: On-line

Volume: Over 5 thousand hours

Date of records: 1953-1995

Language: Russian

Archival information: <http://www.osaarchivum.org/digital-repository/osa:89898864-78b7-4cf9-b4f7-aaf218f85599>

The collection contains 26147 unique audio files that were produced and broadcast by RFE/RL's Russian Service. Spanning from the very first program on air in 1953 till 1995, when RFE/RL moved from Munich, Germany to Prague, Czech Republic, the broadcast archive of these 42 years cover turbulent times: from Stalin's death, the harshest battles of the Cold War, the emergence of dissident movement with Samizdat as a part of it, the hopeful times of Perestroika to the crash of the Soviet Union and the emergence of the new Russia, struggling to overcome its heritage. The over 10 thousand hours of recordings give an unparalleled insight into the politics and the fight for human rights in the Soviet Union; into everyday life of the Russian-speakers living in the USSR or abroad, in a diaspora; into the Russian literature, though unpublished, suppressed and unwanted, yet making its way to the grateful readers; into the differences and disputes between the three waves of Russian emigration with their uneasy relationships in the West; into Russian culture in exile, which would soon make its way back to the motherland. The broadcast archive include various genres of Radio Svoboda: newsreels and special broadcasts; talk shows written and edited by famous writers, poets, musicians, historians and analysts; literary readings by authors or actors and radio plays; samizdat reviews; liturgies and talks by Orthodox Church reverends; music programs, interviews and press-conferences with fresh emigrants and many, many more.

3. Witness testimonies before the UN Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary 1956

Access: The collection is available at the Research Room, Open Society Archives.

Volume: 80 hours of audio

Date of records: 1957

Language: Hungarian

Archival information:

http://w3.osaarchivum.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1544&Itemid=1518&lang=en

After a preliminary screening based on the best available information, members of the UN Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary arranged for the first round of hearings, which were conducted in the New York headquarters of the United Nations and involved thirty-five witnesses. After this the Committee traveled to Europe, where between March 11 and April 16, 1957 they heard the testimonies of a further 76 witnesses. Finding and interviewing witnesses was by no means a simple task for the members of the Committee. The first witnesses who were heard in public sessions in New York (Anna Kéthly, Béla Király and József Kővágó), themselves recommended names of people for further hearings. In addition, the governments of several Western countries (Italy, France, Denmark, Great Britain and Belgium), along with individual interviewees in Europe, made still more recommendations. And besides all these, over two hundred refugees replied in writing to the Committee's invitation, volunteering to give evidence, and some of these, too, were given the chance to appear before the Committee.

4. Sound recordings relating to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia

Access: The collection is available at the Research Room, Open Society Archives.

Volume: 23 hours of audio

Date of records: 1991 - 1993

Language: mainly Bosnian and Croatian, but also English, German, French
Archival information: <http://catalog.osaarchivum.org/catalog/4bP6NW5A>

Approximately 23 hours of live coverage of the activities of fact-finding missions in the Former Yugoslavia intended to reveal crimes committed during the war. They include sound recordings made during exhumations and forensic examinations; testimonies of victims of ethnic cleansing in Kozarac (Bosnia); Četekovac, Ilok, Kusonje, Pakrac and Vukovar (Croatia). Rough, unedited recordings of the shelling of Dubrovnik (Croatia), with civilians' comments on the attack are also part of the series. Radio programs about Muslim women raped during the war in the Former Yugoslavia are also included.

5. Radio Free Europe's Hungarian language broadcast of the 1956 Revolution

Access: on-line
Volume: 84 hours of audio
Date of records: 1956
Language: Hungarian
Archival information: <http://1956.osaarchivum.org/collections/show/13>

The tapes with the recordings of RFE broadcast aired between October 19 and November 13, 1956, at the time of the Hungarian revolution, survived due to a curious incidence. Normally, tapes were recycled after a few months but these were requested West German authorities for investigation, and were archived in the German federal archives in 1957. The tapes were recovered and digitized in MP3 format on 60 CDs by RFE/RL in 1990s. While the edited transcripts of the broadcast became available not long after the revolution, a selection of the original voice recordings (a copy of which are kept in National Széchenyi Library) is a unique source. Our selection includes news read every hour, historical background analyses, international press monitoring and commentaries, which give a vivid picture of the political situation and the atmosphere in Hungary at that time. After the revolution was crushed, the radio's messaging program was an especially important service: tens of thousands of refugees informed their families about their whereabouts and wellbeing over the air. A few of these programs are included in our collection.

6. The Imre Nagy Trial June 1958 trial

Access: The collection is available at the Research Room, Open Society Archives.
Volume: 52 hours of audio
Date of records: 1958
Language: Hungarian
Archival information: <http://w3.osaarchivum.org/galeria/catalogue/2008/per/index.html>

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1958 trial by People's Jury of Imre Nagy and his fellow defendants, OSA Archivum, organized an unusual, one-week-long event from June 9 (Monday) through June 15 (Sunday) 2008, during the same hours that the hearings were originally held in 1958. When Imre Nagy and his associates were tried in June 1958, the sound technicians of the Ministry of the Interior operated two tape recorders in the courtroom. From the first day of the trial right up to the submission of the appeal for clemency, they recorded the entire proceedings, which included the cross-examination of the accused and the witnesses, the case for the prosecution, the defense attorney's

speech and the defendants' final statements. The accused were sentenced either to death or to long years in prison. In 1990 the tapes of the 52-hour-long recording were transferred from the Supreme Court to the Hungarian National Archives, where they have been held ever since. The recordings have since been digitized. The quality of the recordings is surprisingly good; except for a couple of hitches lasting a few seconds each, the speeches are perfectly audible and comprehensible.

7. Romanian Radio Free Europe Collection

Access: currently the files are available on an OSA internal network drive. For the purpose of this project access can be granted from the Research Room.

Volume: 200 Audio files, with a length varying from 10 to 35 minutes per broadcast.

Date of records: August 14, 1984 until December 10, 1989

Language: Romanian

Archival information: n/a

Programs include (title and editor in Romanian):

Actualitate românească (Neculai Constantin Munteanu)

Teze și antiteze la Paris (Monica Lovinescu)

Perspective europene (Gelu Ionescu)

Din lumea comunistă (Doina Alexandru)

Editorialul săptămînal (Nicolae Stînișoară)

Lumea creștină

Undated files:

Radio magazin (Radu Vrancea)

Music programs (Cornel Chiriac)

Sound – Resounds is part of the project Sound Relations: Transgression, Disruptions, Transformations – a two-year long initiative funded by CEU's Intellectual Themes Initiative (ITI) that re-frames research, teaching and dissemination through the contours of sound.
