

WORKSHOP 2

URBAN AVIAN VERSIMILITUDES VEROSIMILITUDES AVIÁRIAS URBANAS

Coordinator(s)/Coordenadore(s)
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This workshop explores a form of communal sound installation—the creation of sounds using birch bird calls—as a method for foregrounding and analyzing the contributions of bird song to the urban environment. After a brief seminar on birdsong basics, participants will trace a loop connecting a series of praças in close proximity to the conference, producing and noting impressions of bird song as a component of the aural cityscape.

Este workshop explora uma forma de instalação sonora comunitária — a criação de sons usando chamados de pássaros de bétula — como um método para destacar e analisar as contribuições do canto dos pássaros para o ambiente urbano. Após um breve seminário sobre os fundamentos do canto dos pássaros, os participantes traçarão um loop conectando uma série de praças próximas à conferência, produzindo e anotando impressões do canto dos pássaros como um componente da paisagem urbana auditiva.

Language/ Língua

ONLY IN ENGLISH / somente em INGLÊS

Maximum number of participants / Número máximo de participantes: 20

Objectives of the workshop / Objetivos da oficina

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To provide a surprising and delightful contribution to the ambience of Rio.
- To evaluate a role for making in the act of listening as a form of engagement with the urban environment.
- To appraise the value of birdsong to the urban ambience of Rio.
- To assess impacts of birdsong on urban environments.
- To explore the phenomenology of cosmic roundness (Bachelard, 1964) within the more or less gridded space of Centro. To what degree does the presence of birdsong in the city center express a balance or a tension between human culture and the natural environment?

Summary of the proposal / Explicação da proposta

The experiment explores a form of communal, participatory sound installation—the creation of sounds using birch bird calls—as creative a contribution urban ambience, but also as a way of foregrounding and analyzing the contributions of bird song to the ambience of the city.

The initial workshop comprises a brief seminar at the Conference venue introducing participants to birdsong basics: the patterns, structure, and functions of birdsong, and the bird species and bird calls or songs the participants can expect to see and hear in the public spaces of Rio de Janeiro Centro. We will have an opportunity to mimic these bird sounds before heading out into the city. Participants will be provided with two Audubon bird calls that can be played like a musical instrument, producing singsong melodies which, with practice, imitate the calls of certain birds. One device is for you, the participant, and the second can be given to a stranger along the way who takes an interest in the experiment.

Following the introductory seminar, the experiment is organized as a 1.24 km walk between a series of praças in close proximity to the conference (please see the illustration below). There will be five destinations on the circuit: **Praça Tiradentes** outside of CRAB, **Largo de Sao Francisco de Paula** via Avenida Passos to Rua Luís de Camões, **Praça Monte Castelo** via Rua dos Andradas, **Largo da Carioca** via Rua Uruguaiana, returning to **Praça Tiradentes** via Rua Carioca. We may stop for a visit to the **Real Gabinete Português de Leitura** along the way, to test the patience of the librarians with our music...

Participants will be asked to listen for the sounds of birds during the walk, and, utilizing a questionnaire pamphlet provided by the workshop organizer, to note where there are more or fewer birdsongs/calls, the variety, and possibly the species making the calls, and to comment on the prominence of the calls relative to other urban sounds along the different streets and in the different praças.

For the segments I am calling *Avian Verisimilitudes*, we will arrange ourselves at each destination in different patterns according to the character or geometry of the place: in a grid, in a large circle, in a line, or randomly (self organized) as individuals or in groups. After noting the existing avian ambience, participants will begin to make bird calls of their own, applying their understanding and skill from the first part of the workshop. Participants may communicate/compose with each other, or relinquish themselves to a cacophony of bird sounds. After a duration of 5 minutes, participants will record any change in their awareness of sounds or the sound qualities of urban space.

Upon our return to Praça Tiradentes, participants will be asked to evaluate bird song as a component of urban ambience. We will discuss our experience as both meditation and urban theater, addressing the role of nature in urban culture and well being.

The experiment will be documented in video and audio recordings by the workshop organizer.

Description of the methodology / stages with duration

Descrição da metodologia/ etapas com tempo de duração

The workshop has 3 major components, for a total duration of 3 hours:

1. Bird Song Basics: A brief seminar introducing participants to Birdsong Basics, to occur in a room at CRAB. (30 minutes)
 - Introductions. (5 mins.)
 - A presentation and discussion highlighting the basic patterns, structure, and functions of birdsong. (10 minutes)
 - Presentation of recordings and videos of common Brazilian birds. (5 minutes)
 - Practice emulating specific calls and songs of birds we can reasonably expect to encounter during the experiment. (10 minutes)
2. The Experiment (2 hours):

2. Relocation of the workshop from **CRAB** outdoors to **Praça Tiradentes** (5 mins)
 3. Avian Versimilitude @ **Praça Tiradentes** (15 mins.)
 4. Walk from **Praça Tiradentes** for a visit to the **Real Gabinete Português de Leitura** on Rua Luís de Camões (5 mins.)
 5. Visit to the **Real Gabinete Português de Leitura** on Rua Luís de Camões (30 mins.)
 6. Walk form the **Real Gabinete Português de Leitura** to **Largo de Sao Francisco de Paula** via Avenida Passos and Rua Luís de Camões (3 mins.)
 7. Avian Versimilitude @ **Largo de Sao Francisco de Paula** (15 mins.)
 8. Walk from **Largo de Sao Francisco de Paula** to **Praça Monte Castelo** via Rua dos Andradas (2 min.)
 9. Avian Versimilitude @ **Praça Monte Castelo** (15 mins.)
 10. Walk from **Praça Monte Castelo** to **Largo da Carioca** via via Rua Uruguaiana (7 min.)
 11. Avian Versimilitude @ **Largo da Carioca** (15 mins.)
 12. Walk from **Largo da Carioca** to **Praça Tiradentes** via Rua Carioca. (8 mins.)
3. Reflection and discussion at **Praça Tiradentes** (30 mins.)

Illustration / Ilustração

