

Literature, Media, Sound

Aarhus University, Denmark, November 28-30 2013

The conference intends to discuss the relation between literature, media and sound in various perspectives and constellations, thereby hoping to establish stronger links between different theoretical positions, such as Media Studies, Comparative Literature, Intermediality Studies and Sound Studies.

The relation between literature, media and sound is facing severe changes and new challenges due to technological developments. E-books and audiobooks are currently through smartphones, tablets and online streaming making rapid gains in popularity and distribution.

Discussions revolving around the connections between media, literature and sound are not a new phenomenon. Sound has been an important issue to poetry at several levels throughout history. Recorded literature is another evident topic to investigate in the area between literature, media and sound. In a wider perspective the relationship between media and literature has been a central issue in writings on modernism as a formal matter, i.e the literacy of literature. Comparably one could consider the book as a medium in itself, accentuating a material perspective when studying the role and historical developments of e.g. book covers.

However, technological developments such as e-books, digital audiobooks and apps are radically reframing the relationship between media and literature, thereby underscoring the necessity of conceiving the new literary practices as both a technological, an aesthetic and a sociological matter (Mitchell & Hansen, *Critical Terms for Media Studies*, 2010). The e-book is relatively well described and this conference wishes to bring this research together with the developing field of sound studies, discussing questions like the new roles of literary practices and reading cultures.

We invite all scholars and doctoral candidates to present papers that thematize the relationship between literature, media and sound from perspectives including, but not limited to:

- Historical: for instance reading cultures, recorded literature.
- Institutional: for instance mediatization, change of cultural practice, literary institutions, publishers, libraries.
- Methodological; how to develop new analytical tools which afford us a better understanding of the new media landscape.

- Interdisciplinarity: given severe changes in the field of research (e-books, digital audiobooks and apps) do we need to bring together different theoretical paradigms?

Confirmed keynote speakers are:

Mark B.N. Hansen, Professor of Literature and Arts of the Moving Image, Duke University.

Steven Connor, Grace 2 Professor of English in the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge.

Matt Rubery, Associate Professor at Queen Mary, University of London.

The time for paper presentations is strictly limited to 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of discussion. The official language of the conference is English.

Please send your abstract (around 300 words) including a short CV as an attachment to litmedia@hum.au.dk.

The deadline for paper proposals is June 1, 2013.

Please let us know also if you wish to be registered as a participant without presenting a paper.

The conference fee will be EUR 120 including conference dinner. A preliminary conference program will be published September 1. Please visit the website of the conference, which will be continuously updated www.conferences.au.dk/literaturemediasound.

The conference is kindly hosted by AU Ideas (The Digital Audiobook – A new medium, new literary experiences, new users?) and the Department of Aesthetics and Communication, Aarhus University.

Conference organizers: Iben Have and Birgitte Stougaard Pedersen.

Conference Committee: Tore Rye Andersen, Nina Christensen and Anne Myrup Munk, Department of Aesthetics and Communication, Aarhus University.

