SpokenWeb

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SOUND INSTITUTE

MAY 28-29, 2019

SFU BURNABY

The SpokenWeb Sound Institute is a two-day interactive event, which takes place on the Burnaby campus of SFU, open to the members of the SpokenWeb network. It is an opportunity to reflect on the past year, solidify the work of each of the SpokenWeb Task Forces, share tools and knowledge, and plan the year ahead.

For SpokenWeb members who are not yet affiliated with any Task Force, this will be a great opportunity to see how you might like to get involved in 2019-2020.

The SpokenWeb Sound Institute is followed by the inaugural two-day SpokenWeb Symposium, **Resonant Practices in Communities of Sound**, which takes place at Harbour Centre and Woodwards in downtown Vancouver, **May 30-31, 2019.**

We respectfully acknowledge that SFU is on unceded Coast Salish Territory; the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

We are grateful for the support of SFU's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Office of the Vice-President, Research, and the Department of English.

We also wish to thank members of the SFU organizing committee: Rebecca Dowson, Deanna Fong, Jakob Knudsen, Linara Kosolova, Michelle Levy, Cole Mash, Kim O'Donnell, Tony Power, Melissa Salrin. With thanks to Catherine Louie.

This program's cover page design is developed by Evan Berg (University of British Columbia Okanagan). The subsequent pages layout design is developed by Caitlin Voth (University of British Columbia Okanagan).

SFU Burnaby
Diamond Alumni Centre, Fraser-Thompson Room (lower level)

SCHEDULE

DAY 1, MAY 28, 2019

9:00-9:15 Welcome Remarks

9:15-10:15 Introduction to Collections by Partners and Discussion of Approaches to Community Collections

Format: 5 minutes for each presenter followed by a 20-minute discussion on collections

Panelists:

- Jason Camlot (Concordia University)
- Tony Power and Melissa Salrin (Simon Fraser University)
- Michael O'Driscoll (University of Alberta)
- Karis Shearer (University of British Columbia Okanagan)
- Roma Kail (Victoria University in the University of Toronto)
- Annie Murray (Calgary University)
- Ian Ferrier (Wired on Words)

10:15-11:00 SpokenWeb Lightning Talks

Facilitator: Yuliya Kondratenko (Concordia University)

Format: Each SpokenWeb Lightning Talk is 5 minutes; blocks of three talks are followed by a 5-minute feedback session

![SpokenWeb logo](spokenweb.ca)

Round 1: (20 minutes)

- Ali Azarpanah, MA Student (Digital Humanities), University of Alberta. "Interfacing the University of Alberta SpokenWeb Portal"
- Ali Barillaro, MA Student (English), Concordia University. "'It's just not done: applause and the poetry reading"
- Evan Berg, BFA Student (Visual Art), University of British Columbia Okanagan. "Visual Language: A SpokenWeb Design Story"

Feedback Session led by Tanya Clement (University of Texas) and Michael O'Driscoll (University of Alberta)

Round 2: (20 minutes)

- Megan Buchart, BA Student (English and History) and Amy Thiessen, BA Student (English), University of British Columbia Okanagan. "Undergraduate Perspectives on SpokenWeb"
- Jonathan Dick, MA Student (English), University of Toronto. "'The Mold That's Branded On M Soul': A Computational Approach to Racialized Voice in Jean Toomer's 'Kabnis'"
- Samuel Mercier, PhD Student (Études littéraires), Université du Québec à Montréal. "Digging for archives: notions of literary field work"

Feedback Session led by Marit MacArthur (UCDavis) and Annie Murray (Calgary University)

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

Round 3: (20 minutes)

- Klara du Plessis, PhD Student (English), Concordia University. "Curatorial Openness at the Véhicule Art Inc. Poetry Reading Series"

- Evan Berg, BFA Student (Visual Art), University of British Columbia Okanagan. "Research Creation: Thinking Outside the SoundBox"
- Andrew Roberge, BA Student (English), Concordia University. "On Listening to Ghosts: The Emergent Narrative of the *Ghost Reading* Series"

Feedback Session led by Smaro Kamboureli (University of Toronto) and Geoffrey Rockwell (University of Alberta)

Round 4 (20 minutes)

- Deserae Gogel, MA Student (English), University of British Columbia Okanagan. "Press Play!"
- Jakob Knudsen, BA Student (First Nations Studies), Simon Fraser University. "Digital Epistemologies and a Decolonial Archive: Open Access and the Reclamation of Knowledge"
- Cole Mash, PhD Student (English), Simon Fraser University. "Transcribing without Listening"

Feedback Session led by Chris Mustazza (UPenn) and Jentery Sayers (University of Victoria)

12:00-13:15 Lunch (catering is provided)

13:15-14:45 Metadata and Systems Task Force Workshop
Presenters: Tomasz Neugebauer (Concordia University), Jared Wiercinski (Concordia University), Francisco Berrizbeitia (Concordia University)

After the Spoken Web Metadata Task Force agreed on the first version of the metadata specification, the project partners began to use a preformatted Google Spreadsheet to collect metadata. In order to increase flexibility and the usability of the cataloguing process, a custom database application specifically designed around the Spoken Web Metadata Schema is in development that makes the ingestion of the metadata more manageable and controlled. This

workshop will present and offer the opportunity to learn about and provide feedback about the beta version of the metadata ingest system.

14:45-15:00 Coffee Break

15:00-16:00 Rights Management Task Force Presentation
Presenter: Annie Murray (University of Calgary)

In this workshop, we will examine the question of rights holders vis-a-vis sound recordings in our various collections. One of the primary barriers to making archival recordings broadly available to researchers is lack of rights holder information. How can this process be demystified? What rights do memory institutions have to preserve or share archival recordings? Using examples, we will explore methods to determine the right holder(s) for a recording; how to request permission to make recordings available; and how to provide access to recordings when rights holder permission cannot be obtained. We will examine language in waivers and agreements used by various institutions when they obtain permissions from rights holders. This workshop assumes a goal of making as many recordings as openly available as possible. Emphasis will be on developing positive cooperation from rights holders, and will work towards developing shared strategies for all SpokenWeb institutions and groups. Please bring any waivers or agreements your institution or organization has used in the past or might consider using for the SpokenWeb project.

16:00-17:00 Pedagogy Task Force Workshop
Presenters: Karis Shearer (University of British Columbia Okanagan), Deserae Gogel (University of British Columbia Okanagan), Cole Mash (Simon Fraser University), Jentery Sayers (University of Victoria), Michelle Levy (Simon Fraser University), and Yuliya Kondratenko (Concordia University)

This workshop offers an overview of the Pedagogy Task Force objectives and seeks specifically to generate discussion and feedback that would lead to a set of best practices for student labour and supervision. Through a series of breakout sessions, we invite participants to think about key questions about student labour and supervision on SpokenWeb projects. Each discussion is focused on a scenario and prompts for thinking about communication, relationship-building, onboarding, feedback, equity, facilitation of meetings, and more.

Introduction and Overview of the Pedagogy Task Force Project Plan (20 minutes)

Breakout sessions (20 minutes): Each table will be given a scenario that addresses an issue regarding student labour and teamwork for their consideration. One member of the Pedagogy Task Force will be present at each table to facilitate a conversation about the scenario and discuss how the group would address it and make suggestions and recommendations. We ask one person (not a student) to take notes and submit these notes to Yuliya Kondratenko at the end of the session. It is important that there be some students at each table.

Open Discussion (20 minutes): Every group will report back on their scenario and how they addressed it. We hope to have time to invite other groups to respond as well.

DAY 2, MAY 29, 2019

9:00-9:05 Welcome Remarks (Jason Camlot)

9:00-10:30 Project Management Concepts and Tools
Presenter: Yuliya Kondratenko (Concordia University)

This workshop blends theory and practice allowing participants to 1) get familiar with industry-wide project management concepts and tools 2) reflect on PM practices and frameworks such as Agile and Scrum and 3) apply their knowledge by engaging in discussions from their own academic and professional project work.

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-11:45 Audio Signal Analysis Task Force Workshop 1
Presenters: Tanya Clement (TAMU), Liz Fischer (TAMU) and Brian McFee (NYU Steinhardt)

Learning to work with computational approaches to sound studies must begin with a basic understanding about the ways in which sound is represented as data in the computational environment. The sound analysis workflows that we will share with participants will include basic steps for employing common, free and open-source, Python libraries for accessing, processing, analyzing, and visualizing audio data. These workflows will be presented as Jupyter

notebooks that users can easily adapt and run from local computers during and after the workshop. Topics that we will cover in this workshop include:

1. An introduction to setting up your computer for sound analysis with a brief introduction to using Binder and the Docker image we will set up for participants;

2. An introduction to sound analysis using python, python libraries (such as McFee's Librosa python package), and Jupyter notebooks;

3. A demonstration with an example slicing and dicing audio that will introduce participants to basic audio concepts in signal processing such as sampling rates and the fundamental frequency;

4. A hands-on group activity with a data set we have constructed including poetry performances from the SpokenWeb project that will include:

    ▪ Silence/non-silence detection and auto-segmentation using unsupervised learning approaches such as K-means;
    ▪ Vocal / non-vocal detection using a pre-designed model and data set, during which participants will be introduced to how a supervised model is trained;
    ▪ Speaker segmentation and grouping using a pre-designed model and data set, during which participants will be introduced to how a supervised model is trained;

This workshop is appropriate for beginners to programming and sound analysis. No experience needed. Participants should bring their own laptops.

Docker Installation Instructions:

Go to: https://github.com/hipstas/spokenweb/blob/master/README.md

Step 1: Install Docker

Step 2: Download the Docker Image [this takes some time -- perhaps 10 minutes]

11:45-12:45 Audio Signal Analysis Task Force Workshop 2

Presenters: Marit MacArthur (UC Davis) and Lee M. Miller (UC Davis)

When we listen to a recorded poetry reading, what do we respond to in the performance? This workshop will:

1. Introduce the audience to basic features of speech production and perception, including pitch and timing patterns.

2. Demonstrate with SpokenWeb recordings, and allow the audience to try out, a simple, open-source, user-friendly tool for visualizing intonation (pitch) and timing patterns, called Drift. Drift is a pitch tracker and visualizer that aligns the text of a poem with a poet's intonation patterns in a given poetry recording. Drift is available in an online demo, and also can be downloaded and installed on Macs. (The first version of the software was initially created with support from an ACLS Digital Innovations Fellowship, and its development continues with support from a NEH Digital Humanities Advancement grant and the SpokenWeb project.)

3. Introduce prosodic measures for large-scale computational analysis of poetry archives, using Matlab and World, a speech synthesis program, and a smaller scale approach using Drift.

12:45-13:45 Lunch (catering is provided)

13:45-15:45 Podcasting Task Force Presentation and Workshop
Presenter: Hannah McGregor (Simon Fraser University)

This two-hour workshop will introduce participants to the process of making a SpokenWeb Podcast episode. Topics will include an introduction to recording, editing audio using Hindenburg, working with archival audio, different genres of podcast episode, and more. Participants should leave with the skills necessary to start pitching podcast episodes! Please download a free trial of Hindenburg here: https://hindenburg.com/products/hindenburg-trial

15:45-16:00 Break

15:00-17:00 SpokenWeb Manifesto Workshop led by the SpokenWeb Governing Board

19:00 - 21:00 SpokenWeb Student Dinner (students only by RSVP). Nuba Restaurant, 207 W Hastings St, Vancouver, BC.