



Sounds in Wax: Musicology, Linguistics, and the World as a Resource

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This lecture focuses on the Berlin Phonogramm-Archiv, founded in 1900, and its subsequent strategy of collecting sound recordings of languages and music from a wide range of world regions. But, the archive also embraced the world as a resource in yet another respect: the daily production of phonograph cylinders required large quantities of wax and various other materials that depended on a global system of material supply—including Brazilian carnauba wax and montan wax from German lignite mines, the extraction of which caused environmental damage and deprived local populations of their livelihoods.

Image: Copy of Erich von Hornbostel's wax cylinder recording of a Wendish folk song (spinning song "The Lily," sung by C. Maratz, March 3, 1907)
Photo: Albrecht Wiedmann, Phonogramm-Archiv Berlin

Fall
2023 Lecture
Series

Monday
September 18
4:30 – 6:00pm
205 East Pyne

Event Details



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If you require accessibility accommodations, contact fromaine@princeton.edu up to one week prior to the event.

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