

Lauren Knight

PhD Student
Faculty of Information
University of Toronto

lauren.knight@mail.utoronto.ca
www.laurenknight.ca
Toronto, ON

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate, Faculty of Information: University of Toronto – **2022 - present**

Research Interests: Sound Studies, Acoustic Ecology, Listening and Culture, Sensory Ethnography

Master of Arts, School of Communication: Simon Fraser University – degree conferred **2021**

Thesis Title: Noise Cancelling Headphones and the Neoliberal Subject

Bachelor of Arts, Radio and Television Arts: Toronto Metropolitan University – degree conferred **2019**

Specialization: Sound Media

TEACHING

COURSE INSTRUCTOR – University of Toronto

- *MDSC13H3 – Popular Music and Media Cultures* (Winter 2025)
- *CCT310 – Popular Culture and Society* (Summer 2024)

GUEST LECTURES – University of Toronto

- Zines: Talkback & Guest Facilitator – *CCT417H5: Alternative Media* (Summer 2025)
- Sonic Data – *WRI363: Communicating in a World of Data* (Winter 2024)
- Soundscapes and Soundwalks – *CCT371H5S: Sound as Media* (Winter 2024)

TEACHING ASSISTANT & TUTOR MARKER – University of Toronto, Simon Fraser University, and Toronto Metropolitan University

- Marked assignments and led numerous in person and online tutorials for a range of courses related to sound, audio production, communication, media, and popular culture.
 - University of Toronto: *CCT371H5 – Sound as Media* (Winter 2024, Winter 2025)
 - University of Toronto: *INF3900 – The Emerging Professional* (Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Winter 2025)
 - University of Toronto: *INF1501 - Introduction to Culture & Technology* (Fall 2024)
 - University of Toronto: *INF1001 - Knowledge and Information in Society* (Fall 2024)
 - University of Toronto: *CCT302 - Developing and Managing Communication Campaigns and Projects* (Summer 2024)
 - University of Toronto: *CCT310H5S – Popular Culture and Society* (Winter 2023)
 - Simon Fraser University: *CMNS 258 – History of Sound in Media* (Winter 2021)
 - Simon Fraser University: *CMNS 259 – Introduction to Acoustic Communication* (Fall 2019, Fall 2020)
 - Simon Fraser University: *CMNS 321 – Cultural Production of Popular Music* (Winter 2020)
 - Simon Fraser University: *CMNS 130 – Communication and Social Change* (Summer 2020)
 - Toronto Metropolitan University: *RTA 315 – Business of Creative Media* (Winter 2018)

COURSE DESIGNER – Wintergreen Studios – **2022**

- Designed and led a virtual course for Wintergreen studios entitled, '*Listening In and Listening Out: An Introduction to Acoustic Ecology*'.
- Organized and recorded 5 modules for distribution on their online learning platform.

WORKSHOP DEVELOPMENT AND INSTRUCTION

- *Creating Connection Co*: Designed and ran a series of online workshops addressing eco-acoustic listening practices and methodologies (2021)
- *Simon Fraser University*: Designed and ran semesterly workshops for Teaching Assistants, identifying

and demonstrating creative tools for student engagement (2020 - 2021)

PODCAST ADVISOR – CEED Centre BC & Simon Fraser University - 2020 - 2021

- Worked directly with the CEED community center to assist in the development of a new podcast partnered with SFU.
- Led various workshops on podcasting foundations, assisted in audio editing, and performed weekly brainstorming & recording sessions with the team.

RESEARCH

RESEARCH ASSISTANT – DR. RAFAEL GROHMANN, University of Toronto – 2025 – Current *Creative Labour Critical Futures*

- Mapping the public discourse around AI in film and music industries through literature collection and by supporting the development of publications and visualizations.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT – DR. JULIE ANDREYEV, Emily Carr University – 2025 - Current

- Developing a co-authored report on the activities and impacts of the SSHRC funded *Listening in Relation* research symposium.
- Attended the 3-day *Listening in Relation* symposium at Emily Carr University to collect notes and media material.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT – DR. MARY ELIZABETH LUKA, University of Toronto – 2024 - Current

- Collecting and organizing data about the Toronto Arts Council via interviews, discussion groups, workshops, and a literature review.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT – DR. TERO KARPPI, University of Toronto – 2023 - Current

- Collecting sources on DTN network connectivity in remote locations and its applications in outer space infrastructures.
- Currently developing a co-authored paper on the doppler effect in deep space communication infrastructure.

WORK STUDY (KMDI) – DR. SARA GRIMES, University of Toronto, KMDI – 2023

- Co-authored a published report on academic podcasting practices as explored and utilized within the Knowledge Media Design Institute.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT – DR. WILLIAM ODOM, Simon Fraser University – 2021 - 2022

- Worked with Dr. William Odom & PhD candidate Min Young Yoo. Produced an immersive audio documentary with a collection of interview recordings: <https://soundcloud.com/homewarelab/beyond-looking-back-full-audio-doc>
- Co-authored a paper for publication titled '*Storywork & Reciprocity: On the Design of an Audio Documentary that Extends HCI Research back to Participants*'

RESEARCH ASSISTANT – DR. MICKEY VALLEE, Athabasca University - 2020 - 2021

- Assisted in research design, literature reviews, data collection and analysis, as well as soundscape composition.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT – DR. MILENA DROUMIEVA, Simon Fraser University – 2021

- SSHRC funded research project led by Dr. Milena Droumeva: Livable Soundscapes.
- Assisted in various aspects of the project including workshop design, soundwalk guidance, audio editing, and material collection.

REVIEWER – Various Publications

- Peer reviewer for World Forum for Acoustic Ecology (WFAE) Conference Proceedings – 2023
- Peer reviewer for BC Studies Journal 'Sound works' submissions – 2019

PUBLICATIONS

- Knight, L. (forthcoming). 'Noise-Cancelling Headphones: The Quieted Voices of Neoliberalism'. In Jarman, F., Skjerseth, A., André, N. [Eds], *Routledge Companion to Voice and Identity*.
- Knight, L., & Grimes, S.M. (2024). *Critical Technology: A Case Study in Academic Podcasting*. Toronto: KMDI.
- Yoo, M., Odom, W., Berger, A., Barnett, S., Kenny, S., Lo, P., Shamsher, S., Russell, G., & **Knight, L.** (2024). Remembering through Sound: Co-creating Sound-based Mementos together with People with Blindness. *CHI '24: Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 1-19.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3613904.3641940>
- Knight, L. (2024). Sounding Sidewalks: Historicizing and Theorizing the Medial Zone. *Journal of Urban History*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00961442241237983>
- Knight, L. (2023). Voicing the Nonhuman: Exploring the Affectual Relationship of Sonification. *Acoustic Ecology Review*, 1(1). <https://journals.lib.sfu.ca/index.php/aer/article/view/5370/5499>
- Knight, L. (2023). Soundings through creation, evolution, and crisis [Book Review], *Sound Studies*. DOI: 10.1080/20551940.2023.2191458
- Yoo, M., **Knight, L.**, Odom, W., & Berger, A. (2022). Storywork & Reciprocity: On the Design of an Audio Documentary that Extends HCI Research back to Participants. *Designing Interactive Systems Conference*, 1345–1357.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3532106.3533539>
- Knight, L. (2021). *Noise Cancelling Headphones & the Neoliberal Subject* [Thesis]. SFU Summit.
- Knight, L. (2021). 'Creator Gave us Two Ears and One Mouth': Sound as a Signifier of Environmental Crisis at the Intersections of Indigeneity and Acoustic Ecology. *Stream: Interdisciplinary Journal of Communication*, 13(1), 37-50. DOI: 10.21810/strm.v13i1.297
- Knight, L. (2021, August 23). Listening In on Pandemic Life No.2: Musical Noise vs. Musical Comfort: A Neighbour's Lament. *Canadian Association for Sound Ecology*. <https://tinyurl.com/532p2v3n>
- Copeland, S. & **Knight, L.** (2020). Indigenizing the national broadcast soundscape – CBC podcast: Missing and Murdered: Finding Cleo. *Radio Journal: International Studies in Broadcast & Audio Media*, 19(1), p.101-116.
https://doi.org/10.1386/rjao_00036_1
- Droumeva, M., Copeland, S., Ashleigh, B. & **L. Knight** (2020). Livable Soundscapes: A Toolkit for Communities. Sonic Research Studio. Accessed at: https://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/sonic-studio/Documents/Livable%20Soundscapes%20Toolkit_download.pdf
- Ongoing: Writer and contributor to *Breathe Magazine* (distribution across the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, New Zealand, and Australia)

CREATIVE PROJECTS

BEEP ZINE – Co-creator with Aline Zara – **2024 - Ongoing**

- BEEP is an urban-focused multimedia zine; spanning four issues, BEEP explores the relationship between sound and city through snapshots of urban scenes. We have developed both physical and digital editions of the zine (beepzine.com)
- Funded by the School of Cities (University of Toronto) Small Grant Fund (\$4921.62)

PODCAST PRODUCER – Freelancer – **2016 - 2024**

- Worked with various community groups and small businesses to teach podcasting foundations, host workshops and seminars, or take on all aspects of production, mixing, and distribution.

PRODUCER – STEREO TORONTO – Silver Marble Studies – **2017 – 2019**

- Produced a 5-piece music documentary series entitled *Stereo Toronto*: Episode 3 was licensed for

national broadcast and streaming distribution by CBC between July 1, 2019 - December 2020.

- Organized all pre-production, production, and post-production aspects. Conducted interviews with musicians and organized all sponsorships with local brands and businesses in the Toronto music community.

PRODUCER – *BILL S20FR3E* – 2017

- Produced the documentary which follows the progression of Bill S-203 (a bill aiming to end cetacean captivity) in the Canadian government.
- Organized all filming details, interviews, contracts, and production details.

SOUND INSTALLATIONS

2025 *Submerged Ears* - stereo audio installation (2:48), installed in Soundscape Listening Room at the "Listening in Relation" Symposium, Emily Carr University, Vancouver BC

AWARDS & GRANTS

2025 Ethel W. Auster Scholarship For Doctoral Research: \$1,700
2024 School of Cities Grant – BEEP Zine Project: \$4921.62
2023 (Offered) Ontario Graduate Scholarship (UofT): \$15,000 (did not accept)
2023 Graduate Student Merit Award – Canadian Communication Association Conference: \$500
2023 SSHRC – Canadian Graduate Scholarship Doctoral: \$120,000
2022 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (UofT): \$15,000
2021 R. Murray Schafer Soundscape Award (SFU): \$1,200
2020 SSHRC: Canadian Graduate Scholarship - M (SFU): \$17,500
2020 Glenfraser Endowment Research Award in Acoustic Communication (SFU): \$1,000
2020 R. Murray Schafer Soundscape Award (SFU): \$1,000
2020 Graduate Fellowship (SFU): \$6,500
2019 Dean's Graduate Fellowship (SFU): \$5,000
2019 British Columbia Graduate Student Scholarship (SFU): \$15,000

CONFERENCES

Sept. 2025 (upcoming) Society for Social Studies of Science (Seattle / Hybrid): Two Paper Presentations: *Hearing Heritage: Imaginary and Immersive Soundscapes* (co-authored paper with Cate Alexander) and *Reverberant Cities and Audio Zines: An Experimental Creative Practice* (co-authored with Aline Zara).
Zine Installation Submission: *Beep!* audio zine co-developed with Aline Zara
July 2025 (upcoming) Digital Humanities (Lisbon, Portugal): Paper Presentation – *Hearing Heritage: Imaginary and Immersive Soundscapes* (co-authored paper with Cate Alexander)
June 2025 Canadian Communication Association (George Brown, Toronto): Paper Presentation – *Penpal processes: A research-creation presentation-performance* (co-authored with Aline Zara)
Apr. 2025 Society for Cinema and Media Studies (Chicago): Paper Presentation - *Guided by Waves: Lidar, Doppler, and a Media Genealogy of Non-Visual Perception* (co-authored paper with Dr. Tero Karppi)
March 2025 SpaceOut Symposium (University of Toronto Mississauga): 'Theory Pill' 5-minute Presentation - *Waves*
Oct. 2024 (offered) International Aeronautical Conference: Interactive Presentation – *Soundwalking through Space: Exploring the Sonic Interplanetary and Cosmic Imaginary* (offered but unable to attend)

July 2024	Society for Social Studies of Science (4S: Amsterdam): Paper Presentation – <i>Podcasting Producers</i>
July 2024 (offered)	IAMCR (Christchurch, NZ): Paper Presentation – <i>Podcasting Producers</i> (offered but unable to attend)
Feb. 2024	Reembodied Sound 2024 (EMPAC, Rensselaer): Presentation - <i>Sounding Water Inhabitants: An Exploration of Toronto's Seasons</i>
Nov. 2023 (offered)	Beyond Listening (Budapest): Paper Presentation - <i>Dyson's Zone Headphones as Multi-Sensorial 'Purity' in Ecological Crisis</i> (offered but unable to attend)
Nov. 2023	4S (Hawaii, USA – Remote Participation): Paper Presentation - <i>'Cries of a Black Hole' & other ecological sonification as humanized 'voice' production</i>
Oct. 2023	Great Lakes Association of Sound Studies / SCMS (Virtual): Paper Presentation (invited) – <i>Sonification and Interstellar Communication</i>
Oct. 2023	Society for Literature, Science & the Arts (Tempe, Arizona): Paper Presentation - <i>A Symphony of Stars: The Voice of NASA's Interstellar Observations</i>
June 2023	Console-ing Passions (U. of Calgary): Paper Presentation – <i>Noise Cancelling Headphones & the Neoliberal Subject</i>
May 2023	Canadian Communication Association Conference (York U.): Paper Presentation – <i>Sounding Sidewalks</i>
March 2023	World Forum for Acoustic Ecology (New Smyrna, Florida): Paper Presentation – <i>Voicing the Nonhuman: Exploring the Affectual Relationships of Sonification</i>
June 2021	Canadian Communication Association Conference (Virtual): Paper Presentation - <i>Noise Cancelling Headphones & the Neoliberal Subject</i>
May 2021	SFU Communication Graduate Conference (Virtual): Paper Presentation - <i>'Creator Gave us Two Ears and One Mouth': Sound as a Signifier of Environmental Crisis at the Intersections of Indigeneity and Acoustic Ecology</i>
March 2021	Great Lakes Association for Sound Studies (Virtual): Paper Presentation – <i>Noise Cancelling Headphones as Colonization</i>
March 2020	Communication Graduate Conference (SFU): Cancelled due to COVID-19 - <i>'Creator Gave us Two Ears and One Mouth': Sound as a Signifier of Environmental Crisis at the Intersections of Indigeneity and Acoustic Ecology</i>
March 2020	Indigenous Graduate Student Symposium (UBC): Cancelled due to COVID-19 – <i>Constructing Silence</i>
May 2020	Organized Abandonment: Cultures of Crisis & Resistance Conference (SFU): Cancelled due to COVID-19

COMMUNITY & SERVICE

UNIVERSITY ROLES – University of Toronto – Ongoing

- Graduate Student Union (GSU) – Faculty of Information Doctoral Student Representative (2024 – 2025)
- Academic Appeals Committee Doctoral Student Representative – Faculty of Information (2023 – 2025)
- Mental Health Committee – Doctoral Student Association (2023 – 2025)
- PhD Mentor – Doctoral Student Association Mentorship Program for Prospective Applicants (2023 – 2025)
- Secretary – Doctoral Student Association (2023 – 2024)

CENTRE FOR CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY – 2024 – Ongoing

- Co-convener of a 'Research Creation' graduate reading group in the 2024/2025 academic year

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOUND ECOLOGY – 2024 – Ongoing

- Newsletter coordinator and board member for CASE beginning in May 2024

CCA STUDENT PRIZE INFORM – Canadian Communication Association – 2023

- Invited to speak at a CCA webinar to discuss the experience of applying to the conference and winning a student prize.