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Thesis title

Whose Myth?

The echo and the diaspora

Abstract

This research examines the intertwined relationship between sound and the communication of knowledge. It does so by focusing on the echo as a metaphor, a methodology, a cultural artefact and an aesthetic effect within the artistic context. In this manuscript, the echo works as an artistic and theoretical device to engage within multiplicity, with Latin American diasporic narratives within a variety of cultural manifestations. The research presents a case for the relational.

It is important to note from the outset that my engagement with sound, a medium I have concentrate on, is intertwined with that of Central American popular music. My family played and taught music professionally and even though I, for various reasons beyond my control, did not learn to play an instrument in this same way, this is the foundation that forms my understanding of sound. My engagement with music has been through DJing, taking music from here and there and blending it together using equipment such as decks, records, digital files and laptops. The theoretical backbone of this research draws specifically from writings on affect within diasporic understandings of sound. Accordingly, this research reveals the need to elevate and practice ways of engaging with culture in ways that are generative, and that amplify collective knowledge via sound.

With specific consideration of the nature of the echo as an effect, a metaphor and an artistic and theoretical device to engage with narratives in their multiplicity. The research presents a case for understanding the sound within the oral tradition as a way to articulate complexity.

With a recognition of the importance of specificity, this research contributes to the questioning of long-held unchallenged understandings of non-Western sounds. At the same time, this research highlights the importance of an interrelational approach that is grounded in a need to work collaboratively to create space and language in which to generate, aggregate and amplify knowledge.

This thesis takes the form of a website and this is the link to it:

<https://whose-myth.lucreccia-quintanilla.com/>