

"Tuning In" to sounding technologies? What is an instrument?

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Cary Campbell will present key insights from his upcoming co-authored book *Tuning In: a new theory of sound, music, and instruments* book (Cambridge University Press). This seminar will focus on the theory of technology the book develops, based on the idea that musical instruments are a kind of technology, or *techne*, that offer the player particular musical affordances of action and response. These affordances grow out of sonic, cognitive as well as social-cultural functions, which when enacted in specific contexts, imply both the actualization and memory of past iterations and expressions – referred to as scaffolding-structures constituting the history (or path-dependencies) of a social group's learning. Importantly, Cary observes the entangled and intimate connections between local soundscapes, sounding environments, social taskscapes and the specific tool/instrument-making processes they support. The seminar will aim to unravel the broad implications of this theory of instruments for theories of technology *writ large*.