

TENSE EARS

sound interventions around the TAV construction site
12-18 august 2019

Outline

The workshop is an opportunity to research on themes such as: sound propagation in outdoor space, long distance listening, and context-specific sound intervention.

The location for the workshop is the TAV¹ construction site² in Valsusa.

The choice of the TAV construction site as context for the workshop is because of the following reasons:

- the presence of a red zone, prohibiting people's circulation and action, which makes sound a means for reaching and crossing the construction site from a distance;
- the military forces and the technological surveillance protecting the construction site, which put the performers in a condition of alertness and attentive listening;
- the certainty of having an "audience" listening from inside the construction site, perceiving our sounds as a sinister presence.

During the workshop, each of the participant is invited to develop an intervention and to perform it during a night excursion in the surroundings of the construction site.

The workshop is divided in the following phases: scouting, design, test and, intervention. The three phases are thought as crossing each other and to be part of an iterative process

In the exploration phase, the topography of the territory as well as its acoustics will be analyzed. This will be done by means of excursions with local experts. Information on the history of the no-tav struggle, its current state and the environmental impact of the new high speed train line will also be presented.

The design phase consists in the creation of audio material to be distributed and choreographed in the valley. Composition parameters that must be taken into account are: content, duration, silence, sound diffusion, technical means.

The intervention phase will be preceded by tests on site and will be structured according to the technical, strategic and dramaturgical needs of each intervention.

Practicalities

Participation to the laboratory is free of charge. Register by sending a motivational e-mail to baitabaita AT riseup DOT net.

Each participant is required to bring their own working instruments (mic, amplification, battery, speakers, computer). Technical equipment will be shared.

Accommodation is organized in self-managed facility in the area. There will be rounds for cooking and buying food. Exact location and other practical details will be communicated after registering.

1 The acronym TAV in Italian stands for *Treno ad Alta Velocità*, which means high-speed train. In opposition to the planned high-speed train line and its impacts on the territory, the No TAV movement arose more than twenty years ago in the Susa Valley, an alpine region in northwest Italy that connects the Turin area and France. For more info on the No TAV movement see <http://www.notav.info/> and <https://italycalling.wordpress.com/2011/07/03/brief-history-of-the-no-tav-movement/>.

2 In november 2011, the italian governement has declared the construction site "sito d'importanza strategica" (<http://www.notav.info/post/tav-militarizzazione-fallimenti-e-coop-rosse/>) which basically means strategic military zone. The construction site appears fenced and patrolled by police and military forces.