

# COLT 462 The Soundtracks of Our Lives

Fall 2018

Monday & Wednesday 3:30 - 4:50

Taper Hall 108

## Course Description

This course focuses on a critical discussion about notions of power developed by sound studies scholars. The “soundtrack,” for the purposes of this course, refers less to sound technology in cinema and more to the ways in which our daily lives get animated, tracked, and contained through contemporary sonic technologies. We focus especially on conceptual and technological ways in which the deployment and reception of sound participates in mapping space, place, and difference. We will also examine cultures of resistance that function through alternate usage of sound technologies. Readings include: Steve Goodman, *Sonic Warfare: Sound, Affect, and the Ecology of Fear*; Brandon LaBelle, *Acoustic Territories: Sound Culture and Everyday Life*; Jennifer Stoeber, *The Sonic Color Line: Race and the Cultural Politics of Listening*; and Julian Henriques, *Sonic Bodies, Reggae Sound Systems, Performance Techniques, and Ways of Knowing*. Additional essays will be assigned from *The Sound Studies Reader* edited by Jonathan Sterne. For more information, contact Professor Edwin HILL (edwinhil@usc.edu)



Figure 1: Nik Nowak (2011)