Course Title: **Theories, Practices, and Politics of Sound and Silence**

**Description:** This course examines the vexed entwine between sound and silence. The former is formulated as a field of study and artistic practice. The latter manifests as a spectre to sound and as a strategy of refusal and resistance (and also of waiting, pondering, slowing down). Silence haunts all creative acts, and provides the constitutive ground for these acts—it is the not-so-empty vessel, the syncopal background agent that rhythms the foreground. One of the sites where silence studies intersects with sound studies most productively is, paradoxically, the visual field. This course will focus particularly on the tactics and strategies by which audio art interrupts, infects, and interpenetrates the visual field. The myriad methods of curation and diffusion and the connected issues of intention and reception will be considered in the same breath as issues of technique and technology. A broad selection of texts will be considered from diverse fields: literature (Celan, Kafka, Sarrute, Lispector, Moten, Robertson, Cha, Cascella, Carson), philosophy (Cavarero, Deleuze, Lyotard, Blanchot, Lefebvre), dance (Lepecki), music (Barthes, Barrett, Robinson), sound (Cage, Voegelin, Sterne, Kahn, Kim-Cohen, Ochoa, Oliveros), visual arts (Sontag, Bois, Campt), cinema (Tati, Duras, Debord, Bresson, Jarman, Marker, Minh-ha), amongst others.

**Bibliography** (preliminary):


Duras, Marguerite, “India Song (Shooting Script)” [excerpt], “Notes on the Theater Set”, “Note for Nothing” in *Duras by Duras*.


Lipit, Akira Mizuta, “Out of the Blue (Ex Nihilo)” in *Ex-Cinema From a Theory of Experimental Film and Video*.


---

Christof Migone

Associate Professor, Department of Visual Arts
Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, Core Faculty

Graduate Chair, 2023-2026
Graham & Gale Wright Distinguished Scholar, 2022-2023

Western University
1151 Richmond St.
John Labatt Visual Arts Centre (#214)
London, Ontario, Canada, N6A 5K7

cmigone@uwo.ca
www.uwo.ca/visarts