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VOCAL INTIMACY

Home-recordings of Homesickness and the Memory of Voice

Panayotis Panopoulos

Panayotis Panopoulos is currently an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the Department of Social Anthropology and History of the University of the Aegean, Mytilene, Lesvos island, Greece. His research interests concern the anthropology of music, sound and performance. His ethnographic concern the symbolism of sound and hearing in modern Greece, the study of local cultural associations and the role of musical performances in the symbolic construction of place. He has also conducted research on the culture of the Deaf community in Greece and collaborated in many projects with visual and sound artists. He has taught at the Democretian University of Thrace, the University of Crete and Panteion University, Athens. He has been a Research Visiting Scholar at Princeton University (2002-3, 2012) and the University of California, Berkeley (2009). He has also taught as invited lecturer at Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg (2012) and at the University of Cologne (2018).



Found and bought years ago at an Athens flea market by visual artist and avid record-collector Panos Charalambous, a body of 19 rare acetate 78 rpm. records made in the United States in the late '50s by Greek migrant Konstantinos Chronis and his family triggers a series of ethnographic and artistic encounters that bring out the role of vocality and phonography in the production and reproduction of memory. Anthropologist Panayotis Panopoulos traces the social life of these records backwards, meeting their original receivers, members of the family and co-villagers of Konstantinos Chronis in Athens and the mountainous village of Roïno in Arcadia region, Peloponnese. Vocal traces of more than half a century ago, probably considered lost forever, return to stir up memory, which was also the strong stimulus for the records' production in the first place. Different layers of memory are assessed and discussed as various performances and levels of (phonographic) vocality accumulate through time.



Organized in the framework of the research programme National and Cultural identity of Slovenian emigration in the Context of Migration Studies (P5-0070), financed by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency - ARIS

May 29, 2025 | 11.00

Gosposka and Križevniška Halls at ZM GIAM ZRC SAZU,
Gosposka ulica 16, Ljubljana