



THE RENAISSANCE STUDIES PROGRAM PRESENTS

# THE SONIC RENAISSANCE: BODILY EXPERIENCE & SPATIAL HISTORY

## A Lecture by Niall Atkinson

The lecture will be followed by an IU faculty roundtable featuring **GILES KNOX** (Art History), **MASSIMO OSSI** (Musicology, Jacobs School of Music), and **SARAH VAN DER LAAN** (Comparative Literature).

**ABSTRACT:** It was as an aspiring architectural historian that I encountered sound as an endlessly generative mechanism to understand the social dimensions of urban space in the early modern city. That experience led me to think about the larger sensorium as an integral part of a spatial history that countered the visual hegemony of art historical research and also led to productive encounters with other historical disciplines. As a result, the Sonic Renaissance was a way to work within and beyond the discipline in which I was trained and it is this being-in-between that has opened up various ways in which the complexity of urban history can be meaningfully unearthed. Using my work on Renaissance Florence as a resource, I would like to reflect on how studying sonic histories can inform research in a productive spatial history.

**NIALL ATKINSON** (Associate Professor of Art History and the College at the University of Chicago) is a specialist of medieval and Renaissance architecture and urban history. His research has in particular concerned the relationship between sound, space, and architecture and their role in the construction of pre-modern urban societies. He is the author of numerous articles and a monograph entitled *The Noisy Renaissance: Sound, Architecture, and Florentine Urban Life* (Penn State University Press, 2016).

## 4PM, Friday, February 25, 2022

**FACULTY ROOM (UPSTAIRS) OF THE UNIVERSITY CLUB, IMU**

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