Radio.Garden: explore the vast world of radio and discover potential transnational radio encounters

The online radio platform RADIO.GARDEN (http://radio.garden) is live as of 13 December 2016. RADIO.GARDEN allows users to explore an interactive globe filled with radio's past and present. It is designed by Studio.Puckey in collaboration with Studio Moniker.

Radio.Garden allows listeners to explore processes of broadcasting and hearing identities across the entire globe. From its very beginning, radio signals have crossed borders. Radio makers and listeners have imagined both connecting with distant cultures, as well as re-connecting with people from 'home' from thousands of miles away – or using local community radio to make and enrich new homes. Four different layers of the interactive globe allow listeners to dive into radio's border-crossing:

> In the section **Live**, you can explore a world or radio as it is happening right now. Tune into any place on the globe: what sounds familiar? What sounds foreign? Where would you like to travel and what sounds like 'home'?

> **Jingles** offers a world-wide crash course in station identification. How do stations signal within a fraction of a second what kind of programmes you are likely to hear? How do they project being joyful, trustworthy, or up to the minute?

> In the section on **History** one can tune into clips from throughout radio history that show how radio has tried to cross borders. How have people tried to translate their nations into the airwaves? What did they say to the world? How do they engage in conversation across linguistic and geographical barriers?

> Finally, one can listen to radio **Stories** where listeners past and present tell how they listen beyond their walls. How do they imagine the voices and sounds from around the globe? How do they use make themselves at home in the world?

Following its formal launch, the site received approximately half a million visitors in its first day, 35,000 upvotes on reddit https://www.reddit.com/r/InternetIsBeautiful/comments/5hz9y7/listen_to_live_radio_all_over_the_world_by/ Nearly 600 radiostations contacted us in the first week to be added to the live streams – and one station in Finland was in touch via lawyers to be removed due to what it felt was copyright violation. *The American Association of Counter Terrorism* wrote to have a Hezbollah station from Beirut removed. Youtubers have also been active to say how cool they find the new platform, including the14-year old Galaxy girl 321 from Great Britain. Articles have appeared in *The Atlantic, The Guardian, The Independent, Wired Germany, NPR.*

RADIO GARDEN is developed as part of the HERA-funded European collaborative research project [Transnational Radio Encounters](#) (TRE), directed by Professor Golo Föllmer from the University of Halle (Germany) along with Alec Badenoch and Sonja de Leeuw from Utrecht University, Caroline Mitchell of Sunderland University, Jacob Kreutzfeld of Copenhagen University, Peter Lewis from London Metropolitan University and Per Jauert of Aarhus University. In addition, it forms part of Sound and Vision's run up to celebrating 100 years of Radio in 1919 (see https://beeldengeluid.atavist.com/radio-without-borders), next to current TRE-related research, forthcoming in Golo Föllmer and Alexander Badenoch, (eds) *Transnationalizing Radio Research: New Approaches to and Old Medium* (Transcript Verlag).

Radio.garden is designed to be a growing platform, including a physical exhibition in the years to come – the 'seeds' that have been planted here are the first inspiration to filling the globe further. If you have a story to share or a station to add, please let us know. Your contributions will further enhance understanding of radio as a transnational medium. For technical or design questions, please contact Jonathan Puckey at contact@puckey.studio

To suggest material for the 'stories' or 'history' layers, please contact Alec Badenoch at a.w.badenoch@uu.nl