

## Script for Part 1 of How People Talk / A Composition of Conversations:

Thank you for that intro...

I'm really excited to be a part of this series. Becci, Laura, Walker, and Micah, with all of their prompts, presentations, performances, have set an amazing tone for Adaptive Practices, and I'm really excited to be continuing the series with this presentation tonight. And to watch Keri King continue the series with her tap dance rituals tomorrow at 10AM.

I'd also like to thank everyone at the Library who has been helping me in my research during the 2020 Creative Fellowship. Kate, Jordan and Angela for pulling some amazing materials from Special Collections, and for giving me the opportunity to spend all this amazing time with those materials (some of which you haven't heard me stop talking about for months and will most definitely be talking about tonight).

Also, very importantly, I want to thank Janaya Kizzie and Christina Bevilacqua at PPL for not only putting this series together, but especially for propelling a conversation about artistic practice, productivity, isolation, and uncertainty.

It's so exciting to be able to be here and have the opportunity to share this with people who are all over the country, but I'd first like to acknowledge the land that we're on, at least where I am. I'm currently in Cambridge MA and this land belongs to the Massachuset people, and the land where this project is stemming from Providence, RI belongs to the Narragansett and Wampanoag people. As you'll see pretty soon, I'm going to be sharing maps of the New England area, as well as records of people's voices. For this reason, along with many other reasons, I feel it's important to acknowledge this land and these people before getting started with the presentation.

So tonight I'm going to be talking a little bit about what I've been thinking but mostly sharing these audio recordings I've been listening to over and over and over again while a Fellow at PPL, and talk a little bit about what is stemming from that. The audio that we're going to be listening to is especially exciting to me, and I feel like there are really beautiful parallels to draw with these audio recordings essentially about "HOW PEOPLE TALK" and the technology that we are all using to have conversations now that many things are happening remotely.

So for the past I think 6 months now (wow) I've been looking closely at something called the Linguistics Atlas Project. Which was a giant study conducted from 1930 - 1980, in order to gather information about "English as it is spoken in the United States". This study was conducted throughout the entire US starting in New England and then stemming to different projects throughout the country. Basically what this meant, is that people who were hired for the project went out into "the field" holding interviews so that they could sit and listen to the ways that people said words.

Here's an example of a recording of an interview. This interview is with a 15 year old boy in Atlanta, and you'll here the interviewer explaining the project to him.

PLAY TRACK 1.

So interviews like this were conducted all over the country, you can hear in this interview they were collecting information on the articulation of numbers. Here are a couple more examples of that. These are from Atlanta again, Miami Florida, and a county in central California.

PLAY TRACK 2.

So that's to give you an idea of how these interviews went. All three of the interviews you just heard were conducted at different times in the 1970's using tape. But like I said before these studies started in 1930's, before there was wide access to tape and tape recorders for this

purpose. So where you were able to hear the numbers recorded in those audio files, you can see that the way people talked was recorded much differently when this study was first being performed.

AND THIS ENDS THE PART OF THE TALK THAT WAS NOT PUT RECORDED ON THE ZOOM CALL. CONTINUE WITH THE ZOOM VID DOCUMENTATION.