

Technology, labor, language

#twitterstorians #mediahistory

- ✦ to what extent did telegraph offices contribute to the emancipation of women in 19th century Britain?

- ✦ To what extent did Anglo-centric conventions dominate international telegraph transmissions and how did this affect the way in which messages could be conceived and conveyed across cultures? With regards to today's media forms – is it necessary to transcribe international media into some common language of the dominant cultural power in order to avoid gaps in understanding?
- ✦ how did the telegraph, and the method of communication adopted as a result influence the way people communicate today using other later forms of technology such as texting? Is it the reason we use acronyms such as lol?

- ✱ Have we reached the stage where men and women are accepted as having an equal role in the workplace, or are the types of prejudices we can observe in Trollope's work still present today?

- ✦ but these inventions tend to dramatically change out relationship towards intimacy; and I feel like our intimacy might have been shrinking since the first industrial revolution. Relatives and colleagues are able to reach us at any time, shrinking space and time.. and our intimacy. Are these ubiquitous technological advances connecting us, or rather setting individuals apart?

- ✱ The development of the global telegraph system created, for the first time, a clear distinction between “connected” and “disconnected” places and people. Both texts relate to the impact of the telegraph in “connected” places. It is also important to think of this new distinction with regards to those regions and communities excluded. How and to what extent did the development of a global telegraph system impact and illustrate a distinction (cultural, socio-economic, political) between the “connected” and “disconnected” world ?

- ✦ How could developments in telegraphy have played a role in Indian uprisings? What strategies would have been beneficial to the British and Indian sides in these conflicts?
- ✦ How effective is a technology that relies so much on the human factor? And on a more contemporary debate, are we right to replace men by machines in the name of efficiency?

- ✱ What lacks is an account of this situation by women themselves. Did they see this opportunity to work (in a somehow skilled occupation in the end compared to what was previously offered to most of them on the job market) as vehicle for emancipation? Did some of them wonder about their abilities to do so before starting embracing chauvinist clichés about their abilities?

- ✦ In both cases, we witness that the evolution of a technology that is supposed to make the world more tight-knit instead reinforces existing hierarchies of gender and race. Thus my question; did the emergence of the telegraph break apart or reinforce social norms across connected societies? In other words, did it make the world and its distances smaller, or bigger still?

final essay

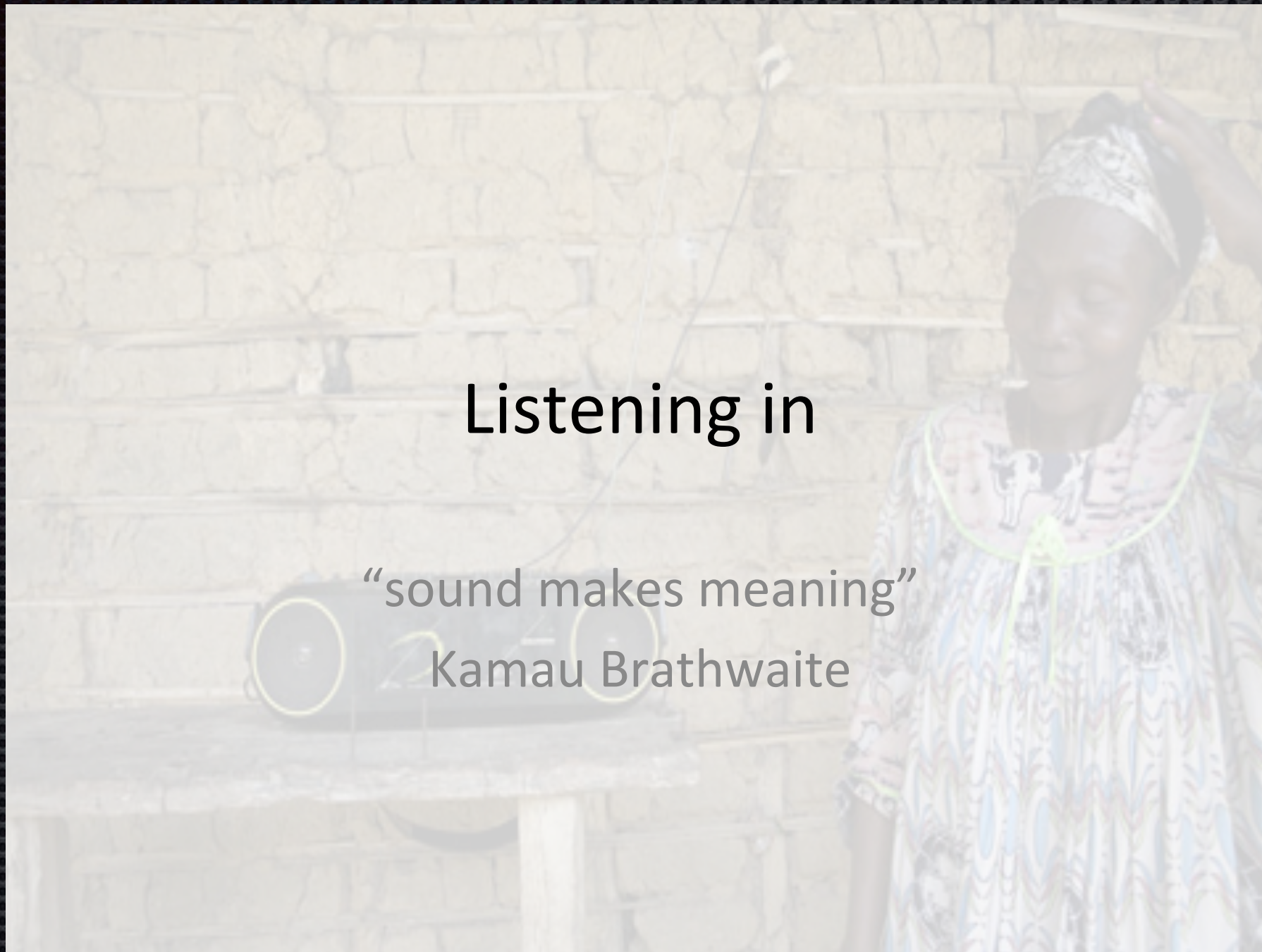
Write a short essay (1000 words), using two articles from the *New York Times* Proquest Historical Database as your primary sources, about how people experienced a medium as it was being introduced. Choose from the pre-internet media we have studied so far: paper, telegraph, film, radio, television. The main purpose of the paper is an analysis of the newspaper articles you have chosen (it is NOT, in other words, a summary or a comprehensive account of the history of the medium you have chosen.) Your principal argument should focus on the ways the journalists and the newspaper represent your particular medium.

Please limit your sources to the *New York Times* articles. If you need to use Wikipedia for some basic background, please cite it carefully. The purpose of this assignment is not to write a complete account of a medium's history, but rather to obtain a few perspectives on it and analyze them as a way to learn something new and specific about the medium.

Listening in

“sound makes meaning”

Kamau Brathwaite



How do we hear?

- “We have no earlids” R. Murray Schafer
- “The sound manifestations of our world are so multifarious that one can perfectly well talk of an acoustical world” Rudolf Arnheim
- “more communication power than the written word alone” ???

[The newspaper reader] is well aware that the ceremony he performs is being replicated simultaneously by thousands (or millions) of others of whose existence he is confident, yet of whose identity he has not the slightest notion. Furthermore, this ceremony is incessantly repeated at daily or half-daily intervals throughout the calendar. What more vivid figure for the secular, historically clocked, imagined community can be envisioned? At the same time, the newspaper reader, observing exact replicas of his own paper being consumed by his subway, barbershop, or residential neighbours, is continually reassured that the imagined world is visibly rooted in everyday life”

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*