

The Sounds of This Place: Listening and Working Within a Soundscape

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As we prepare to finish up the conference and move back out into the wider world, this talk will aim to connect us with the sounding landscapes in which the technologies we've been discussing will be implemented. We will explore a series of questions, through which we might integrate some of what we've learned here into the ways we engage with the places this work will take place. What are the fundamental qualities of the acoustic habitats in which oil and gas development is taking place? How has the experience of place changed over the past few generations, as reflected in changing elements in the soundscape? What are some of the concrete effects of human noise on wildlife? Are there ethical considerations that might play into our decisions about site selection and the degree of noise reduction that is appropriate? As industry engineers and employees consider the acoustic aspects of their activities, as well as the existing acoustic ecology of place, how will that change the dynamics between the industry and the places that host its infrastructure?

<http://www.AcousticEcology.org>

Sound-related Environmental Coverage: Wildlands, Ocean, Urban Issues News Digest, Special Reports, Science Coverage, Educators' Resource Center

<http://www.EarthEar.com>

The world's most comprehensive environmental sound art gallery and catalog; Natural soundscapes, studio remixes, music informed by nature.

Biography

Jim Cummings is a writer, editor, and father. An eclectic and devoted listener, in 1999 he founded EarthEar, a record label and online catalogue of environmental sound art. He founded the Acoustic Ecology Institute in 2004; AEI resource and information center covering the news, policy, and science aspects of acoustic ecology, with an emphasis on the effects of noise on wildlife and the interface of sound arts and science.

Jim is the author of many freelance magazine articles, including "Listen Up! Opening our Ears to Acoustic Ecology" (Zoogor, 2002), editor of the books *Why do Whales and Children Sing?* (1999) and *Investing With Your Values* (2000), and executive producer of eleven EarthEar CDs. He received his M.A. at John F. Kennedy University in 1987 and his B.A. at Wesleyan University in 1979.