# SO! Podcast #78: Ethical Storytelling in Podcasting

**Sounding Out! Authors**

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**Abstract**

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Here at *Sounding Out!* we think that it's best to learn from the experts. That's why we sat in as a fly on a wall for a panel on ethics in podcasting put together by Laura Garbes at Brown University. Please join Laura as she discusses the politics of sound, podcasts, and more with *SO!* Editor-in-Chief Jennifer Lynn Stoever, storyteller Alex Hanesworth, and radio producer Babette Thomas (*Now Hear This*).

Laura Garbes was awarded a 2019 Engaged Scholarship award by the Swearer Center for Public Service. She's recently published an academic essay entitled "Sound Archive Access: Revealing Emergent Cultures." for the *Journal of Radio and Audio Media.* In addition to this, check out Laura's more public facing scholarship: Both the excellent "How a CPB task force advanced a prescient vision for diversity in public radio" for *Current* and "Excellence, Reflexivity, and Racism: On Sociology's Nuclear Contradiction and Its Abiding Crisis," with Michael D. Kennedy and Prabhdeep S. Kehal for *Critical Historical Sociology*.

If you want to learn more about Laura's excellent work, check out the page "A Pedagogical Approach to Storytelling and Technology" that details her collaboration with Dr. Nic John Ramos (now of Drexel University) in Spring 2019

> *for a course taught within the Department of Africana Studies at Brown University called African American Health Activism from Colonialism to AIDS. We have crafted this page to provide guidance and help to educators interested in experimenting with podcasting as a pedagogical tool, particularly in courses where sound or radio is not the primary object of study.*

This panel, "Ethical Audio Stories: Teaching in the Age of the Sonic Color Line" was convened in conjunction with this course on April 18th, 2019 at the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities. The panel discussed questions such as:

> *If we are to be coming at the practice through a racial justice lens, does the code of ethics differ from journalistic professional ethics? Does it change the questions we ask? The way we interact with stories? How does this affect our notions of objectivity? How to make the audio storytelling more accessible: When we say audio storytelling has a "low barrier to entry," what aren't we considering in terms of resources and in terms of more complex cultural barriers?*

and also offered general tips to audio storytelling and a Q and A with the audience. For a full transcript of the podcast, click here: AFRI0550 ethical considerations panel transcript final

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**Moderator:**

**Laura Garbes** is a PhD student in sociology at Brown University, where she studies racism, whiteness, and cultural organizations. Her research explores the racialization of sound in public broadcasting. She is also a fellow at Brown University's Swearer Center for Public Service, and a member of the Du Boisian Scholar Network.

## Panelists:

**Alex Hanesworth** is the managing editor for *Now Hear This*. She grew up listening to audiobooks in a nook somewhere on Fidalgo Island, WA and now spends her days studying, teaching, and making radio for Now Here This and the RISD Museum. She mostly makes stories about art, history, intimacies, and the intersection of the three.

**Babette Thomas** is a Black radio producer originally from Oakland, California and is also one of the current managing editors of *Now Hear This*. Her work is largely concerned with using sound and narrative to bring Black history in conversation with the present.

**Jennifer Lynn Stoever** is Associate Professor at SUNY Binghamton where she teaches courses on African American literature and race and gender representation in popular music**.** She has published in *Social Text*, *Social Identities*, *Sound Effects*, *Modernist Cultures, American Quarterly* and *Radical History Review* among others; her most recent research, "Crate Digging Begins at Home: Black and Latinx Women Collecting and Selecting Records in the 1960s and 1970s Bronx" was published in *The Oxford Handbook of Hip Hop Studies* (and is FREE to download as of September 2019). In 2016, she published her first book, The Sonic Color Line: Race and the Cultural Politics of Listening (NYU Press).

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