



**Xing** and **LEA/Unimore**  
present

**Friday 6 March 2026 10 pm**

**ERNST KAREL/VERONIKA KUSUMARYATI**

***Expedition Content***

sonic cinema

**Raum**

Via Ca' Selvatica 4/d – Bologna

**Friday 6 March 2026** at 10 pm, **Xing** and the **LEA Laboratory of Ethno-Anthropology of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia** present at **Raum** in Bologna, ***Expedition Content***, sonic cinema by **Ernst Karel** and **Veronika Kusumaryati**.

With **Alessandra Gribaldo** and **Barbara Chitussi** (Unimore), and **Chiara Scardozzi** (Unibo).

***Expedition Content*** is an **immersive work of sonic ethnography** that draws on audio recordings made by recent college graduate and Standard Oil heir **Michael Rockefeller** as part of the so-called Harvard-Peabody Expedition to Netherlands New Guinea in 1961 to study the indigenous Hubula (also known as Dani) people. In their nearly imageless film, which actually is an **augmented sound work** 'composed' from 37 hours of field recording tape taken by the young Rockefeller, Karel and Kusumaryati document the strange encounter between the expedition and the Hubula people. The work explores and upends the power dynamics between anthropologist and subject, between image and sound, and turns the whole ethnographic project on its head.

*Expedition Content* has been screened at various film festivals around the world, including the Berlinale and Cinéma du réel.

**Ernst Karel** works with sound, including electroacoustic music, experimental nonfiction sound works for multichannel installation and performance, image-sound collaboration, and post-production sound for nonfiction film. Lately, he works around the practice of actuality/location recording and composing with those recordings, with recent projects also taking up archival audio. At the Sensory Ethnography Lab at Harvard University, he collaborated on sound for a number of films and developed and taught a practice-based course in 'sonic ethnography.'

**Veronika Kusumaryati** is a political and media anthropologist working in West Papua, a self-identifying term referring to Papua and West Papua provinces of Indonesia. Her scholarship engages with the theories and historiography of colonialism, decolonization, and postcoloniality. She holds a doctoral degree from the department of anthropology at Harvard with a secondary field in Film and Visual Studies. She is an affiliate of the Sensory Ethnography Lab and currently a postdoctoral fellow at Georgetown University.

Partners: Regione Emilia-Romagna, Comune di Bologna, Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Biblioteca Amilcar Cabral. Media Partners: Edizioni Zero, ATPdiary, NEU Radio.

**Raum**

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**www.xing.it** [https://www.xing.it/event/570/expedition\\_content](https://www.xing.it/event/570/expedition_content)

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