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Rodrigues, Dan

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Routine

Dan Rodrigues

(Translated from Portuguese by Jorge de La Barre)

Abstract

A daily sound report.

During the early morning period, the television volume is at 5% maximum. The gestures are careful not to disrupt the silence. Rare sounds coming from outside the window indicate the irregular sleep of the dogs, who usually wake up during the night, sometimes knocking and hitting objects and, more rarely, barking.

In the morning, the silence of dawn is replaced by timid birdsong, the sounds of the rest of the morning fauna and the beginning of activity in the house. Footsteps, distant conversations, sporadic barking, and a general increase in noise. Cell phone notifications begin to sound, doors begin to slam indicating that life is beginning to move.

Closer to the afternoon, the voices of neighbors begin to appear, the sounds of nearby units. Objects being moved, people talking, footsteps, knocking. Singing, bouncing balls; life no longer has any shame in making noise. From the late afternoon to the evening, the TVs start running and make more noise, at less contained volumes. My brother, as a young adult, now has a new routine of collective voice calls on the video game, usually starting around this time, and going on until dawn. These are forms that already existed, but that are strengthened now, by the context, a time of “viralization” in which pre-existing processes have accelerated and generalized, intensified.

Eventually, one or a few motorcycles pass outside, on the avenue, at high revs at high volume at down times, such as the early morning and early morning, causing a relative disruption in the coherence existing within the sounds of the daytime part. Not all engine noises, however, are unpleasant. Recently, a noisy present has been very welcome – a small fan, which relieves the heat of the Carioca Summer, in the routine inside the house.

16 April, 2021

Note: This piece was developed during the Sociology of Music class of the first semester of 2021 taught by Jorge de La Barre at Fluminense Federal University. Almost a year into the pandemic, during the week of Carnaval which, for obvious health and safety reasons, had been cancelled in Rio de Janeiro and everywhere else in Brazil, the idea of writing sound reports was launched, in “remote mode.”

About the author

Dan Rodrigues is an undergraduate student in sociology with the Sociology Department at Universidade Federal Fluminense (GSO-UFF), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Email: danrodrigues@id.uff.br.