

# Open CUBE

Sound, music, and sustainability;

We are but dust and shadows

Steve Williams



**Freitag, 24.11.2023, Lecture 18:00 Uhr, Konzert 20:00, IEM CUBE, Inffeldgasse 10/3, 8010 Graz**

In Zusammenarbeit mit der Gesellschaft zur Förderung von Elektronischer Musik und Akustik – GesFEMA



Steve Williams' talk will investigate the intersection of sound, music, and sustainability. Sustainability questions are in the middle of every part of the music scene. Or at least they could be. This talk explores how we can make the music ecosystem more sustainable, how we as artists can tell a sustainability story, and – perhaps most importantly – how artists can help reimagine the world. Through a series of case studies, the talk will surface the potential role that art can play in opening up imagination around possible just and sustainable futures and bringing these into being.

The talk will then explore the intersections of sustainability, health, data and sound in Williams' new techno composition 'We are but dust and shadows'. The composition investigates how sonification of air pollution data can be used for modulation of sound, mirroring the ways that unseen particles in the air affect humans and the environment – usually in ways we do not notice or understand. The talk will conclude with insights into the sonification process, sound design, and live performance hardware setup.

Following the talk, Williams will perform 'We are but dust and shadows' - a live experimental techno set as 'drusnoise' with analog and digital modular synthesizers, samplers, FX pedals, iPad granular synths, and analog drum machines. Additional sounds and modulations derive from public air pollution data, live sample and loop manipulation, field recordings, and scientific lectures.

Data artist: Lisa Knolle

Data sources: World Air Quality Index - Graz Air Pollution: Real-time Air Quality Index (AQI), <https://aqicn.org/city/graz/> | Das Serviceportal des Landes Steiermark, <https://app.luis.steiermark.at/luft2/suche.php>

## Biography

**Steve Williams** aka drusnoise is a live, electronic music producer, techno performer, sound artist, and co-founder of Berlin Modular Society. He is curator of sustain.fm, a platform for connecting sound, music, and sustainability through research, events, workshops, live performances, research, and an online radio show hosted by RBL.radio. drusnoise integrates analog modular synthesizers with digital FX and organic samples to create a style that flows from lush ambient tones to gritty techno. drusnoise also releases and performs experimental sound art works incorporating field recordings, sonified climate change data, and feedback loops.

Known in the outside world as Dr. Steve Williams, his academic work includes conducting and publishing research on sustainable energy transition and energy justice in Canada, Germany, and Sweden along with research and publication on data sonification. Recent research and publication have explored how sound and music can support sustainability transitions and the use of soundscapes in urban planning in Utrecht, NL and Göteborg, SE. He is currently a Guest Researcher at Chalmers University of Technology, Artistic Researcher in Residence at IEM, Affiliate Scholar at the Research Institute for Sustainability in Potsdam DE, and Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University, School of Resource and Environmental Management in Vancouver CA

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Details zur Open CUBE Konzertreihe und CUBE Lectures unter:

<https://iem.kug.ac.at/veranstaltungen/veranstaltungsreihen/open-cube-cube-lecture/>