



Music and Sound Seminar Series

## **Listening to the Past: Street Hawkers and Cairo's Lost Sounds**

By Ziad Fahmy

**July 21, 2025 at 2pm  
at CEDEJ or online via Zoom**

### **Abstract:**

In "Listening to the Past," I examine everyday life in Egypt using sound and the politics of sound as one of the key tools for uncovering the changes that went on in the Egyptian urban streets during the rapidly shifting first half of the twentieth century. By listening-in to the changes materializing in the Egyptian streets, we can get a lot closer to the embodied mundane realities of everyday pedestrians, street peddlers, and commuters. This allows for a more micro-historical examination of everyday people's interactions with each other and helps us evaluate the impact of the various street-level technological and infrastructural manifestations of modern Egyptian street-life.

**Ziad Fahmy** is a Professor of Modern Middle East History at Cornell University's department of Near Eastern Studies. Professor Fahmy is the author of [\*Street Sounds: Listening to Everyday Life in Modern Egypt\*](#) (Stanford University Press, 2020). *Street Sounds* was a co-winner of the Urban History Association's 2021 Award for Best Book

in Non-North American Urban History. He also wrote [\*Ordinary Egyptians: Creating the Modern Nation through Popular Culture\*](#) (Stanford University Press, 2011), and is currently writing his third book, tentatively titled, *Broadcasting Identity: Radio and the Making of Modern Egypt, 1925-1952*.

**Register now to attend online, as no registration is required to attend in person:**

[Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

**\*\*The Music and Sound Seminar series is convened by Sophie Frankford and Dalia Ibraheem\*\***