CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Johan Malmstedt

Born 14 January 1992

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Johan Malmstedt is a postdoctoral researcher at the Gothenburg Research Infrastructure for Digital Humanities (GRIDH), University of Gothenburg and metaLAB@Harvard. He is a recipient of the **Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet) International Postdoctoral Grant (2025–2028)** for the project *Audiovisual Aesthetics in Formation: Comparative and Computational Analysis of Transatlantic Television Style, 1970–1989.* He is also co-founder of the Vetenskapsrådet-funded research project "*Lägg ut! Lägg ut!": Terrorismens audiovisuella mediering i svensk television 1968–1987.*

His research interests include digital humanities, cultural history, sound studies, computational media analysis, and media arts and design, with a focus on large-scale audiovisual archives and comparative analysis of audiovisual culture.

Publications

Books

2025 **Sound out of Time: Signal Archaeology of Swedish Public Service Radio, 1980–1999**, Doctoral dissertation, Umeå University

2026 **Formatfrågor** (forthcoming). Mediehistoriskt Arkiv / Kriterium.

Articles and Book Chapters

2022 "Rhythms of Silence: Digital Audio Analysis of Swedish Radio Broadcasting, 1980–1989", article in *Journal of Cultural Analytics* 7.1, pp. 108–138. DOI: https://doi.org/10.22148/001c.34715.

2022 "Collecting Silences: A comparative analysis of silence in Swedish radio from P1 and P3, 1980–1989", article in *The 6th Digital Humanities in the Nordic and Baltic Countries Conference (DHNB 2022)*, pp. 326–333.

2022 "Ljudarkivet som källa: en problemtaxonomi för ljudforskning", article in *Kulturella perspektiv: Svensk etnologisk tidskrift* 31*,* Umeå.

2022 "Informationens ljud: om ljuddata som forskningsmaterial", chapter in *Teori som metod* (eds. Bo Nilsson; Alf Arvidsson), Umeå: Umeå universitet, vol. 1, pp. 85–100. Series: Etnologiska skrifter, ISSN 1103-6516; 70.

2023 "Partikongressens form: Historiemetodologiska skalövningar i ljuddata från arbetarrörelsens kongresser, 1968–1978", book chapter in *Lychnos: Årskrift för idé- och lärdomshistoria,* Stockholm, pp. 209–233. DOI: 10.48202/24051

2023 "The Noise of the News: Spectral analysis of early Swedish television news 1958–1978*"* article in *VIEW Journal of European Television History and Culture,* Special edition "Curation and Appropriation of Digital European Heritage". DOI: https://doi.org/10.18146/view.291

2024 "Scale Exercises: Listening to Sonic Diversity in 5000 hours of Swedish Radio with Computers and Ears", book chapter in *Zoomland*, De Gruyter. DOI:10.1515/9783111317779-009

2024 "Formatted Sound: Channel Identity and Musical Variation in Swedish Radio, 1988–

1999", article in *M/C Journal* 27.2.
DOI:10.5204/mcj.3028

2025 **"**Mapping radio: Variations on segmentation and analysis of Swedish broadcasting data", article in *Journal of Digital History*, De Gruyter (2025).

2025 **"**Speaking Amplitudes: Dynamical Variation in Swedish Radio Broadcasting, 1980–1998." Journal of Radio & Audio Media (2025), pp 1–17.

2025 "A Distant Technology? Experiments with a Generative Model for Retouching Noisy Newspaper OCR", paper in HiC 2025: Huminfra Conference Proceedings, Stockholm.

2025 "Living Library of Trees: Mapping Knowledge Ecology in Arnold Arboretum", paper in IEEE VIS Arts Program (VISAP), IEEE Computer Society. DOI:10.48550/arXiv.2509.00114

2026 "Playing the Archive: Audiovisual Latent Space Exploration with The Ocular Harpsichord 2.0",
paper in IEEE VIS Arts Program (VISAP 2026), IEEE Computer Society (forthcoming).

Forthc. "Soundscape Data: A Critical Introduction to the Analysis and Curation of Field Recordings",
peer-reviewed teaching resource in #DLFteach Toolkit vol. 5, Digital Library Federation.

Employment and Academic Appointments

Current
Postdoctoral Researcher, Gothenburg Research Infrastructure for Digital Humanities (GRIDH), University of Gothenburg and metaLAB@Harvard
- Recipient of the **Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet) International Postdoctoral Fellowship (2025–2028)**.
- Project: *"Audiovisual Aesthetics in Formation: Comparative and Computational Analysis of Transatlantic Television Style, 1970–1989."*
- **Researcher** at **metaLAB, Harvard University**.
- **Co-founder and Researcher**, Swedish Research Council-funded project *"Lägg ut! Lägg ut!": Terrorismens audiovisuella mediering i svensk television 1968–1987.*

2026–
Acting Programme Coordinator, Master's Programme in Critical Studies, University of Gothenburg (from July 2026).

2025
Research Designer, *Soundscapes of Warning: The Past, Present and Futures of Viktigt Meddelande till Allmänheten (VMA)*

2020–2025
Doctoral Researcher (PhD Student), Department of Media and Communication Studies, Umeå University
- Dissertation: Sound out of Time: Signal Archaeology of Swedish Public Service Radio, 1980–1999
- Supervisors: Pelle Snickars and Johan Jarlbrink

2023–2024
Researcher, *Welfare State Analytics* (WESTAC)

2020–2024
Program Group Member, Humlab, Umeå University

2023–2025
Project Leader, *Format Inquiries: Methodological Approaches to Format Studies*
- SLUGU-funded research group (with Zakayo Kjellström).
- Project culminating in an anthology published by **Mediehistoriskt Arkiv / Kriterium**.

Education

2020–2025 **PhD Student in Media and Communication Studies**, Umeå University.
With a focus on Digital Humanities.

Dissertation
Title: Sound out of Time: Signal Archaeology of Swedish Public Service Radio, 1980–1999. The dissertation explores the way radio aesthetics change under different media ecological conditions while offering a new methodological and theoretical framework.
Supervisors: Pelle Snickars, Johan Jarlbrink.

2017–2020 **MA in the Human Sciences**, University of Gothenburg.
With a focus on Digital Humanities.

2015–2017 **MA in the Human Sciences**, University of Gothenburg.
With a focus on Critical Theory.

2012–2015 **BA in the Human Sciences**, University of Gothenburg
With a focus on History of Ideas

Peer-reviewed conference presentations and public lectures (selected)

2019 **Irish Sound, Science and Technology Association 9th annual conference and festival**.
*"*Performing the Future of Natural sounds: a Case Study of Two Approaches to Natural Sound Documents*",* University College Cork.

2019 **Aural Diversity**
*"*Ecological Ears*",* University of Leicester.

2021 **A Digital Symposium on Digital Audiobooks**
*"*Tracking The Audio Book Narrator*", with Alexandra Borg and Erik Wikberg,* Gothenburg University.

2021 **Digarv Annual Meeting 2021**
*"*Välfärdsstaten analyserad. Textanalys och modellering av svensk politik, media och kultur, 1945–1989", with Johan Jarlbrink and Pelle Snickars, Stockholm.

2021 **Nordmedia 2021**

*"*From Auspicious Technology To Niche Plaything: The history of SSTV", with Zakayo Kjellström, Reykjavik University.

2021 **Digital History in Swedish 2021**
*"*The Noise of the News: Spectral analysis of early Swedish television news 1958–1978", Umeå University.

2022 **Digital Humanities in the Nordic and Baltic Countries**
"Collecting Silences: A comparative analysis of silence in Swedish radio from P1 and P3, 1980–1989", Uppsala University.

2022 **Fonetik 2022**
*"*Gunnar Fant as a Scientific Medium", Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm.

2022 **KOM Seminar series 2022**
Presenting *"*Audio data as historical source material", Department of Communication and Media, Lund.

2022 **NECS 2022**
Presenting *"*Atlas of Noise: Mapping spectral activity in Swedish television news 1958–1978", University of Bucharest.

2022 **2nd DARIAH-HR International Conference "Digital Humanities & Heritage"**
"Scale Exercises for Digital Humanities: Listening to 5000 Hours of Swedish Radio with Computers and Ears", Rijeka.

2023 **European Social Science History Conference**
"The Same Old Song: Harmonic Complexity in Parliamentary Speeches, 1978–1988", Gothenburg.

2023 **metaLAB @ Harvard seminar series**
Presenting "In Pursuit of Sonic Formulas: Computational methods and the MPCOL", Harvard University, Boston

2023 **AMCR Conference**
"Radio Analysis: Experiments on the Threshold Between Signals and Narratives", Lyon.

2023 **„Medien, die wir meinen" Kolloquium**
Presenting "Operationalizing Similarity: Steps Towards a Media History of Vector Modeling" by Johan Malmstedt & Sebastian Kawanami-Breu, Institut für Musik- und Medienwissenschaft. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

2023 **Computational Humanities Research 2023**
Presenting "Radio Entropy: Experiments with large-scale audio data", Paris.

2024 **Teknik- och vetenskapshistoriska dagarna 2024**
Moderator of the panel *"Formatfrågor"*, Stockholm.

2024 **metaLAB @ Harvard seminar series**
Presenting "Arboretum stories: Mapping the Production of Knowledge in the Botanical Garden", Harvard University, Boston

2024 **EASST-4S Conference**
"Sonic Similitude: The Significance of Similarity Metrics in the Context of AED", as part of the panel "Machine Listening: Dissonance and Transformation", Amsterdam

2024 **Digital Theory Lab**,
Presenting "The Similarity Engine: Steps Towards a Media History of Vector Modeling" by Johan Malmstedt & Sebastian Kawanami-Breu. New York University, New York

2025 **DH2025**
Co-arranger of pre-conference "Audiovisual Hack-a-thon: Exploring Methods and Data through Inclusive Collaboration", Lisbon

2025 **SOUND+PURPOSE Conference**
"Signal Archaeology and the Audiovisual Everyday", Inaugural conference of the SOUND+ Network for Transdisciplinary Research in Sound, Lund

2025 **IEEE VIS Arts Program**
"Living Library of Trees: Mapping Knowledge Ecology in Arnold Arboretum", Vienna

2026 **DHNB2026**
"The Multimodal Television Generation: Experimental Synchronization in Early U.S. and Swedish Children's Television", Aarhus.

Grants and stipends

- **Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet)** — International Postdoctoral Grant, 2025–2028, SEK 3,900,000. Audiovisual Aesthetics in Formation: Comparative and Computational Analysis of Transatlantic Television Style, 1970–1989.
- **Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet)** — Project Grant, 2026–2029, SEK 6,236,000 (total project grant). "Lägg ut! Lägg ut!": Terrorismens audiovisuella mediering i svensk television 1968–1987. Co-investigator; PI: Daniel Brodén.
- **Leventhal Map & Education Center, Boston Public Library** — Small Grant for Early Career Digital Publications, 2026–2027, USD 1,200.

Smaller grants and stipends:

- **Kungl. och Hvitfeldtska stiftelsen, Överskottsfonden** — Publication Grant, 2026. Formatfrågor.
- **Olle Engkvists Stiftelse** — Publication Grant, 2026. Formatfrågor.
- **SLUGU (Stockholm, Lund, Uppsala, Gothenburg and Umeå Universities)** — Collaboration Grant, 2023–2025. Format Inquiries: Methodological Approaches to Format Studies.
- **Center for Transdisciplinary AI (TAIGA)** — Project Grant. History of Vector Models.
- **Åforsk Foundation** — Personal Stipend.
- **Royal Swedish Academy of Music** — Personal Stipend.

Teaching experience

- **Umeå University (2021–2024):** teaching and course design at bachelor's and advanced level, including Digital and Social Media, Digital Source Criticism, Contemporary Research in Media and Communication Studies, Language and Communication, project courses, and thesis supervision — approximately 1,017 teaching hours in total.
- **Chalmers University of Technology:** teaching in History of Technology (current).
- **University of Gothenburg:** supervision and examination of master's and bachelor's theses (digital humanities; history of ideas; the Europa Programme and Liberal Arts).
- **Guest lectures on sound and media history:** "Data Wise" (minor) and "Cultural Geography" (MA) at the University of Groningen; invited lectures at Harvard University, New York University, and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.
- **Pedagogical consulting** on coding and audio analysis at Lund University and Linnaeus University.

- **Higher education pedagogy:** course in teaching and learning in higher education, Umeå University (2023), validated as equivalent to PIL101 and PIL102 at the University of Gothenburg; PIL201 Supervision of Doctoral Students, University of Gothenburg (2025); PIL103 planned for 2027.
- **Peer-reviewed teaching resource (forthcoming):** "Soundscape Data: A Critical Introduction to the Analysis and Curation of Field Recordings", contribution to the #DLFteach Toolkit (Digital Library Federation).

Selected appointments and assignments

2022
Programme Committee Member, "Digital Transformations: The Humanities in Challenging Times", Humlab, Umeå University.
2023
Academic Quality Audit, quality audit for the Graduate School of Media Studies, University of Gothenburg.
2024–2026
Programme Committee Member, Digital Humanities in the Nordic and Baltic Countries (DHNB2025, Tartu, and DHNB2026, Aarhus).
2024
Member, NEH-supported Machine Listening working group.
2024
Artistic research work, "ich bin im Kino gewesen", displayed at the Offene Räume conference, Leipzig.
2024–ongoing
Founding Member, Arboretum Stories: Mapping the Production of Knowledge in the Botanical Garden (metaLAB @ Harvard).
ongoing
Associate Editor and Developer, *Lab Notes* — peer-reviewed, open-access journal on research design and method; editorial collaboration with MetaLab at Harvard University, the Narrative Intelligence Lab at Columbia University, and LitLab at KAIST.

Professional affiliations

Current

- Affiliated researcher, metaLAB @ Harvard (Berkman Klein Center), Harvard University.
- Affiliated researcher, GRIDH, University of Gothenburg.
- Visiting researcher, University of Copenhagen (September–December 2026).

Previous

- Affiliated researcher, Digital Theory Lab, New York University.
- Affiliated researcher, Humlab, Umeå University.

Languages and technical proficiency

- **Languages:** Swedish (native), English (fluent), German (intermediate).
- **Programming:** Python (advanced) — data analysis, machine learning, and custom computational workflows; JavaScript (proficient) — client-side scripting, interactive data visualisation, and web application development.
- **Audio engineering:** trained in acoustic ecology, sound design, and electroacoustic composition under Barry Truax at Simon Fraser University; practical experience in audio engineering and sound recording.