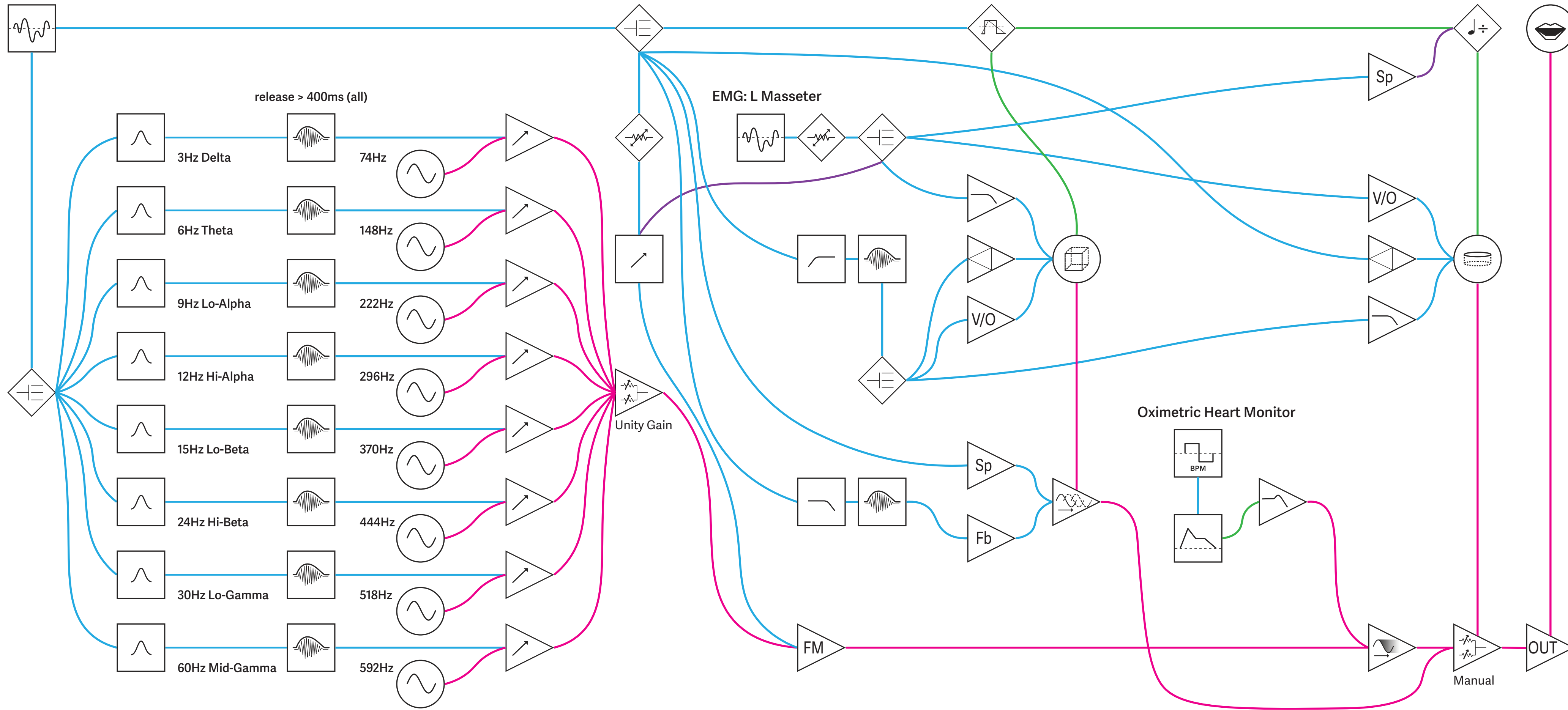


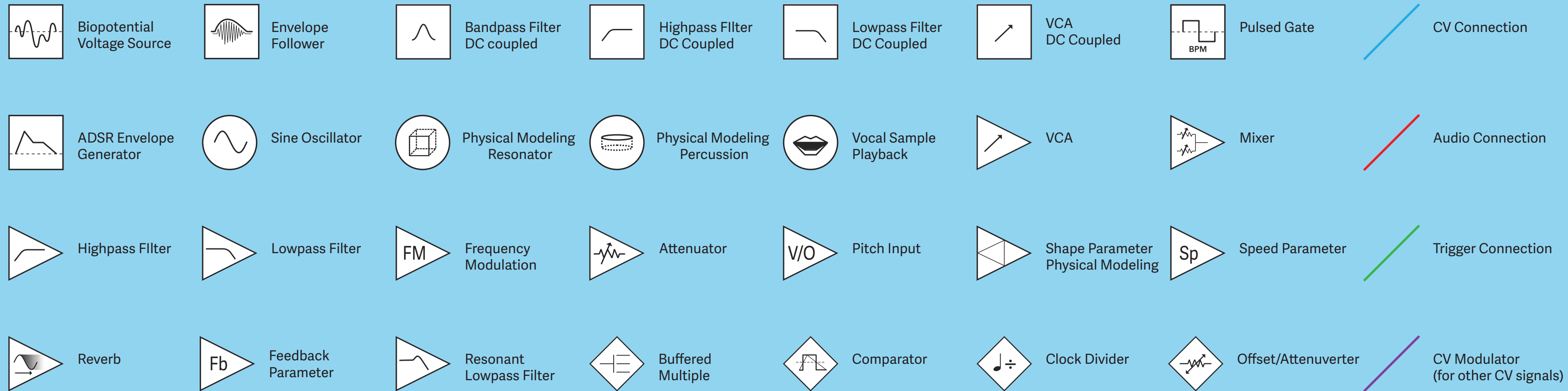
Other Minds

American Dreams/Asian Nightmares part 2 of 3
by Yan-Jie Micah Huang, 2022

EEG: 1 Electrode L Frontal



Legend



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*To be the Other
Is to be a stranger,
Surrounded by a crowd
of people who Belong*

*To know that their bodies
voices and stories
take precedence over your own
And to wonder:*

*What separates me from these people?
What unspoken assumptions?
What prejudices and judgements?*

*Am I missing something here?
Am I doing something wrong,
or is it that "people like me" are really, truly, just
less strong
Less good
Less beautiful?*

*What makes these people tolerate me in their space?
What parts of myself should I show, or hide?
What happens when I stumble, and they decide
My time is up?*

The following are real tweets, posted between Jan 15, 2020 and Mar 26, 2021. They were collected by researchers at Georgia Tech, and made available upon publication of the study Racism is a Virus: Anti-Asian Hate and Counterspeech in Social Media during the COVID-19 Crisis.

These Tweets contain overtly hateful language. Not only racist terms, but sexist ones as well, for Asian-ness and Femininity are deeply entangled in the Western mind.

Some offensive terms have been redacted in an attempt to protect our non-Asian allies. Others have not. Members of the audience who are sensitive to racist language may want to consider leaving the auditorium for the next few minutes.

I wish the reality behind these words were as easy to escape. However, those of us born Other carry these words with us every day of our lives. To face them, and come to grips with the pain they represent, is not so much a choice for us, as an inevitability.

*If we can face this pain together, then maybe someday
I can sing you a different tune
One which is loving, carefree, and untouched
By the shadow of my otherness*

- Look at These Chinese Bastards America! LET'S KEEP THESE CHINK BASTARDS OUT OF AMERICA!! #ChinkVirus #ChineseVirus #ChineseVirusCorona #ChinaLiedPeopleDied*
- Lmao !!! A Chinese corona virus hate crime ? You got to be kidding me. Must of been a democrat...the biggest racists in America*
- Pussies.. That's what the Chinese are known for...retreat Losers!!! #ChineseVirus*
- Racist ass Chinese, Made a virus for blacks and brown people!*
- You're a 5'S asian male whose [not] a doctor, you're the epitome of irrelevant, in fact you're a detriment (Chinese virus / intellectual theft / stealing us tech) Go Fuck yourself shrimp if u don't like TRUMP*

*At this point you may well ask:
Why are we doing this?
Why devote our art to grappling with the horror of our other-ness?
But what choice do we have?*

*Until the day that "Chinese" is no longer a code word
for untrustworthy, unattractive, and un-American
We must fight.*

*Until the day that our fellow Americans love our people
of all genders
as much as they love our food
We must fight.*

*Until the day that we can sing the blues and quote Langston
Hughes
our fellow American
without being accused of "inauthenticity", we must fight because
This
is what happens to a dream deferred.
We are perpetual foreigners
strangers
in the land where we were born
But that can change*

*The struggles we face as Asian Americans overlap
with the struggles faced by other
others*

*The fight against racism feels righteous
because it is so relatable
and while we may be different from
other
Americans*

*We are also similar, we are
All
So
Similar*

*And I'm not just talking about "Asians."
I'm talking about everyone
who struggles
for justice*