

Internoise 2013

Author:

Klaus Genuit

Keynote Title:

The need for transdisciplinary actions - Psychoacoustics, Sound Quality, Soundscape and Environmental Noise

Abstract:

In spite of long-term endeavours to significantly reduce noise annoyance in cities, a great deal of persons is still suffering from environmental noise. It is very evident that a general rethinking is needed. Different disciplines must work more closely together to achieve a substantial sustainable reduction of noise annoyance. It is more than only about sound pressure levels violating or complying with a regulation. In contrast to this simple way of thinking, in the field of psychoacoustics and “sound quality” different psychoacoustic and hearing-related parameters are available, which allow for describing meticulously various hearing sensations. Moreover, the relatively young discipline “soundscape” can also greatly contribute to tackle recent environmental noise issues. It considers closely human perception including cognitive aspects, context and interaction going beyond physics and psychoacoustics. It involves a concept, where environmental noise is not reduced to an averaged quantity evoking only unpleasantness feelings, but noise is understood as a valuable resource, which can be purposefully utilized.

The main ideas of psychoacoustics, sound quality and soundscape will be introduced, the potential interaction of these disciplines will be discussed and finally their benefit to current environmental noise issues will be presented.

PACS: 43.66.Lj (Perceptual effects of sound); 43.50.Qp (Effects of noise on man and society)

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