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Session: Soundscape Developments: Case Studies and Best Practices

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Title: Identification of Distinctive Patterns and Features in Soundscapes

Abstract:

The environmental noise of several cities located all over the world was recorded, compared and analyzed. The analyses were focused on the determination of distinctive features and significant patterns of the respective soundscapes, which lead to the unique sound of the urban places and which are important because of their individuality, numerousness or domination. By means of this study and the applied analyses, several acoustical properties, particularities and patterns were identified, which could be the starting point for an acoustical-orientated soundscape classification. It was found that the environmental noise differs, for example, in character, spectral content, time structure, degree of variation of certain parameters, background to foreground relationship caused by the location-specific noise sources and their spatial as well as temporal occurrence. It is important to emphasize that the acoustical analyses, on the one hand, have to capture the “global”, overall impression of the soundscape and, on the other hand, must recognize and adequately interpret single noise events, which also cause strong reactions and emotions. The presentation will show and discuss the case study results.