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Session: Noise Impacts and Soundscapes at Outdoor Gathering Spaces

Title: In-situ measurements of soundscapes at outdoor gathering spaces – how to consider reliability aspects

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Status: Invited

Abstract:

It is well acknowledged that soundscape investigations must be carried out in the original context. Original contexts like outdoor gathering spaces show usually a strongly varying behavior and are highly uncontrolled. Therefore, if outdoor spaces with highly time-variant noise conditions are considered, it appears difficult to measure reliably the status quo of the site under scrutiny, reflecting measurement uncertainties appropriately. When and how long must be measured, how must residents or visitors be interviewed to obtain reliable and valid data are emerging questions in the context of soundscape investigations.

To investigate the reliability of acoustic as well as perceptual measurement data gained by in-situ measurements at specific outdoor gathering spaces, consecutive acoustic and perceptual measurements were performed in Aachen and analyzed. Based on these measurements some basic requirements to be met regarding reliability and validity were derived and will be discussed. Such investigations are relevant for the preparation of the second part of the International Standard on Soundscape ISO 12913-2 dealing with data collection.

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