

Bernd Rohrmann 2009 Workshop		Memo #2 updated 08-03-09
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Workshop April 2009
"Physiological & socio-psychological risks from loud music in public venues"
TOPICS TO BE TREATED

THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC

The issue to be dealt with in the 2009 workshop:

*"Is loud music in public venues (such as pubs, cafes, restaurants, gyms, shops)
a physiological and/or a socio-psychological hazard which puts people at risk?"*

This refers to sounds provided by the music systems which are run in most public places; these soundscapes are handled by the venue's management and not under the control of the visitors/customers.

ISSUES TO BE TREATED

So far, five issues are chosen as essential when judging the risks from loud music:

⊙ **Impacts of loud music in acoustic & medical outcomes**

Questions arising: Can the exposure to venue music induce hearing impairments? If yes, temporary or permanent threshold shift (TTS, PTS, NIPTS)? If 'only' TTS, for how long?

⊙ **Why 'loud' music in decibel terms may not be perceived as 'loud' event**

Questions arising: Many people seem music played at L-eq levels of 70 or 80 dB[A] not to sense as loud - is this influenced by walkman/ipod habits? Do young urban people simply don't know quiet environments?

⊙ **The effects on social interactions, especially on communication style and intensity**

Questions arising: To what degree is communication via talking impeded by venue music? Can people compensate that by changed social behavior? If so, which 'modus operandi' is used?

⊙ **The significance of the loudness of music in public venues**

Questions arising: How important is it for people that music is played at a high level? Is it linked to sentiments like optimism, confidence, power, enthusiasm, craze, unruliness? Do young people see it as a social 'must'?

⊙ **Cross-cultural differences in the acceptance, or not, of risky music levels**

Questions arising: Is the commonness of loud music in cafes and pubs an Australian phenomenon, or occurring worldwide? Where did it emerge, and why? How do cultures differ in accepting that loud music affects how people communicate with each other?

PROCEDURE

For each topic: Presentation of relevant findings by 1-2 participants or BR; then group discussion.

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