Workshop April 2009
"Physiological & socio-psychological risks from loud music in public venues"
EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THIS WORKSHOP

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.

THE RATIONALE FOR MY '2M3R' WORKSHOPS

Each event is focussed on a topic which is multidisciplinary, complex by nature, and provoking contradictory interpretation. The rationale for the workshop is: To induce an intensive discussion about the meaning of existing findings, about the potential reasons for unclear or incoherent research results, and about conceptual or practical implications. Therefore people of different background are invited, that is, researchers from several disciplines as well as practitioners, plus citizens who like to think about intricate issues.

AIMS

In some divergence from the current university culture, in which publication numbers count more than anything else - the core aim of my '2M3R' Workshop is *thinking* rather than writing!
Here are major questions to deal with when debating and judging the risks from loud music:

- ☑ Why are health considerations and the defacto-noise levels in many venues in conflict?
- ☑ Does exposure to loud music actually induces long-term damage?
- ☑ Is it true that the perception "loud'' needs higher sound levels in uban environments?
- ☑ Are young people predisposed to desire loud music?
- ☑ Is communication via talking reduced by venue music, and/or changed in its nature?
- ☑ Should we worry about communication becoming shallower or harsher?
- ☑ Is it the case that loud music is essential for sentiments like optimism, power, craze?
- ☑ Is the commonness of loud music an Australian phenomenon, or occurring worldwide?
- ☑ Is it a social 'must' that venues like cafes, pubs, gyms present loud music?

For each isse, finally a summary statement about core insights and suggestions for future proceedings is to be gained.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

In a long-term perspective, the '2M3R' Workshop should have three outcomes:

- ❖ A conclusion whether the "loud-music-in-public-venues" issue is serious enough to strive for measures which reduce unacceptable impacts;
- ❖ Identification of research needs, in order to better understand what so far is unclear or contradictive;
- ❖ Consideration of the issue "Soundscapes in Public Places" in future publications.