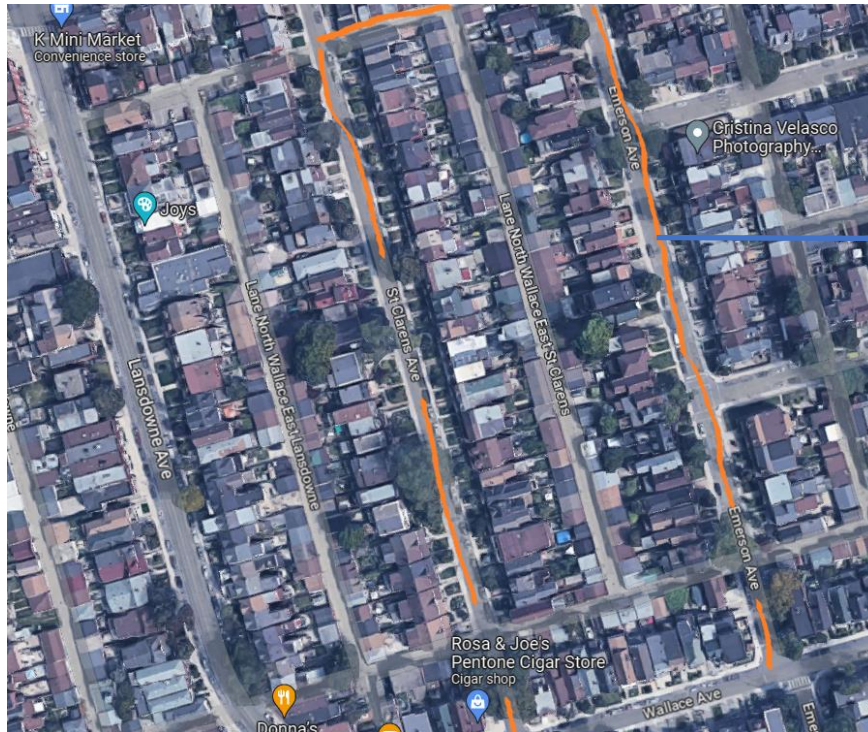


## EXPERIMENT C 4: Auditory Engagement in Toronto Bloordale Neighbourhood

**Participant:** Christine Samuel

**April 15, 2023 4:30-7pm including feedback interview**

**Neighbourhood:** Toronto Bloordale



Neighbourhood Streets explored:  
Three streets: Emerson Avenue,  
Lane North Wallace  
St. Clarens Avenue

The participant has been a practitioner of 'deep listening' for the past 5 years. She was interested in exploring auditory scores only. During the experiment Score A and Score H were explored. Due to the temporal nature of the score, we were not able to explore the remaining sound scores but the participants will explore them on her own and report to me her feedback/experience.

### **Score A: The Neighbourhood Street Soundscape Listening**

**Preparation:** You can blind fold yourself or walk with your eyes closed. Ask a friend or a family member to guide you during this blind-walking activity.

#### **Procedure:**

- Hold your friend/family member's hand and start walking on the sidewalk of your street with your eyes closed ----Walk slowly and listen deeply and mindfully to the soundscape of this street block ---- If a sound catches your attention, pause, listen and tell your friend what you heard. What kind of a sound is it – natural or man-made sound? How many kinds of natural and man-made sound have you heard on your street today? Or is silence the only sound that you hear on your street today?
- Repeat a) on two other neighbouring street blocks.

- c) What differences do you notice between the soundscapes of these three street blocks?
- d) Repeat this activity at different times of the day and listen to how the soundscapes of these street blocks change throughout the day.
- e) Repeat this activity on weekend vs. weekday and listen to how the soundscapes of these street blocks vary between weekends and weekdays.

### Score B: Walking in Search of a Human Sound

Walk on your street blind folded or not  
 Walk many times  
 How many? I have no guesses  
 Walk forward  
 Walk backward  
 Walk slowly though  
 Listen deeply and mindfully  
 Is anyone talking? Anyone laughing? Anyone crying? Anyone yawning? Anyone walking?  
 No? Then keep walking.  
 Tired already, are you?  
 Pause  
 Sit in front of a house.  
 Is there any living soul inside?  
 Any child crying, any music playing?  
 Nothing, eh?  
 But do not give up  
 Walk your day, walk your night  
 In search of a human voice by your side  
 Have you heard one? Not yet.  
 Walk on Abbey, walk on Halsey, walk on Madonna, walk on Rigby.  
 Do not give up.  
 There is always next day.  
 Have you heard one today? Where was it on your street? When was it?  
 How did it make you feel? Did it make the street tremble with life?  
 Remember this moment because it wasn't easily earned.

These are street names from my  
 neighbourhoods. I used them for  
 site-specific installations. They can  
 be changed to reflect other  
 neighbourhood streets.



### Score C: The Cultural Listening

**Preparation:** You will find more people in the park during summer months than in any other seasons in Canada. In summer months, many sports activities are also held in the neighbourhood sports field for the community.

#### Procedure:

- a) Walk to neighbourhood park or the sports field during such events ---- Walk close to the audience area ---- Walk between people ---- Walk with people from an audible distance ---- Listen to the language they use for conversing among themselves.
- b) How many languages have you heard today? What is the cultural landscape of your neighbourhood public space?
- c) Repeat this activity in your neighbourhood streets on a summer long weekend, specifically Victoria Day weekend or Canada Day weekend when many people are outside working in their front gardens.

### Score D: Eavesdropping on the Youth

**Preparation:** Every neighbourhood in Toronto has a public school. Find out when it is on lunch break and when the school hours end.

**Procedure:**

- a) Take strolls on the street during the school lunch break---- Students walk to the nearest plaza to buy lunch --  
--- Walk with them from a distance ---- Listen to their conversations---- They talk, they whisper, they laugh, they swear, they yell, they sing ---- You may not understand what they say but simply listen to the rhythm of their conversations ---- Do the streets feel alive with these youthful sounds?
- b) Repeat this activity when the school ends in the afternoon.
- c) If one day this youthful sound during lunch hour gets permanently replaced by the sound of the machine, how would you experience your street sonically?

**Score E: The Soundbathing in the Neighbourhood Greenspace**

**Preparation:** This activity takes place in protected forest conservation area or in ravine. If you do not have an easy access to such areas in your neighbourhood, try it in an open green space in your neighbourhood.

**Procedure:**

- a) Take a slow walk in the forest/ravine ---- Listen to different sounds that the forest offers you as you walk through it ---- Let go your constant analytical mind but keep the curiosity alive---- If you see a bed of tall grasses, walk close to it. Find a comfortable spot to stand. Close your eyes and listen to the sound of their movements. Move with that sound. Imagine you are one of the tall grasses. ---- If a tall, large, mature tree in the forest attracts your attention, lie down under it and stay for 10-15 minutes with your eyes closed. Imagine the tree leaves are talking. What are they saying to you and at what rhythm? ---- If you come across a water source such as a creek or a river in the ravine, first walk slowly along it and listen deeply to the sound of the water. Then stand at one spot, close your eyes and imagine you are the water. What kind of sound do you hear now?---- If you come across a valley in the ravine, walk there and start clapping or make a loud sound. Imagine you are calling your friend. Can you hear the echo of your sound?
- b) As the season changes, so does our natural environment. To develop a more awareness of your neighbourhood public green spaces, try this activity in different seasons by visiting the same places and noticing the changes in the acoustic environment.

**Score H: The Traffic Dance/Mind disrupted**

**Preparation:** Traffic sound is the most dominant sound in and around my neighbourhood. Try this during the rush hour in the morning and repeat different times of the day.

Research Question I am asking: It has been well established that walking outdoor helps in thinking. Friedrich Nietzsche once said that "All truly great thoughts are conceived by walking." In this experiment I am asking how does a soundscape overloaded with traffic sound influence the thinking process of a pedestrian?

**Procedure:**

- a) Stand at a street corner where the main street and your neighbourhood street meet ---- Keep your eyes closed and try developing a thought : the thought could be about a dream, a book that you read last night or things that you will need to do today---- You are also aware of the soundscape you are in ---- As soon as your thought gets interrupted by the sound of traffic, create a small movement through your body to indicate the interruption---- Once that traffic sound disappears continue with your thought if you can---- Continue this

process every time your thought gets interrupted by the traffic sound ---- Ask a friend or a family member to film your 'Traffic Dance'

- b) Continue this for 15-20 minutes. How many times have you been bombarded by the traffic sound within this short period of time and how far have you managed to develop the thought that you started with?

Feedback Questions: Immediately after the experiment

1. For each score, what has been your experience with the sonic environment of your neighbourhood public spaces?  
Feedback on Score H: check audio file 'Traffic Dance Feedback' C:\Users\dewan\Desktop\Academic Writing\2022 Activities\Fontys University Research\Project Assignment\PA11\All Attachments\Participatory Experiments
2. How does it change your relationship with your neighbourhood? By relationship, I do not mean you need to become more social or become more frequent user of public spaces. I mean rather how does this public space sonic engagement change your perception of your neighbourhood?

Follow-up Feedback interview conducted in May, 3 weeks after the experiment:

Need to be edited and uploaded