

Instructions:

Put on Headphones

Please rate what you're hearing on the scale and with three words from the choiceboard

Now, you're invited to play around with the mixer
Relevant sliders and knobs are marked
Create a soundscape that to you is on the verge
between noise and music

After five minutes, we'll ask you to leave the mixer for the next person

noisy	unengaging	rhythmic	embracing
stressing	harsh	simple	harmonious
powerful	excessive	soft	deep
motivating	shallow	immersive	calming

noise ←————→ music

Evaluation: SoundShapes

The experiment showed that the two dimensions we provided to the participants, despite different subjective descriptions with the adjectives, nevertheless showed a similar sensation regarding the noise music scale.

So the identification of the boundary between noise and music seems to meet with more agreement than the description of it. In particular, the experiment shows how differentiated sound is perceived and processed and thus how difficult it is to draw conclusions from subjective descriptions to concrete sounds.

Improvements and possible continuations would be:

1. more careful selection of terms
2. not revealing the task before the assessment in order to get an unbiased result.
3. adding more participants in order to have a clearer data set
4. choose a quieter environment for the experiment to ensure appropriate concentration of the participants
5. possibly explore whether a personal acquaintance leads to a more similar result on average.