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NOISE CONTROL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

Sonic Intermediaries: exploring the relinquishing of sonic control in older citizens.

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ABSTRACT

This paper will explore the role of sound in the ‘healthy ageing agenda’ and discuss the association between socioeconomic status and sonic control in old age. In the UK there has been increasing public awareness of the positive impact of sound for, what government reports refer to as, “healthy ageing”. Care homes are posting videos of residents dancing with inflatable guitars, tapping tambourines and singing songs from the war. Music activities, particularly sing-a-longs, have become synonymous with a good caring and active environment. However these activities and the environments that surround them are often outside of the individuals’ control. Drawing upon the work of Forman (2012), Grenier and Valois-Nadeau (2018) and Aletta et al (2018) on listening, ageing and care homes, this presentation will draw attention to the role of intermediaries (such as carers or family members) in: producing, accessing and controlling personal sonic space.

Keywords: Soundscape, Ageing, Control, Access

I-INCE Classification of Subject Number: 66

QUESTIONS TO ACCOMPANY THE PRESENTATION

Underpinning Questions

- Does ageing affect how we experience the sound environment?

- Do socio-economic factors impact upon peoples experience of the sonic environment in older age?
- Ageing is sometimes accompanied with a shift to dependence. How does this shift change peoples' listening habits and environment?

Key Questions

- What role do 'intermediaries' play in allowing older people to control of their sonic environment?
- How is this sonic environment impacted by these 'intermediaries'?

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