

Paris II, immersion

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1. Introduction

This blogpost explains the process and concept behind my IRCAM podcast 'immersion'.

2. Creating the Podcast

As this was my third trip to Paris, I remembered the metros as being one of the most interesting things to me about the city. Thus I recorded at least a few minutes of each ride on my phone, saving the files with their respective line and route names. After the visit I had 4 metro recordings of which I used three.

I used these recordings as the setting or surrounding of the podcast, while I initially thought about talking about the metro sounds themselves while discussing the IRCAM workshops I soon realized it was more effective to use the metro recordings as an auditory framing device. As I attended workshops about immersion it made sense to play into this topic by immersing the listener into the metro environment. I achieved this by filtering, saturating and compressing my narrator recording, for which I recorded my own voice, to make it seem as if it was coming out of a metro wagon announcement speaker. In one of the metro recordings you can hear my voice, which I used as a fourth wall breaking moment that I also use to comment on the fickle nature of immersion. A similar 4th wall break happens in the end when the metro ambiance stops, to expose the narrator without the metro-speaker effects chain.

The narrator discusses the topic of immersion by talking about two different IRCAM workshops, which I also mentioned in my previous Blogpost "Paris I", one called "Immersing the User", which gave me the idea to pick immersion as a topic, while the other one was a workshop about ambisonics field recordings that gave me more insight into immersion in a practical sense. There's also noticeable stuttering and very informal talking, which I also used to preserve or even enhance immersion.

3. Conclusion

I tried to create a podcast that demonstrates the very thing it is discussing. I hope to have achieved this through the collage of an ambience recording, and a narrator voice that fits into the setting to create an immersing experience.