

WORKSHOP

CAPTURING MULTISENSORY EXPERIENCES IN URBAN PUBLIC SPACES

Jan Mikuni^{1*}, Kirren Chana^{1,2}, Oliver Tab Bellmann³, Margot Dehove¹, Martin Moser⁴, Katharina Prager³

¹Vienna Cognitive Science Hub, University of Vienna, Austria

²University of Verona, Italy

³Acoustics Research Institute, Austrian Academy of Science, Austria

⁴Interdisciplinary Transformation University, Austria

*jan.mikuni@univie.ac.at

ABSTRACT

Urban public spaces play a crucial role in shaping quality of life in cities. Beyond their functional value, these environments offer meaningful aesthetic experiences that can influence emotional well-being, social connectedness, and overall life satisfaction.

This interdisciplinary workshop aims to explore how people experience urban public spaces in a naturalistic and ecologically valid way. We will focus on capturing both visual and acoustic dimensions of these environments as they are encountered in real time by actual users. Using mobile eye-tracking and sound recording systems, participants will be introduced to field-ready tools and behavioral measures suitable for studying dynamic, multisensory experiences.

We will examine how to assess users' ongoing experiences and the aesthetic qualities of public spaces from their perspective, and how these relate to subjective well-being. Key questions include: What visual and auditory elements make public spaces feel attractive or restorative? How do users' moment-to-moment perceptions connect with their emotional responses?

This workshop is designed to provide hands-on insight into innovative empirical approaches and promote collaborative thinking across disciplines. By bridging psychology, design, and urban studies, we aim to advance a research agenda that highlights the role of everyday aesthetics in supporting urban well-being.