

# The End of Hearing

Marek KULTYS<sup>a,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design,  
University of the Arts London, Southampton Row, London, WC1B 4AP, UK

**Abstract.** This science-fiction prototype comprises two stories discussing potential futures of human hearing. The stories focus on the potential consequences of two speculative factors affecting human behaviour and societies: 1) sound conditioning technology, and 2) the mass hearing impairment. The stories will also be presented in a gallery space by means of the communicating arts: a prototype, moving image and a performance. By confronting the science-fiction prototype with the public, a possibility of educating the audience and collecting feedback is identified. This feedback can be used to inform scientific research and product design in the future.

**Keywords.** Hearing, audience, feedback, hearing impairment, sound conditioning.

## References

- [1] *Warsaw's Hotel Polonia. The Afterlife of Buildings*, Venice Biennale of Architecture, 2008.
- [2] R. Cohen, *Electrocyte Appendix*.  
Available: <http://www.revitalcohen.com/project/electrocyte-appendix/> Accessed: December 2010.
- [3] J. King, *Dressing the Meat of Tomorrow*.  
Available: <http://www.james-king.net/projects/meat> Accessed: March 2011.
- [4] M. Kultys, *eat my science*, (Work in progress weblog). Available: <http://www.marekkultys.blogspot.com/>
- [5] M. Kultys, *Lingua Extraterrestris: lessons in universal communication or the designer's understanding of CETI in science and fiction*, 2010.  
Available: [http://www.marekkultys.com/writing/Lingua-Extraterrestris\\_by\\_Marek-Kultys.pdf](http://www.marekkultys.com/writing/Lingua-Extraterrestris_by_Marek-Kultys.pdf)
- [6] *Potential health risks of exposure to noise from personal music players and mobile phones including a music playing function*. Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks, Health & Consumer Protection DG, European Commission, Brussels, 2008.  
Available: <http://ec.europa.eu/health/opinions/en/hearing-loss-personal-music-player-mp3/>  
Accessed: January 2011.
- [7] B. Canlon, E. Borg, Å. Flock, Protection against noise trauma by pre-exposure to a low level acoustic stimulus, *Hearing Research* 34 (1988), 197-200.  
Available: <http://www.noiseandhealth.org/text.asp?1998/1/1/13/31781> Accessed: December 2010.
- [8] B. Canlon, The Effects of Sound Conditioning on the Cochlea, in: R. J. Salvi, D. Henderson, F. Fiorino, V. Colletti, *Auditory System Plasticity and Regeneration*, Thieme Medical Publishers, New York, 1996.
- [9] B. Cone, P. Dorn, D. Konrad-Martin, J. Lister, C. Ortiz and K. Schairer, *Ototoxic Medications (Medication Effects)*, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.  
Available: <http://www.asha.org/public/hearing/Ototoxic-Medications/> Accessed: March 2011.
- [10] *Stories of Deaf Kids and Adults*. Deafness and Family Communication Center, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Available at: <http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/meet/deaf/> Accessed: February 2011.
- [11] D. Hug, Hear me interact, in: G. M. Buurman ed. *Total Interaction: Theory and practice of a new paradigm for the design disciplines*, Birkhäuser, Basel, 2005.
- [12] Intel Research online. Available: <http://techresearch.intel.com/ProjectHome.aspx> Accessed: March 2011.
- [13] B. Truax, *Acoustic Communication*, Second ed. Westport, Connecticut, 2000.
- [14] B. Truax ed. *Handbook for Acoustic Ecology*, Second ed. Cambridge Street Publishing, 1999.

---

<sup>1</sup> Corresponding Author. Email: [mk@marekkultys.com](mailto:mk@marekkultys.com)