

SWITCHED ON LISTENING: WHAT AUDITORY DISPLAY DESIGNERS CAN LEARN FROM VIDEO ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This work analyzes video of a live performance of “Switched on Pop” — a podcast that teaches people how to listen closely to music — with the goal of understanding interactions that can help people learn to listen to sounds analytically. Video analysis enables us to see what close listening looks like and observe how it happens in the whole body, rather than only in the ears and mind. Further, video analysis allows us to consider listening as a sensory-social experience by observing interpersonal acts of listening.

Qualitative techniques of ethnographic note-taking and gesture analysis are used to produce interpretive artifacts including storyboards and analytic animations. This analysis identifies themes about how people learn how to listen to sounds analytically: the interplay between scripted and unscripted action; the sequencing of interaction to support learning; embodiment’s role in individual and social sensemaking around sound; learning patterns such as reproducing sounds through performance or repeating patterns with variation.

This research contributes translational work relevant to the auditory display community: demonstrating how video analysis can be useful for understanding listening behaviors; and imagining how techniques for teaching people how to listen to music might be applied to learning to listen to data sonifications.

