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**Soundscapes : from noise annoyance to the music of urban life**

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Through an overview of empirical research over the past 10 years, we present an interpretation of the evolution of the concept of soundscape. From a strictly acoustic definition in terms of physical descriptors, it evolved into a more complex notion integrating the effects of noise on citizens. Soundscape research therefore requires the contribution of human sciences (psychology of perception, cognitive psychology, sociology, anthropology of senses). There is converging evidence that people judgments of noise is related to the meaning given to the activities producing the noise. Consequently, physical descriptions in acoustics have to face the diversity of human reactions to noise correlated with the diversity of activities, the diversity of source producing noises within a diversity of physical environments (natural, architectural). This paper focuses on major emerging issues in soundscapes research, namely - the integration of such a diversity of pieces of knowledge within a general knowledge - the translation of these diverse conceptualizations into physical descriptions - the elaboration of convincing physical measurements for decision makers. We will draw consequences for further developments in the cooperative and pluridisciplinary research and for producing guidelines for new orientations in community policies.