

## **INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM**

You are invited to participate in a research study. This web page describes the study procedures. By completing the following form, you consent to participating in this study. **For your records, you may print and download a copy of this form.**

### **Research Study Title**

Evaluation of the use of visual texture for sound sample search.

### **Researcher Responsible for the Research Study**

Prof. Jean Rouat, Ph.D., Department of computer and electrical engineering, University of Sherbrooke, email: [jean.rouat@usherbrooke.ca](mailto:jean.rouat@usherbrooke.ca)

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This study is conducted as part of Jean Rouat's research activities in sensory substitution.

### **Funding of the Research Study**

FRQNT (Fond de Recherche du Québec – Nature et Technologies) and NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) via graduate scholarships awarded to Etienne Richan.

### **Purpose of the Research Study**

We have developed a software tool that generates textural images from sound characteristics. The objective of this study is to determine whether these kinds of images can assist in the task of searching for sounds in a database.

### **Description of the Research Procedures**

Your participation in this study consists of completing a search task in a sound database using a graphical interface. You will hear a sound and must find the visual element that corresponds to it using your computer cursor. It should take about 25 minutes to complete the set of search tasks. You will then be asked to fill out a short questionnaire about your experience (~5 minutes). We ask you to use headphones and to make the web page fullscreen during the study.

### **Potential Benefits**

If you are interested in using the tool to generate your own images from sound, you may leave us your e-mail at the end of this form (it will not be associated with the results of the study). Once our tool is made public, you will be among the first to be informed and provided with instructions on how to use it.

### **Potential Risks**

Your participation should not involve any significant inconveniences, other than taking up some of your time. Before beginning the study tasks, you will be asked to adjust the

volume level of your headphones in order to protect your hearing.

### **Voluntary Participation and the Right to Withdraw**

Your participation in this research project is voluntary. Therefore, you may refuse to participate. You may also withdraw from the project at any time, without giving any reason, by closing the web browser before completing the study. The data associated with your participation will automatically be erased. Once you have completed the study, you will be provided a code. Please keep a copy of this code in your personal documents. If you ever wish to withdraw your participation from this study after having completed it, you may contact [etienne.richan@usherbrooke.ca](mailto:etienne.richan@usherbrooke.ca). The message should contain the code and your intent to withdraw from the study. The code will allow us to identify and erase your results.

### **Confidentiality**

During your participation in this study, the researcher responsible and the research team will collect and record information about you in a study file. They will only collect information required to meet the scientific goals of the study. The following information will be recorded: your age, your years of musical experience, your profession (if you work with sound), and whether you are using a mouse or a trackpad to move your mouse cursor. No other personal information is required, or will be recorded.

During the study, the time it takes you to complete each task will be recorded, as well as the number of misidentified sounds. The study data will be stored for 5 years by the researcher responsible for this study for research purposes as described in this information and consent form. The data may be published or shared during scientific meetings; however, it will not be possible to identify you. The study results may be consulted on the project website [www.gel.usherbrooke.ca/necotis/activites-du-groupe/](http://www.gel.usherbrooke.ca/necotis/activites-du-groupe/) several months after the study is completed.

### **Contact Information**

If you have questions or if you have a problem you think may be related to your participation in this research study, or if you would like to withdraw, you may communicate with the researcher responsible of this research study

### **Approval of the Research Ethics Board**

The Research Ethics Board of the Université de Sherbrooke (CÉR Lettres et sciences humaines) approved this research and is responsible for the monitoring of the study.

For any question concerning your rights as a research participant taking part in this study, or if you have comments, or wish to file a complaint, you may communicate with the Research Ethics Board at the following phone number 819-821-8000 (or toll free at 1-800-267-8337) extension 62644, or by email at [cer\\_lsh@USherbrooke.ca](mailto:cer_lsh@USherbrooke.ca).

### **Follow-up**

It is possible that results obtained from this study lead to second study. In case of this eventuality, do you authorize the researchers responsible for this study to contact you and ask if you are willing to participate in the new study? Your e-mail address will not be associated with the collected data. You may contact us at any time to withdraw your e-mail from this list.

Let me know when the tool is available :	[YES]	[NO]
Contact me about follow-up studies :	[YES]	[NO]

E-mail address:

[EMPTY BOX]

(The “no” checkboxes are checked by default)

**Consent**

By clicking the “I accept” button, I attest that:

- I have read and understood the information and consent form;
- I voluntarily and freely consent to participating in this research project.

[ACCEPT BUTTON]

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