



ISOLATION, INDIVIDUALISED LISTENING & DOOM METAL

IASPM 23rd International Conference – Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris 3
Recordings and their reception (C110), 7 July 2025



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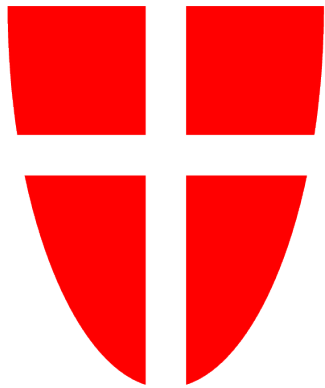


Image: Woe Unto Me & Guyod gig. Vienna, 2024



OVERVIEW

1. About Doom Metal
2. Listening to Doom Metal
3. Isolation and Individualised Listening
4. Conclusions



**Stadt
Wien**

Kultur

iaspm



Mortajas

*Me sientes en la
brisa / en la
soledad de la
oscuridad*

*Tras tus ojos
existe soledad /
un susurro nos
encontrará*

*You feel me in
the breeze / in
the loneliness of
the dark*

*Behind your eyes
dwells solitude /
a whisper will
find us*

‘Las palabras del
silencio’ by
Mortajas (2024)
(0’43” – 1’25”)



Doom Metal

Sub-subgenres → Funeral Doom, Drone, Stoner Doom, Traditional Doom, Epic Doom, Doom/Death

Hybrid subgenres → Sludge, Gothic Metal, DSBM

Concepts → depression, melancholy, solitude, mysticism, epicness, romanticism, completeness, joy

Funeral Doom

51 Min. · 🗿

The producer waiting for when I'm going to record a new album (Sorry)

Recording Funeral Doom

Waiting for the next note

😂👍 Du + 8

2 Kommentare

😂 Haha

🗨️ Kommentieren

📧 Senden

DOOM METAL

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 4 hrs

Amount per serving: 1 Song

Calories: 50 Beets Per Minute

Pain	100%
Torment	100%
Suffering	100%
Agony	100%
Doom	100%
Tempo	1%

*Percent daily values are based on a average Doom Metal diet. Your daily values may vary based on the amount of pain and suffering inflicted on others.

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Concepts → depression, melancholy, solitude, mysticism, epicness, romanticism, completeness, joy

Sonic characteristics → low-pitched tones, wailing vocals/growls, repetition, long song structures, *tempo* changes, slowness

Ambivalent status within Extreme Metal

Listening to Doom Metal



Image: Doom Over Vienna 2024

Listening to Doom Metal

Effort/sacrifice



Listening to Doom Metal

Effort/sacrifice

Personal experience



Listening to Doom Metal

Effort/sacrifice

Personal experience

Sonic journey



Isolation &
Indivisualised
Listening

PROVISIONAL NON-EXHAUSTIVE TIPOLOGY OF LISTENING IN DOOM METAL

Social Interaction (shared/isolated) as a Cross-cutting Axis

Category	Shared listening ◉	Isolated Listening ●
Setting	Public place ◉	Public place ●
	Private place	Private place ●
Experiential context	Everyday life ◉	Everyday life ●
	Non-mundane ●	Non-mundane ●
Mobility	In transit	In transit ●
	Static ●	Static ●
Physical „response“	Movement ◉	Movement ●
	Stillness ●	Stillness ●
Attention	Attention ◉	Attention ●
	Inattention	Inattention ●
Posture towards environment	Split	Split ●
	Blend ◉	Blend ●

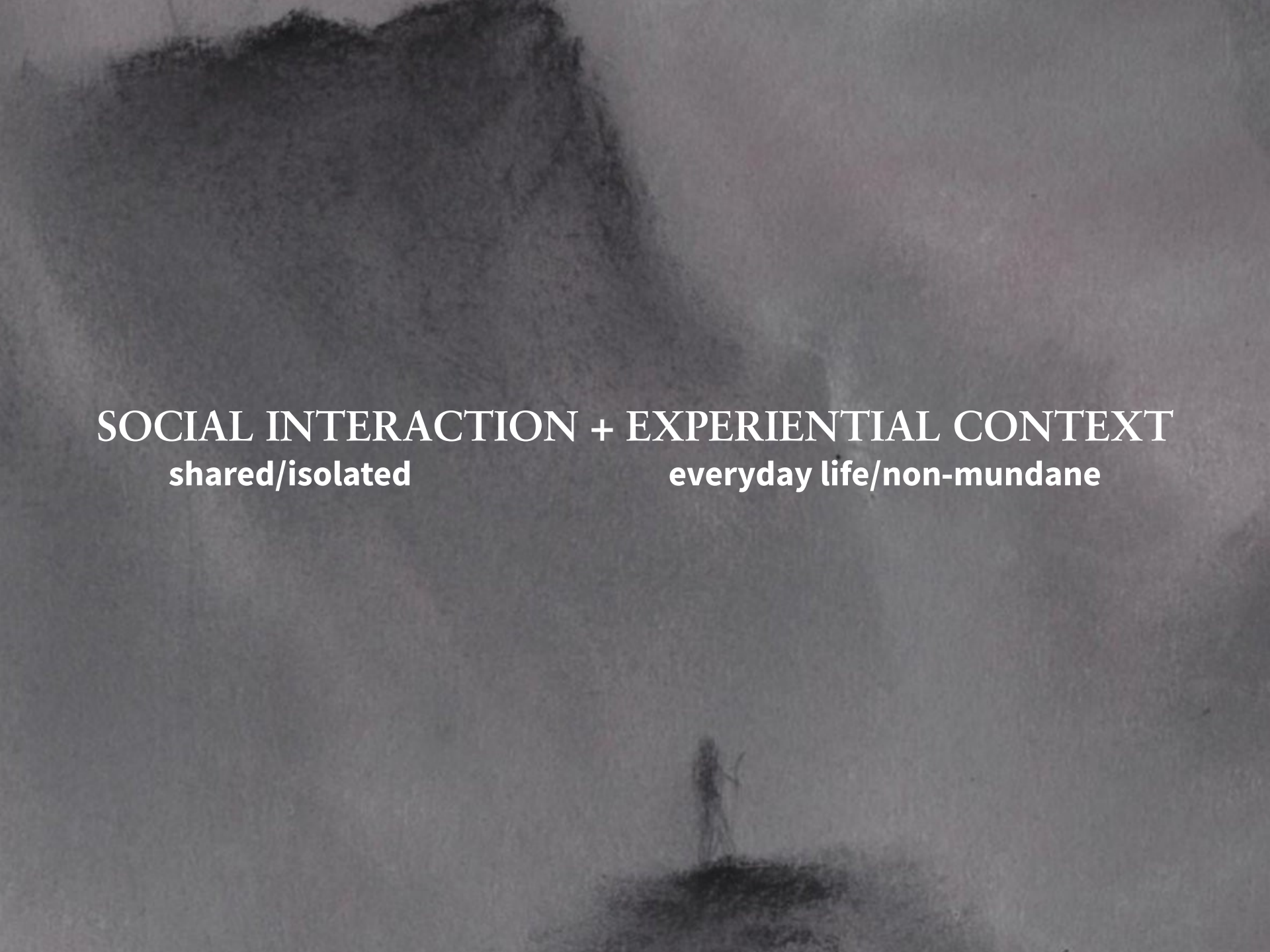
- = Dominant pattern
- ◉ = Less frequent combination

PROVISIONAL NON-EXHAUSTIVE TIPOLOGY OF LISTENING IN DOOM METAL

Example

Listener lying in their room following their daily routine of listening to the album *Watching from a distance* by Warning in order to fall asleep, which is blended with the sound of rain outside.

Social interaction	Isolated
Setting	Private place
Experiential context	Everyday life
Mobility	Static
Physical „response“	Stillness
Attention	Attention
	Inattention
Posture towards environment	Blend



SOCIAL INTERACTION + EXPERIENTIAL CONTEXT
shared/isolated **everyday life/non-mundane**



SOCIAL INTERACTION + ATTENTION
shared/isolated **attention/inattention**

Conclusions

Individualised listening in Doom Metal works:

1. as a non-normative engagement with one's own affectivity.
2. as an aesthetic delimitation against the world and the routine (liminal passage)
3. as a transformative form for understanding and experiencing one's own temporality

Work in progress!

Methodological challenges

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION!

Pablo Rojas Sahurie

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Category	Shared listening ○	Isolated Listening ●
Setting	Public place ○ Online listening parties, bars, gigs, festivals, workshop/construction work	Public place ● Gigs, festivals, bars, public transport (train, bus, flight) using headphones walking (headphones), library/office (headphones), park
	Private place Listening meetings at home, road family trip	Private place ● Home (room, shower, kitchen etc.), car, non-populated areas, at work/study
Experiential context	Everyday life ○ Gigs*, drinking/eating, working, cleaning	Everyday life ● Gigs*, drinking, transportation, working, cooking, cleaning
	Non-mundane ● Gigs*, festivals, listening parties	Non-mundane ● Gigs*, festivals, sporadic home listening 'rituals', personal getaway to the forest, 'trips' within the concert
Mobility	In transit Road family trip, walking entrance to a festival	In transit ● Walking, train, etc.
	Static ● At a gig or festival, listening parties, etc.	Static ● At home, at gigs or festivals
Physical „response“	Movement ○ Moshpits, headbanging*	Movement ● Headbanging, air guitar playing, swaying, finger tapping
	Stillness ● 'Contemplation'	Stillness ● 'Contemplation', altered states, controlled breathing
Attention	Attention ○ Collective immersion at gig, group analysis and discussion at meeting or bar	Attention ● Personal immersion at concert, transporting, structural listening, writing notes, sonic journey, falling asleep*
	Inattention ○ Background music at parties, bar, workshop	Inattention ● Background music at office or bar, falling asleep*
Posture towards environment	Split	Split ● At festivals and gigs, transportation (especially with noise cancelling headphones), working, walking, etc...
	Blend ○ At festivals and gigs, bars, listening at parks blended with bird sounds	Blend ● Getaway to the forest, listening at home blended with climatic sounds or imaginaries (rain, etc.), listening at a church blending the architecture



Melodic Death / Doom Metal

11 Std. · 🌐



Katatoniamoshpit



🎁 Geschenk senden

@MelodicDeathDoomMeta

🤔👍 Du + 112

2 Kommentare

👍 Gefällt mir

💬 Kommentieren

📧 Senden



Doom Metal

2 Std. · 🌐



Crowd surfing at a Doom Metal show



👍🤔❤️ 16

1 Kommentar 2 Mal geteilt



Gefällt mir



Kommentieren



Senden



Teilen



shades_of_doom

♫ Saturnus • Christ Goodbye (Live)



**Me interacting with the divinity
through profanity and erotism
(listening to Gothic Doom Metal)**



**while hearing sacred and
disturbing chants around
me (with my headphones on)**

♡ 749 💬 4 🚩 107



shades_of_doom st Theresa is having a good time

1. Jänner • Übersetzung anzeigen



Universe of Doom Metal



1 Std. · 🌐

NASA has released its new telescope's first images.

**you are here, playing
doom metal to 10 people**



😂👍 16

2 Mal geteilt

👍 Gefällt mir 💬 Kommentieren 📧 Senden ➦ Teilen