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MAPPING (POST)COLONIAL PARIS BY EAR

Naomi Waltham-Smith

University of Warwick



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Naomi Waltham-Smith
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One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
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Mapping (Post)colonial Paris by Ear

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Naomi Waltham-Smith
University of Warwick

Author for correspondence: Naomi Waltham-Smith, naomi.waltham-smith@warwick.ac.uk

Abstract: What does the urban (post)colonial condition sound like? To what extent and how is France's colonial history audible today on the streets, specifically in the Parisian *quartiers populaires*? Musical and sonic production has long been entangled with social movements in France and its overseas territories, and genres such as hip hop and *rai* have been closely associated with the urban spaces of Paris's racialized neighborhoods and with political resistance. This Element refines and extends these analyses up to contemporary anti-racist and environmental struggles. Its novelty lies in telling these narratives from the perspective of the urban field recordist, reinventing the bourgeois figure of the *flâneur* as a feminist-decolonial activist and configuring listening as an expressly spatial practice of mapping the city. The discrete binaural microphones tucked in her ears capture everything from Franco-Maghrebi musical dissent through the sounds of police brutality and carceral capitalism to transcolonial reverberations with struggles elsewhere.

Keywords: sound, politics, postcolonial, Paris, field recording

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Contents

1 The Voice of the (Post)colony: Radio, Hip Hop, and Soundscapes of the Street	1
2 Walking the City: Aural <i>Flânerie</i> from Baudelaire to Trespass	10
3 Soundstates of Emergency: Expressions of Bordering and Transgression	20
4 Cart-otographies: Soundmapping Urban Political Economies	28
5 Bursting the Eardrum: Reverberations of Violence and Protection	36
6 Circulation Struggles: Hip Hop and the <i>Gilets Jaunes</i>	47
7 Le Combat Adama: Solidary Resonances and Transcolonial Refrains from the <i>Quartiers Populaires</i>	55
Supplementary Material	64
Bibliography	67