

# Book Launch:

## *Explosions in the Mind: Composing Psychedelic Sounds and Visualisations*

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

*Explosions in the Mind: Composing Psychedelic Sound and Visualisations* (Weinel, 2021) is a new book exploring more than a decade of the author's practice-led research composing sound and visualisations based on altered states of consciousness such as hallucinations and experiences of synaesthesia (Figure 1). The book is part of the Palgrave Studies in Sound series, edited by Prof. Mark Grimshaw-Aagaard.

From electronic music performances to fixed-media audio-visual compositions, interactive projects with game engines, VJ performances, and virtual reality applications, the projects reflect a wide-ranging exploration of approaches for composing sounds and visualisations based on psychedelic states. The book presents a detailed commentary of these works, supported by an extensive number of colour images, as well as supporting media files including sound recordings, videos, and software examples, which readers can download and explore alongside the text.

Many of these projects have been featured in previous papers and demonstrations at the *EVA London (Electronic Visualisation and the Arts)* conference series, which has been instrumental in shaping the development of this work, and so it is fitting that the book should now be launched at the conference.

### 2. THREE NEW DESIGN FRAMEWORKS

The chapters of the book discuss the compositional methodologies and technical approaches used to realise these projects, which engage with various aspects of sound design, visual art, and creative coding across a range of media.

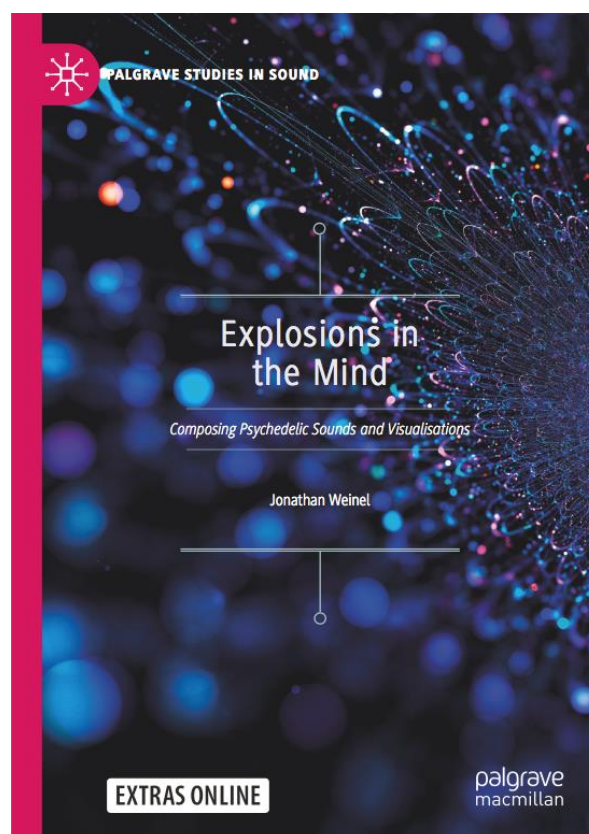


Figure 1. Book cover of *Explosions in the Mind*.

In bringing these together, the book ultimately proposes a set of three new design frameworks that can be used for composing psychedelic sounds and visualisations. These are as follows:

- Framework for composing psychedelic journeys in sound
- Framework for designing altered states of consciousness simulations
- Framework for composing synaesthetic visualisations of sound

These frameworks summarise the approaches used throughout the body of work discussed in the book,

and indicate possible approaches which can be used and adapted by other artists and researchers working in this area. The presentation at the conference will provide a rapid tour through the spectrum of work that informed these frameworks, before outlining the key features of each.

### **3. REFERENCES**

Weinel, J. (2021) *Explosions in the Mind: Composing Psychedelic Sounds and Visualisations*. Palgrave Macmillan Studies in Sound.