Echolocation/FlashSonar: towards an environment-friendly culture of perception

Echolocation is a non-visual perceptual technique employed by bats and blind individuals to perceive and interact with the world around them.

Bats send out high frequency ultrasound signals, beyond the range of human hearing, into the environment, to obtain three dimensional image of the world from the acoustic reflections.

Under the Perceptual Navigational approach developed by the Visioneers, blind individuals are taught to use sound within the range of human hearing to echolocate. They send out echo-signal in the form of ccrisp tongue-clicks into the environment. By interpreting the reflections of their clicks blind individuals are able to form three dimensional image of the objects and environments around them.

Thus, my paper will examine how Echolocation or FlashSonar that is employed by blind human beings to obtain and process three dimensional information with acoustic reflections for active navigations. Has the potential to provide us with a different culture of perception: with a different way to use our bodies and senses to perceive and interact with the world. A different form and technique of perception that harnesses and celebrates the potential of our non-visual senses. Which is environment-friendly, energy-saving, and hence less destructive to the planet.