

NUITS SONORES LAB 2025

May 28 — May 31, 2025

Nuits sonores Lab 2025: Questioning the Techno-political Alliances of today's world

At the heart of **Les Grandes Locos** and **Hôtel71**, Nuits sonores Lab 2025 presented its program under the theme "**Techno-Politics**." Over the course of 4 days, 70 speakers took part in discussions to explore the power alliances between Big Tech and politics. Among them, we had the honor of welcoming a special guest: **Meredith Whittaker**, president of the encrypted messaging app **Signal**, renowned for its strong commitment to data privacy.

Challenging the theory of inevitability, Meredith Whittaker delivered an inspiring talk on the future of artificial intelligence (AI) and the urgent need to reclaim control over the harmful narratives dominating the tech world. This enriching exchange was moderated by entrepreneur and tech expert Tariq Krim.

Nuits sonores Lab also gave a prominent place to the diverse, international, and engaged artistic scenes throughout the

festival, offering a platform to artists and cultural industry professionals. In partnership with rap media outlet **Grünt**, and for the first time during the Days, **Mehdi Maïzi, Sandra Gomes, Jean Morel, and David Bola** shared a panel on the Garage stage, which was livestreamed on Grünt's Twitch channel. This moment solidly anchored musical programming within critical reflection through a burning question: Are we witnessing a re-politicisation of rap?



Techno-politics: Power Alliances

The mornings of Nuits sonores Lab at Hôtel71 showcased **workshops focused on empowerment and learning**. It began on the very first day with Framasoft, a popular education network dedicated to free and open-source software, which guided participants in adopting tools as alternatives to services offered by Big Tech. In parallel, the media outlet **K7 Techno-sensible** invited participants to subvert the usual use of AI by creating a humorous and offbeat version of a news broadcast, disrupting its traditional codes. Also worth noting was an insightful workshop led by visual artist **Noura Tafeche**, exploring the aestheticisation of violence on the Internet and social media.



The conference sessions offered critical insights into major questions such as: **what role can Europe play** in a tech world dominated by the U.S. and China? What are the **racist biases of AI**, and how does technology serve as a new form of colonial power? What is **techno-feudalism**, and how can we resist it? To what extent does tech contribute to social, urban, and military control?

With **Histoires Crépues**, speakers explored and analyzed topics such as the extraction of rare metals in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the racial biases of facial recognition and AI, and the broader phenomenon of **techno-colonialism**. The large attendance at this conference made it one of the highlights of the 2025 edition.

An International and Committed Program

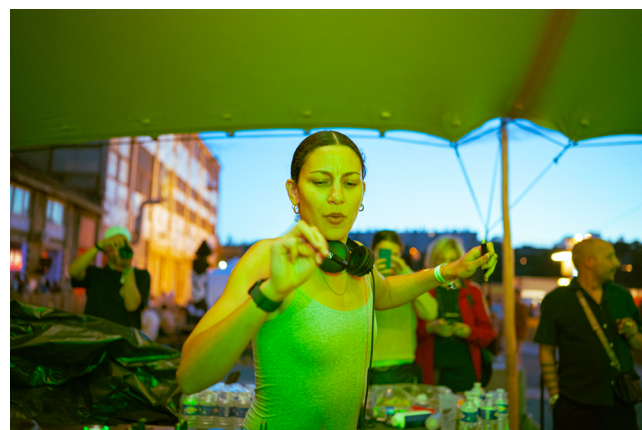
Alongside its central theme, Nuits sonores Lab continues to collaborate with European and international partners.



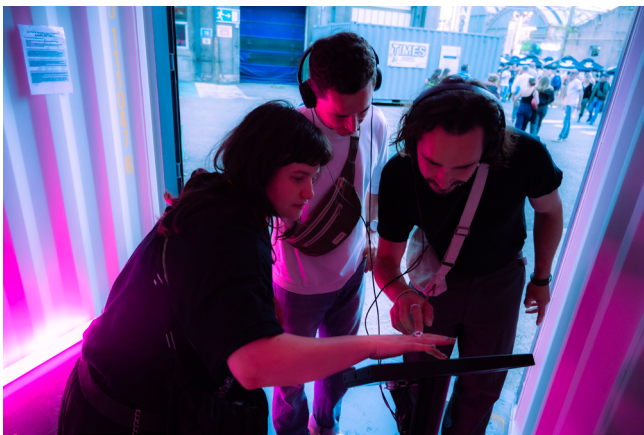
Through two radio takeovers co-curated with **Mutant Radio (Georgia)** and **Radio Alhara (Palestine)**, the festival gave a platform to artists and cultural figures from these regions.

The program featured intimate stories from Ukrainian artistic scenes, Georgian struggles against Russian imperialism, the need for better representation of Eastern European artists in Western lineups, international solidarity from independent scenes with Palestine, and the archiving of sounds from the hills of Bethlehem.

A rich, committed, and political program—true to the spirit Nuits sonores defends year after year.



The Independent Movement for Electronic Scenes (TIMES), a European cooperation project bringing together ten festivals and led by Arty Farty, featured several dedicated spaces this year within the music and talks programs. Co-curated with **Berlin Atonal (Germany)**, **Reworks (Greece)**, and **Insomnia (Norway)**, TIMES hosted a panel discussion on club culture in 2025, featuring Felipe Maia, Chal Ravens, Günseli Yalcinkaya, and Elijah. In addition, for the first time, TIMES and Nuits sonores introduced two new experiences: the **Video-club**, showcasing over 15 documentaries throughout the festival and the **Sampler**, a simplified electronic music production tool designed for both beginners and experienced users.



Reset!, the network of independent cultural and media organisations coordinated by Arty Farty, also infused this edition's programming. It hosted a workshop focused on the democratic dimension of nightlife and the engagement of communities within it, in collaboration with the collective DE/MO.

Meanwhile, the new project **TMLAB**—which brings together the Onassis Foundation (Athens), Kiosk Radio (Brussels), La Casa Encendida (Madrid), C2C Festival (Turin), and Arty Farty—also contributed to the Nuits sonores Lab program. It addressed representation issues within the music industry, with a specific discussion on making Eastern European music scenes more visible.

A Conversation With, the festival's one-on-one talk series, was developed in collaboration with three long-standing media partners: **Resident Advisor**, **Crack Magazine**, and **Libération**. Attendees had the opportunity to meet and talk with artists such as **Lyra Pramuk**, **Special Request**, **Jwles**, and **Jennifer Cardini**.



A Platform to Empower Independent Scenes

Throughout the week, Nuits sonores Lab offered a series of **empowerment and skill-building sessions** aimed at professionals in the cultural sector. The partnership with the Adami, dedicated to supporting women and gender minorities in the arts, was renewed this year, featuring a group of 15 artists with a focus on international career development and music production.

The two feminist collectives **Au-delà du club** and **Réinventer la Nuit** presented the findings of their national qualitative study, which analysed testimonies of sexist, sexual, and discriminatory violence within the nightlife ecosystem. This kind of research is crucial within music festivals as it helps to shed light on the specific continuum of violence in festive environments.





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