

# Co-Designing Unknown NIME Initiatives

NIME Leaders Workshop Facilitators

**NIME  
2025**

**PAPER SESSION**



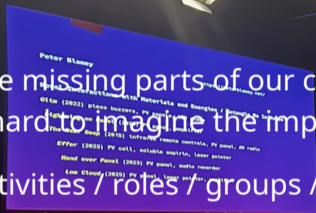
**What's missing from NIME?**

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# Speculating on the gaps

What are the missing parts of our community? NIME is dominated by what we *do*, but it's hard to imagine the impact what we don't do (yet).

- New activities / roles / groups / resources that don't exist yet
- Today's unknowns could become tomorrow's core NIME
- NIME has been challenged to look outward and confront what it leaves out (Hayes & Marquez-Borbon, 2020b, 2020a; Morreale et al., 2020)

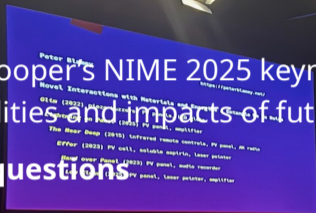


# A challenge from the 2025 keynote

- Clare Cooper's NIME 2025 keynote challenged us to speculate on the possibilities and impacts of future NIMEs.

## The three questions

- What shall we **gleefully abandon**?
- What shall we **boldly launch**?
- What shall we **lovingly maintain**?



## Part 1: Ideation (diverge)

**Warm up (~1m):** worst possible NIME. Shout out deliberately *terrible* ideas, then flip the best-worst into something real.

**Generate (~7m):** in groups, fill up sticky notes answering any of the three questions, one idea per note. Write silently first, then build on each other.

- Stuck? Provocations: NIME with no conference / infinite budget / no screens / aeroplanes don't exist / paper length limit 100 words.

## Part 2: Critique & choose (converge)

**Decide (~7m):** plot your stickies on a 2x2 grid: *impact* (low to high) against *effort* (low to high).

- **Can** it be made real? Low effort, feasible.
- **Should** it be made real? High impact.
- Pressure-test the leaders: who's it for? what's needed? what could go wrong?
- High-impact + low-effort = do it!

# Making it real

**Commit (~5m):** turn your chosen idea into a one-line pitch + a mandate + a first step.

- **Idea:** one sentence anyone could repeat
- **Mandate:** under whose banner? Self-started, a committee, or ask the board
- **First step:** smallest thing doable in a month; and *who* owns it
- It's been done before: the Eco committee/wiki (Masu et al., 2021) and WiNIME (Xambó, 2018) started exactly this way

## Boldly launch

- **Share:** each group, one sentence: what will you launch, and your first step?

- Take it to the forum: join the future-leaders group on [forum.nime.org](https://forum.nime.org)

Thanks for joining us at the (first) future NIME leaders workshop! This was a new idea in January and now it's real!

## References

- Hayes, L., & Marquez-Borbon, A. (2020a). Addressing NIME's prevailing sociotechnical, political, and epistemological exigencies. *Computer Music Journal*, 44(2-3), 24–38. [https://doi.org/10.1162/comj\\_a\\_00562](https://doi.org/10.1162/comj_a_00562)
- Hayes, L., & Marquez-Borbon, A. (2020b). Nuanced and interrelated mediations and exigencies (NIME): Addressing the prevailing political and epistemological crises. In R. Michon & F. Schroeder (Eds.), *Proceedings of the international conference on new interfaces for musical expression* (pp. 428–433). Birmingham City University. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4813459>
- Masu, R., Melbye, A. P., Sullivan, J., & Jensenius, A. R. (2021). NIME and the environment: Toward a more sustainable NIME practice. *Proceedings of the International Conference on New Interfaces for Musical Expression*. <https://doi.org/10.21428/92fbeb44.5725ad8f>
- Morreale, F., Bin, S. M. A., McPherson, A., Stapleton, P., & Wanderley, M. (2020).