



TG07 SENSES & SOCIETY

International Sociological Association

Newsletter Issue 11

Fall 2016

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Editorial Note

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present the 11th issue of T07 Senses and Society newsletter. In this issue you will find information of our TG's participation at the International Sociological Association Forum that took place in July 2016 in Vienna. We have received over 60 abstracts and have put together 10 panels which addressed a range of themes in relation to sensory scholarship. We hope to continue our conversations on sensory research at the next ISA World Congress, which will be held in July 2018 in Toronto.

You will also find information about recent publications in sensory studies that add importantly to this field of research and pedagogy.

I warmly welcome any feedback and suggestions that you may have for the newsletter and the TG and hope you enjoy reading the latest updates in sensory scholarship.

Happy holidays and here's to a great 2017 ahead.

Yours,

Kelvin Low

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[TG07 Senses and Society website](#)



In July this year, TG07 participated at the Third ISA Forum held in Vienna, Austria. We received more than 60 papers and eventually held 10 panels including a business meeting. Some of the panels featured themes on food and sensory knowledge, religion and sensory interrogations, sensescapes of home, and artistic practices, among others.



THIRD ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY

THE FUTURES WE WANT: GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY AND
THE STRUGGLES FOR A BETTER WORLD



JULY 10-14, 2016
VIENNA, AUSTRIA



*Presenters at the
Third ISA Forum,
University of Vienna*



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XIX ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY

Toronto, Canada | July 15-21, 2018 | Metro Toronto Convention Center



**POWER, VIOLENCE
AND JUSTICE:** REFLECTIONS,
RESPONSES
RESPONSIBILITIES

Since the inception of the discipline, sociologists have been concerned with power, violence and justice. Current social, economic and political challenges enhance their relevance. As capitalist globalization expands and deepens, corporate power increases along with global, national and local inequalities. New geo-political power configurations and confrontations are emerging, with violence being used as a tool to oppress and also to resist oppression. Despite visible progress on equality issues, violence against women and intersectional violence point to the entrenchment of the gender border around the world. Equally significant is the need to consider the role of state and institutional power relations to ongoing everyday violence. In response to disempowerment, violence, and injustice we have also witnessed nonviolent movements, humanitarian interventions, and peace processes that have empowered communities, reduced violence, and promoted justice.

This XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology will focus on how scholars, public intellectuals, policy makers, journalists and activists from diverse fields can and do contribute to our understanding of power, violence and justice.

Margaret Abraham, ISA President

Call for submissions

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Call for submissions

Below is the timeline for submissions for the 19th ISA World Congress. We hope to receive your proposals and abstracts and look forward to a fruitful, sensory exchange in Toronto in 2018.

2 Feb to 15 March 2017

Call for Sessions proposals

25 April to 30 September 2017

Abstract submission

30 November 2017

Notification of abstract acceptance

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/>

Publication Highlights

'The Taste of the Eye and the Sight of the Tongue: the Relations between Sight and Taste in Early Modern Europe'

Viktoria von Hoffmann
Senses and Society 11(2): 2016



This article examines the articulation between the senses of taste and sight through the representations of their organs, the tongue and the eye, in early modern Europe. The relationship between taste and sight first brings to mind gastronomical aesthetics, and the part played by the eye in the relish of beautifully presented dishes. The first part of this article is therefore devoted to exploring the taste of the eye (or the foretaste of sight) and highlights the harmony of taste and sight in early modern cuisine. However, the forms of reciprocity between taste and sight cannot be reduced to the sole figure of culinary aesthetics, which tends to blur the other multiple modalities that this sensorial association could reveal. The second part, the sight of the tongue (or the invisibility of taste), thus examines more complex layers of the relationship between the sense of sight and the taste organ, through a study of the representations of the tongue and of the gaping mouth in early modern visual culture. Drawing on early modern textual and iconographic resources and exploring: cookbooks; physiognomic works; conduct books; and also engravings and paintings related to the culinary arts, the seven deadly sins, and representations of madness and the fool in early modern visual culture, this essay argues that examining the representations of the sense organs is a suggestive way to explore the relationship between the senses.

Publication Highlights



‘Individual sensory experiences, socialized senses, and everyday lived religion in practice’

Meredith McGuire
Social Compass 63(2): 2016

This article argues that the sociology of religion needs to pay attention to sensory experiences. Our discipline has traditionally focused on religion’s cognitive qualities – beliefs, creeds, and theologies – along with its organizational structures. By and large, we have failed to encounter, much less think about, other aspects of religion, particularly those that involve the senses. We have treated them as epiphenomenal, not central to religious life. This will no longer do.

Examining religion as it is actually lived requires an attention to sensory religious experiences, as they are a core part of religious practice. Doing so requires, however, that we learn how to attune ourselves to that experience. Otherwise, we will fail to perceive the experiences that people actually encounter. This presentation provides some practical guidance about how to do this. It also presents diverse examples of embodied religious practices for which sensory experience is essential.

Publication Highlights



Reading Smell in Eighteenth-Century Fiction

Emily C. Friedman
Rowman & Littlefield (2016)

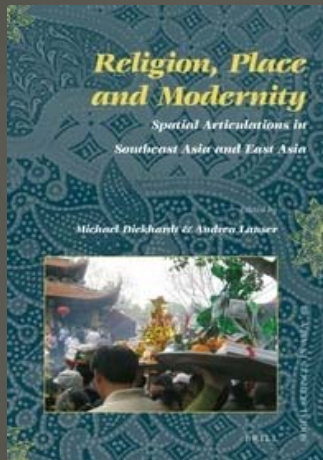
Scent is both an essential and seemingly impossible-to-recover aspect of material culture. Scent is one of our strongest ties to memory, yet to remember a smell without external stimuli is almost impossible for most people.

Moreover, human beings' (specifically Western humans) ability to smell has been diminished through a process of increased emphasis on odor-removal, hygienic practices that emphasize de-odorization (rather than the covering of one odor by another). While other intangibles of the human experience have been placed into the context of the eighteenth-century novel, scent has so far remained largely sidelined in favor of discussions of the visual, the aural, touch, and taste.

This book examines how far the novel can be understood through a reintroduction of olfactory information. After decades of reading for all kinds of racial, cultural, gendered, and other sorts of absences back into the novel, this book takes one step further: to consider how the recovery of forgotten or overlooked olfactory assumptions might reshape our understanding of these texts. *Reading Smell* includes wide-scale research and focused case studies of some of the most striking or prevalent uses of olfactory language in eighteenth-century British prose fiction. *Reading Smell* not only provides new insights into canonical works by authors like Swift, Smollett, Richardson, Burney, Austen, and Lewis, but also sheds new light on the history of the British novel as a whole

Announcements

We invite book proposals to the interdisciplinary *Social Sciences in Asia* Monograph Series. It publishes original materials and the revised editions of special issues of the *Asian Journal of Social Science*. The *Social Sciences in Asia* Monograph Series welcomes submissions from specialists on any facet of Asia, including sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, economists, geographers, and historians.



The *Social Sciences in Asia* Monograph Series was the initiative of the editorial team of the *Asian Journal of Social Science* at the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore. It was initially the Asian Social Science Series, with Brill and the Times Academic Press co-publishing the first three volumes between 2001 and 2002. In 2003, the Series became *Social Sciences in Asia* and henceforth carries only the Brill imprint.

www.brill.nl/publications/social-sciences-asia

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Social Sciences in Asia Monograph Series, Brill

