



Salalah, Oman

TG07 SENSES & SOCIETY

International Sociological Association

Newsletter Issue 12

Spring 2017

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Editorial Note

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present the 12th issue of T07 Senses and Society newsletter. In this issue you will find information on our TG's participation at the International Sociological Association World Congress that will take place in July 2018 in Toronto. We have received numerous panel proposals which address a range of themes in relation to sensory scholarship. We hope to continue our conversations on sensory research in Toronto with a ***call for individual abstracts between April 25th and September 30th 2017.***

We are inviting abstract submissions for a total of 9 panels that engage with such domains including the arts, visual ethnography, urban studies, and digital immersion among others.

You will also find information about recent publications in sensory studies as well as conferences 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.

Have a great summer everyone!

Yours,

Kelvin Low

President/Newsletter Editor, TG07

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[TG07 Senses and Society website](#)

XIX ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY

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

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Association



**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 abstracts and look forward to a fruitful, sensory exchange in Toronto in 2018.

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/>

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TG07 Panels

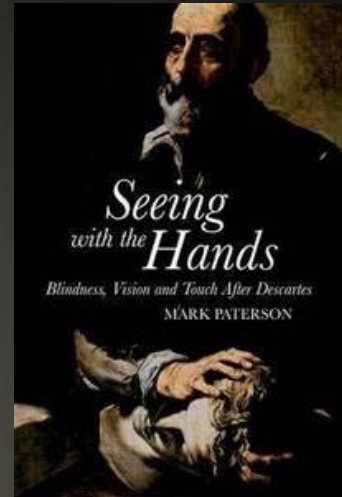
1. The Politics of Sensation: Technology, Measurement, Quantification
2. Drugs and the Senses in Popular Culture: An Ambiguous Relationship
3. Fluid Borders: Sensory Interactions in the Arts
4. Sensory Journeys: Foodscapes of Movement and Belonging for Difficult Times
5. Towards De-Sensing? A Speculation on Digital Immersion and the Implications for Ethical Action
6. Future-Making and the Senses
7. The Senses in Interaction
8. Who's Afraid of the Synesthetic? Exploring New Directions in Sensory Visual Ethnography
9. Urban Sensecapes: Sensory Excursions in the City

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

Publication Highlights

Seeing with the Hands: Blindness, Vision and Touch After Descartes

Mark Paterson
Edinburgh University Press (2016)



Why has there been a persistent fascination by the sighted, including philosophers, poets and the public, in what the blind 'see'? Is the experience of being blind, as Descartes declared, like 'seeing with the hands'? What happens on the rare occasions when surgery allows previously blind people to see for the very first time? And how did evidence from early experimental surgery inform those philosophical debates about vision and touch? These questions and others were prompted by a question that the Irish scientist, Molyneux, asked an English philosopher, Locke, in 1688, but which was to have implications for British empiricism, French sensationism, and the beginnings of psychology that outlasted the long tail of the Enlightenment. Through an unfolding historical and philosophical narrative the book follows up responses to this question in Britain and France, and considers it as an early articulation of sensory substitution, the substitution of one sense (touch) for another (vision). This concept has influenced attitudes towards blindness, and technologies for the blind and vision impaired, to this day.

Publication Highlights



Anu Vaittinen

Exploring lived heat, 'temperature work' and embodiment: Novel auto/ethnographic insights from physical cultures

Allen-Collinson, J, Vaittinen, A, Jennings, G and Owton, H (2016)

Journal of Contemporary Ethnography

This article contributes to a developing literature utilizing sociological phenomenology to examine sensuous embodiment. Drawing on sociological and anthropological theorizations of the senses and “sensory work”, the article investigates via phenomenology-based auto/ethnography the under-researched sense of thermoception, as the lived sense of temperature. Empirically and analytically to highlight the salience of thermoception in everyday life, the authors draw on findings from four auto/ethnographic projects conducted as long-standing insider members of the physical-cultural lifeworlds of distance running, mixed martial arts, traditionalist Chinese martial arts, and boxing. The analysis explores four specific areas: elemental touch, heat of the action, standing still, and tuning in. Emerging from all four studies were key findings relating to the valorization of sweat, and the importance of “temperature work” involving thermoceptive somatic learning, and physical-culturally specific bodily ways of knowing and sense-making. These in turn shape how heat and cold are actually “felt” and experienced in the mind-body.

Publication Highlights



Concrete Memories and Sensory Pasts: Everyday Heritage and the Politics of Nationhood

Kelvin E.Y. Low

Pacific Affairs 90(2): 275-295 (2017)

This paper interrogates how Singapore's everyday heritage has been framed through embodied and sensory experiences. While buildings and other landmarks have been conserved as heritage icons, this also includes the designation of particular routes known as heritage trails. Buildings and trails by themselves are not invested with symbolic meanings; it is through the processes of heritage packaging that consigns particular landmarks and sites with a heritage purpose.

By employing the notion of "concrete memories" that comprise three key features of familiarity, sensory remembering and ownership, I argue that heritage landmarks and trails form a site through which the nation's history is selectively interpreted, negotiated and experienced by different actants. The discussion of concrete memories is undergirded by broad methodological principles of actor-network theory. The intention is to call attention to embodied tourism in heritage-tourism studies that at the same time address the production and consumption of heritage and power relations through heritage networks.

Announcements - Conference

35TH INTERNATIONAL VISUAL SOCIOLOGY CONFERENCE

Framing/reframing: Visual Sociology, Goffman & the Everyday

June 19-22, 2017 Concordia University,
Montréal, Canada

The 2017 IVSA conference is dedicated to the concepts of “Framing & Reframing”, and “The Everyday” inspired by one of Canada’s most influential sociologists, and also one of the most cited authors in the humanities and social science, Erving Goffman.

By drawing on eclectic sources, modelling cross-disciplinary fertilization and collaborative knowledge building, and by developing metaconcepts derived from a life-long interest in “communication and conduct in everyday life,” Goffman’s work challenges visual sociology to find ways to dialogue with audiences across the academy and beyond to bring sociological understandings to the micro level of the everyday, but also to help connect it to broader public issues.



<http://www.ivsa2017.com/>

Announcements - Conference



Sensing Divinity: Incense, religion and the ancient sensorium

23-24 June 2017

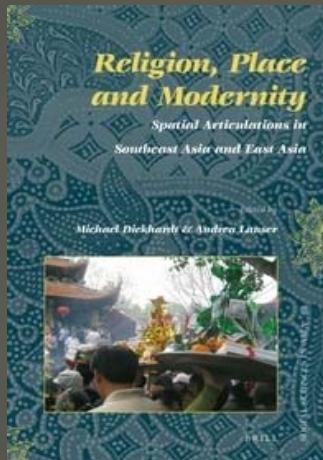
British School at Rome and the École
française de Rome

This conference will explore the history of a medium that has occupied a pivotal role in Mesopotamian, Greek, Roman and Judeo-Christian religious tradition: incense. According to Margaret E. Kenna in her provocative 2005 article 'Why does incense smell religious?', this aromatic substance became a diagnostic feature of Greek orthodoxy during the Byzantine period, but it is clear that incense was also extensively used in the rituals of earlier polytheistic societies to honour the gods. Fragrant smoke drifting up towards the heavens emblemized the communication that was established between the mortal and the immortal realms, which in turn contributed to the sensory landscape of the sanctuary.

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/conference/fac-arts/clas/sensing-divinity/index.aspx>

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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