

TG07 SENSES & SOCIETY

International Sociological Association

Newsletter Issue 4

February 2013

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Editorial Note

Dear friends,

It is with pleasure that I bring you the fourth newsletter of TG07 Senses and Society. As the recently elected President of TG07, I am happy to share with everyone what our TG has been involved in, and also to draw your attention to the next ISA World Congress which will be held in Yokohama, in 2014.

Apart from introducing the newly elected Board Members of TG07 and bringing to you the 'noise' that we made in Buenos Aires last year, this newsletter contains the usual sections on recent publications, and announcements. As our TG grows from strength to strength with your support, I would also like to invite further feedback and suggestions as to how we can develop from hereon.

Here's to a fantastic 2013 ahead to everyone and please do drop me a line if you have any ideas for TG07 Senses and Society.

Yours,
Kelvin Low

2nd Forum, International Sociological Association, Buenos Aires, August 2012



In August last year, TG07 was successful in 'making some noise' at the 2nd ISA Forum held at the University of Buenos Aires. It was our first formal meeting since the TG was established in 2011. We received more than 50 papers and had a total of 29 papers accepted based on the allocated 6 sessions.

The wide-ranging topics that were presented ran from sensory history of Asia, senses and deviance, sensory geographies of the city, to religion and sensory entitlements, and methodologies of embodied research.

We also organised a 'Meet-the-Authors' session with Phillip Vannini and Dennis Waskul, who shared their sensory research over the last decade and directions towards developing sensory scholarship.

At the business meeting, elections were held to appoint office bearers and board members of TG07 for 2012-2018.



*Florence Figols
(Concordia University)
presenting her paper on
“Moving Bodies:
Proprioception and Socio-
political Inscriptions”.*

*Exchanging ideas
during one of the
Q&A sessions.*





Meet-the-Authors' Session with Phillip Vannini (left; Royal Roads University) and Dennis Waskul (right; Minnesota State University), authors (with Simon Gottschalk) of *The Senses in Self, Society, and Culture: A Sociology of the Senses*. (Routledge, 2012)

Some of TG07's Board Members (from L to R): Florence Figols, Devorah Kalekin-Fishman, Noorman Abdullah, and Alexandre Marchant



TG07 SENSES & SOCIETY

BOARD MEMBERS

2012-2018

President	– Kelvin Low (National University of Singapore)
Secretary/Treasurer	– Noorman Abdullah (National University of Singapore)
Newsletter Editors	– Dennis Waskul (Minnesota State University) & Kelvin Low (National University of Singapore)
Members-at-Large	– Devorah Kalekin-Fishman (University of Haifa) Will Gibson (University of London) Emma Felton (Queensland University of Technology) Florence Figols (Concordia University) Alexandre Marchant (Université Paris X Nanterre) Henry Obed Perea Alzate (Universidad de Antioquia) Maria Daniela O.Agudelo (Universidad de Antioquia) Isabel Barreneche (Universidad de Antioquia)

While the Board will play an important role in the organisational aspects of the TG, especially in regard to preparations for the next ISA World Congress in 2014, we also hope that other TG members as well as scholars of sensory studies would join TG07 towards advancing the field of sensory research through various seminars, meetings and other research opportunities.

XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology (2014)

The next major event organised by the ISA and at which TG07 will be participating is the ISA World Congress. This meeting will be held from 13-19 July 2014, in Yokohama.

TG07 has been allocated a total of 6 sessions, which includes a business meeting session for organisational matters. While some colleagues have suggested panels on food and the city, senses of the self, deviance and the senses, and the performing arts, the **call for panel suggestions is opened from now till 1 March 2013.**

If you wish to coordinate a panel of your suggested theme, please do write to me (Kelvin Low) at socleyk@nus.edu.sg

Other dates to be noted:

1. 7 April 2013 – Call for abstracts
2. 30 September 2013 – Online abstract submission deadline

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/>

We look forward to a fruitful and engaging World Congress next year in Japan.

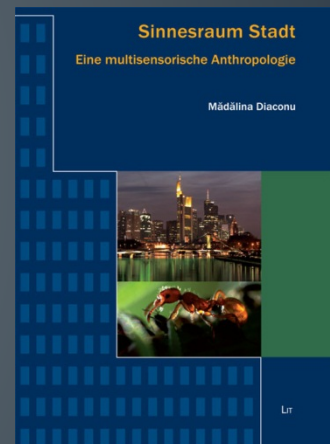
Publications Highlights

Madalina Diaconu

Sinnesraum Stadt. Eine multisensorische Anthropologie
[Urban Sensescares. A multisensory anthropology]
Berlin, Vienna, London: Lit Publishing House, 2012

The studies gathered in the volume deal with issues of a social aesthetics, which is based upon aesthetics, considered as the theory of perception. The first part compares various theoretical models used in the Sensory Studies and their corresponding methods, in particular the phenomenology of perception, the anthropology of the senses and the multisensory marketing. The second part of the volume applies these general considerations to tactility and mobility through the urban public space in everyday life.

The third part focuses on olfactory atmospheres, in particular on the spatiality and temporality of public smellscapes. Given the importance of the odours for the individual and collective identity, the volume ends with the critique of the common belief that an olfactory education is impossible and looks for support in the training methods used in economy and pedagogy.



Publications Highlights

Allen-Collinson, J and Owton, H
(2013 forthcoming)

“Take a deep breath: asthma,
sporting embodiment, the senses,
and ‘auditory work’”,
*International Review for the
Sociology of Sport*.



The article contributes to a developing sociological-phenomenological empirical corpus of literature by addressing the lived experience of asthma in non-élite sports participants. Despite the prevalence of asthma and exercise-induced asthma/bronchoconstriction, there is a distinct lacuna in terms of qualitative research into living with asthma, and specifically in relation to sports participation. Here we focus upon the aural dimension of asthma experiences, examining the role of ‘auditory attunement’ and ‘auditory work’ in sporting embodiment.

Publications Highlights

By analysing sensorial aspects of social memory and emotions, this paper theorises the social significance of olfaction and other senses towards reconfigurations of self and social interactions through embodied identity work. Olfactive frames of remembering are employed in order to explicate sensory meta-narratives including sensory relations (pertaining to familial and other ties), sensory memory, time and space, and sensoryscapes.

This article also elucidates upon the various moral, cultural and aesthetic codes that may be discerned in biographical narrations of social actors drawn from narrative interviews. Furthermore, it highlights a need to consider sensorial-bodily experiences in qualitative inquiry and thereby conceptualise how actors articulate their sense of self.



Low, Kelvin E.Y. (forthcoming)
'Olfactive Frames of Remembering:
Theorising Self, Senses, and Society.'
in *The Sociological Review* .

Announcements

30th Annual Spring Symposium, April 17-19, 2013

SENSING SOUTH ASIA

Center for South Asian Studies, University of Hawaii, Manoa

What happens when we approach social and natural worlds, the body, and affect through the senses? How do disciplinary and interdisciplinary understandings of South Asia change if we consider that what and how we feel, hear, taste, smell, touch, see, and intuit are culturally and historically mediated? The symposium invites scholars, artists, and practitioners to engage with the senses as portals to time, place, and social, cultural, and natural processes in South Asia. We are particularly interested in research grounded in sensory relations and intersensory modalities that can generate new questions for various disciplines. In this symposium, we want to explore what South Asian societies -- and their histories, philosophies, everyday rituals and practices, and political economies -- can offer to emerging theories and methods in sensory studies.

The presentations could cover topics and themes such as:

- Tactile, olfactory, and aural worlds; noise
- Senses and the everyday
- Sensory deprivation and overload
- Sensory illusions

Keynote Speakers

Robert Desjarlais, Anthropology, Sarah Lawrence College

Uttara Asha Coorlawala, Dance, Ailey School and Barnard College

Nayanika Mookherjee, Anthropology, Durham University

www.hawaii.edu/csas

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

For all enquiries, please contact the academic editor, Kelvin Low at socleyk@nus.edu.sg

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Social Sciences in Asia Monograph Series, Brill

