



# TG07 SENSES & SOCIETY

International Sociological Association

Newsletter Issue 9

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# Editorial Note

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present the 9<sup>th</sup> issue of T07 Senses and Society newsletter. In this issue you will find details for the forthcoming International Sociological Association Forum scheduled to take place in July 2016 in Vienna. We have received over 60 abstracts and have put together 10 panels. We look forward to meeting in Vienna next year.

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

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

Yours,

Kelvin Low

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[TG07 Senses and Society website](#)

# THIRD ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY

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



JULY 10-14, 2016  
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

The next major event organised by the ISA and at which TG07 will be participating is the ISA Forum. This meeting will be held from 10-14 July 2016, in Vienna. TG07 has been allocated a total of 10 sessions, which includes a business meeting session for organisational matters. Papers and authors will be featured in our next newsletter.

Registration for the conference is opened till 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016 for early-bird registrants. We look forward to a fruitful and engaging ISA Forum in Austria, 2016!

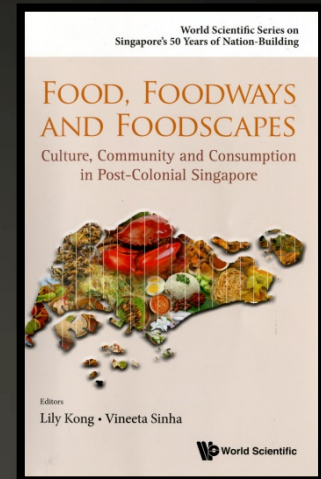
## *Panels:*

1. City Scents: Food, Sensory Knowledge & Transnationalism Part I
2. City Scents: Food, Sensory Knowledge & Transnationalism Part II
3. Pleasing Possibilities: New Perspectives on Pleasure Part I
4. Pleasing Possibilities: New Perspectives on Pleasure Part I
5. Exploring Sensescapes of Home: Smell, Touch, and Taste
6. Beyond the Material Turn? Sensory Interrogations in Religion & Spirituality
7. Senses, Society, and A Struggle for a Better World
8. Artistic Practices and the Senses
9. Psychonautism in Contemporary Arts and Societies
10. TG07 Business Meeting

# Publication Highlights

**‘Tasting Memories, Cooking Heritage: A Sensuous Invitation to Remember’,** in *Food, Foodways and Foodscapes: Culture, Community and Consumption in Post-Colonial Singapore*, edited by Lily Kong and Vineeta Sinha. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing (2015): 61-82.

**Kelvin E.Y. Low**



Identities of self, families, and social groups are contingent on and expressed through memories and embodied recollections of the past. By tasting memories, food serves as an intermediary towards such formation and maintenance of one's sense of self, as well as the social ties that anchor one's identity and personhood both in the past and in the present-day context. The act of tasting memories therefore, establishes cultural connections both to the past and the present. How is the past remembered through food as a vehicle? How is such remembering indicative of memories that are embodied and mediated by sensory experiences such as smells and tastes? What do these sensorial aspects of gastronomic nostalgia mean for social actors? How do embodied memories of food both solidify and/or weaken group membership? By analysing such channels of tasting memories including cookbooks, oral histories, and popular history books and biographies, the article demonstrates not only the importance of how food connects and feeds into one's history, but that such links are further contextualised within the trajectory of Singapore as a food nation. In doing so, Low examines the sensorial and embodied dimensions of food and identity that are invoked and appropriated as markers of identity-claims.

# Publication Highlights

Allen-Collinson, Jacquelyn and Owton, Helen (2015) “**Intense embodiment: senses of heat in women’s running and boxing**”, *Body & Society*, 21 (2): 245-268.

Video abstract at: <http://theoryculturesociety.org/video-allen-collinson-owton-on-intense-embodiment/>

This article contributes to a small, innovative and developing literature utilizing sociological phenomenology to examine sensuous embodiment. Drawing upon data from three research projects, here we explore some of the ‘sensuousities’ of ‘intense embodiment’ experiences as a distance-running-woman and a boxing-woman, respectively. Our analysis addresses the relatively unexplored haptic senses within sports studies, particularly the ‘touch’ of heat. Heat has been argued to constitute a specific sensory mode, a trans-boundary sense. Our findings suggest that ‘lived’ heat, in our own physical-cultural experiences, has highly proprioceptive elements and is experienced as both a form of touch and as a distinct perceptual mode, dependent upon context. Our analysis coheres around two key themes that emerged as salient: (1) warming up, and (2) thermoregulation, which, in lived experience, were encountered as strongly interwoven.



J. Allen-Collinson

# Publication Highlights



**'Perceptual Construction: Rereading  
*The Social Construction of Reality*  
through the Sociology of the Senses.'**  
*Cultural Sociology* 2015: 1-16.

Asia M. Friedman

In this paper, Friedman brings Berger and Luckmann's *The Social Construction of Reality* into conversation with the relatively new subfield of the sociology of the senses to argue that greater attentiveness to sensory perception can enhance our understanding of the mechanisms of the social construction of reality. When read with this sensitization, one finds implicit references to the senses throughout their discussion, but nowhere is sensory perception explicitly theorized as a part of the social construction process. Drawing specifically on their analysis of primary socialization, face-to-face interaction, language and relevance structures, and the fundamental dialectic of externalization, objectivation, and internalization, she demonstrates that processes of perceptual construction – specifically sensory attention and disattention – are key mechanism of social construction underlying many of Berger and Luckmann's arguments. A more explicit focus on sensory perception not only clarifies and strengthens many of their observations, but also constitutes a renewal of their important call to examine the processes of social construction.

# Publication Highlights

## 'Researching the Senses as Knowledge.'

*Senses and Society* 10(1): 52-70 (2015)

Sarah Maslen



Research in the growing field of sensory studies has begun to identify the sensory aspects of experience, particularly in our engagement with material culture. What is yet to receive much attention is how the senses are acquired and used by individuals and communities, and how they inform action. Adopting Barth's argument that cultural phenomena are most productively examined as different kinds of knowledge, this article argues that the senses can be examined as any other knowledge source. This article demonstrates the value of examining the senses as knowledge through an account of learning to hear medically. This example is taken from a broader ethnographic study of the aural practices and experiences of ninety-two musicians, doctors, adventurers, and Morse code operators. It argues that hearing is learned, specialized, and specific to the places we go, the people that surround us, and the things that we do. To seek out the sources and value of this taken-for-granted aspect of our experience, it argues that the senses can be analyzed in terms of their foundations, their acquisition, and practice.



# 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](http://www.brill.nl/publications/social-sciences-asia)

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