



Senses and Society

THEMATIC GROUP NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 25. HISTORIES AND MEMORIES



The Beaneater (*Mangiafagioli*). Annibale Carracci (1580–1590), Oil on canvas. Galleria Colonna, Rome.

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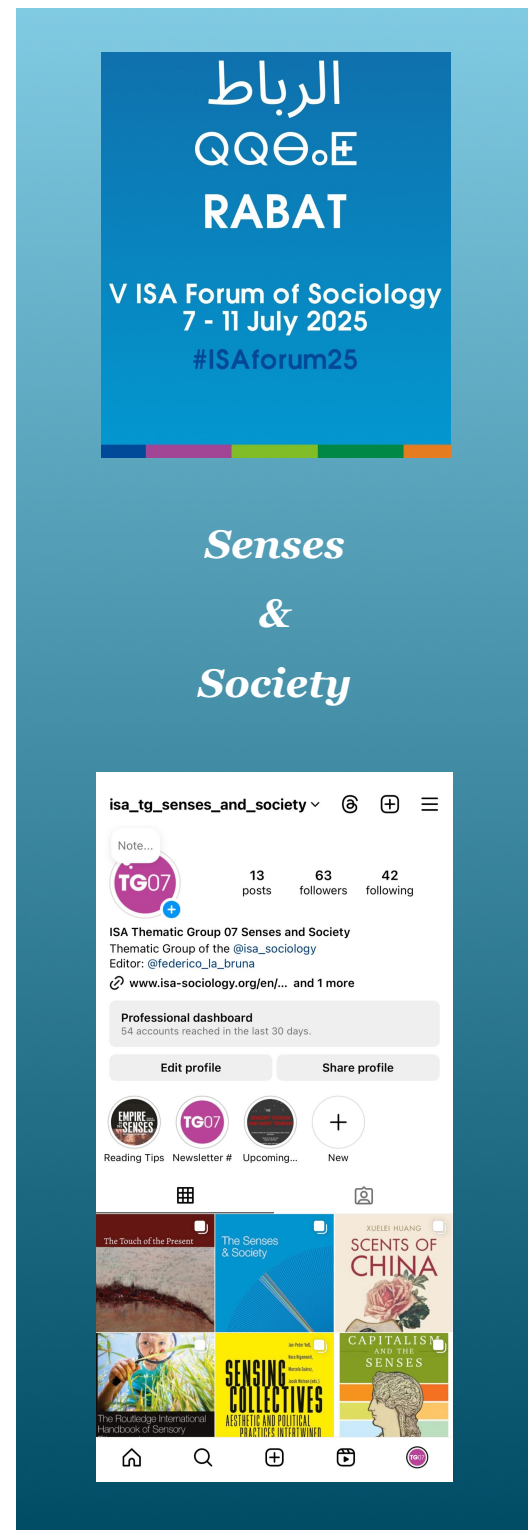
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Editorial Note

Welcome back to the TGo7 Senses and Society Newsletter. After a few months break, we are pleased to return with many news, information and opportunities. Before any other announcement, I would like to extend my gratitude to all TGo7 members who have contributed to this edition by sharing their ideas and updates. As summer approaches, several events are on the horizon. This issue includes numerous calls for participation and links to upcoming conferences and workshops. Reflecting on the past months and looking ahead, it is evident that our community is working hard to engage more scholars and create networking opportunities. There is a great sense of enthusiasm among the members of our Thematic Group and, more broadly, within the ISA.

In this issue

In this edition, we are excited to bring you the latest updates on the [V ISA Forum of Sociology](#), scheduled in Rabat, Morocco, from July 6-11, 2025. As you may already know, the focus of the event will be "Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene". We now have a timeline for [session \(deadline July 1\)](#) and abstract (August-October) proposals. Given the lengthy bureaucratic processes involved, it is crucial that we proceed promptly. In addition, in the section "News and Opportunities", I illustrate that there is the possibility for those who do not want to pay ISA registration fees to become a member of TGo7 with a small but fundamental contribution. The sole subscription to the TGo7 does not guarantee all the benefits of the ISA registration (like subscriptions to Current and



International Sociology) but allows one to be 100% part of the Thematic Group 07, to be involved in decision-making processes, and to take part in the TGO7 events, workshop and seminars we will organize together. In conclusion, in this issue, you can find some reading suggestions: on this number, the general topics will be history(-ies) and memory(-ies).

What's new?

As you may have noticed in our previous issue, the newsletter is going through a process of evolution and improvement, and several innovations have been introduced. The new method of newsletter broadcasting was of great success: we have solved privacy issues and were able to engage and attract more participants.

I would like to remind everyone that since autumn 2023, the official TGO7 official TGO7 [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages have been active. You can access these pages via the links provided in the email you received (and in the preceding sentence by clicking on the words Facebook and Instagram). In addition, concerning social media, I recently received an email as communication manager, noticing that ISA is now officially on LinkedIn. ISA expanded its digital presence to this professional network in April. Here is the [link](#).

This number also introduces a new section titled "Profiles", which Mark Paterson, president of Thematic Group 07, suggested. Each issue will feature a profile of one of our new members, allowing emerging scholars and researchers to outline their research interests and current projects. I am thankful to have the burden and the honor of inaugurating this new section. I hope this blueprint for the structure of our presentations will be a nice way to let you know more about the Online Communication Manager of this group. We believe this way of exchanging ideas will contribute to the group's growth and enhance collaboration opportunities. Thus, [I kindly encourage our new members, early career scholars, and anyone interested, to submit a brief description of their academic path, current work, and interests \(by sending an email to \[tgo7.sensesandsociety@gmail.com\]\(mailto:tgo7.sensesandsociety@gmail.com\)\)](#).

The last innovation you will find on this issue is a more structured "Publication Highlights" section. In fact, starting from this issue, the section will host two columns: "Hot off the press", with recent publications that lead the topic of the issue, and "On the shoulders of giants", where republished classics are posted to let us take a break from the compulsive reading of new texts and rethink to some sensory studies milestones.

In conclusion I want to remember that our primary objectives for this newsletter are to share information and foster collaboration. Hence, I invite everyone to share ideas and suggestions about the newsletter. I am also more than willing to broadcast any information you wish to share with the group.

Histories and memories

The 25th issue of our newsletter is dedicated to histories and memories. Why are these terms used in their plural forms, and why is this topic so crucial as to attract our attention?

Studying the senses through history and memory underscores its importance, offering profound insights into how sensory experiences shape human perception and cultural interactions across different periods and societies. Historical approaches to sensory studies reveal that the use and prioritization of the senses have varied significantly over time and space, reflecting broader social, technological, and philosophical changes. For example, the prominence of vision in contemporary Western culture profoundly influences art, rituals, and social organization.

Memory plays a pivotal role in connecting sensory experiences to emotional and cultural meanings. By examining how senses are understood, utilized, and remembered in societies, we can uncover the underlying values and knowledge systems that have shaped their worldviews and daily practices. Thus, to speak of histories and memories in their plural forms means then to focus our attention on the ways in which sight, hearing, taste, smell, touch, and the other experiences that enable bodies to perceive the world, shapes and are shaped by (or within), the various cultures they have passed through, providing us with valuable insights into systems of symbols, structures of society, and everyday practices.

In this issue, you will find reading suggestions that underline the importance of historical research and the attention to memories concerning the use of the senses.

If you miss the Newsletter issue #24 on "Aesthetic practices and political actors": don't worry! You can investigate sensory experiences, facing the intricate relationship between senses, emotions, cultural expressions, and political dimensions just by clicking [here](#).

Don't forget there are some active links (clickable URLs) in this Newsletter, especially useful for the 'Publication Highlights' section ([page 15](#)).

Please feel free to email me (tgo7.sensesandsociety@gmail.com) with any relevant news, publications, or calls for papers that fellow Group members could benefit from.

Federico La Bruna

Newsletter Editor of TGO7

Department of Social and Political Sciences, University of Milan; Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, University of Turin.

V ISA Forum of Sociology • Rabat, Morocco

It is only one year to the V ISA Forum of Sociology (Rabat, Morocco, July 6-11, 2025). Submission procedures for the session organizers have already started, and soon, it will also be possible to apply for paper presentations. Below, I attached the scheduled timeline for the applications and selections together with the session formats examples. [#ISAforum25](#)

Timeline to TGo7 Session and Papers

- **May 02 - July 01, 2024 - 24:00 UTC/GMT**

Call for Sessions. Proposers must submit the description of the sessions online via the conference platform.

- **July 02 - July 31, 2024- 24:00 UTC/GMT**

Sessions selection. The RC/WG/TG Program Coordinator will finalize a list of sessions.

- **August 05 - October 15, 2024- 24:00 UTC/GMT**

Abstracts Submission. Participants and organizers of invited sessions must submit abstracts online via the Conference platform (**only abstracts submitted online will be considered in the selection process**).

- **October 15 - November 10, 2024- 24:00 UTC/GMT**

Abstracts Selection. The Session Organizer will complete the selection of abstracts and provide a final presentation designation (oral, distributed, poster, round table).

Note: good-quality abstracts, if unsuited, may be transferred to other appropriate sessions.

Rundown of Session Formats

Various types of sessions can enhance meeting quality, especially if the organizers find the right people to participate in them. The below are simply suggestions.

- **Paper presentation session**

4-5 papers and 15-20 minutes of collective discussion. These sessions are open for abstract submission.

- **Featured or Keynote Speaker**

A session featuring a leading researcher in one of the RC/WG/TG fields, with a 35-60 minutes presentation, followed by a discussion. These sessions are organized directly by Program Coordinators and/or Session Organizers and are not open for abstract submission.

- **Panel Session**

Panel session accommodates a larger number of invited panellists who will debate around a specific theme or on current issues of particular importance to the area of research. The floor will then be opened to the audience. These sessions are organized directly by Program Coordinators and/or Session Organizers and are not open for abstract submission.

- **Invited Session**

Sessions are organized directly by Program Coordinators and/or Session Organizers. These are not open for abstract submission.

- **Author meets their Critics**

A debate around an important recent publication that could be presented by the author(s), with commentators, opening the floor to the audience. These sessions are organized directly by Program Coordinators and/or Session Organizers and are not open for abstract submission.

- **Roundtable Session**

In order to accommodate more papers, a regular session time slot may be used for a maximum of 5 concurrent round table presentations in one room (a maximum of 5-6 presenters at each table). Five tables will be set up simultaneously and in the same room. Each table will accommodate 10 persons, including the presenters (suggested number of 5 presenters). Each RC/WG/TG can organize up to 1 Round Table session.

- **Poster Session**

Poster presentations of research information and results. Each RC/WG/TG can organize up to 2 Poster sessions. Each RC/WG/TG will be given a specific date/time for its Poster Session.

- **Joint Session**

Joint Sessions are sessions organized jointly by two or more RCs, or an RC combined with a WG or TG on a theme of overlapping interest. Please note that Joint Sessions must be included in the regular session allocation of one of the participating units. Joint sessions only count towards the session limit of the host committee. Joint sessions cannot constitute more than 50% of all sessions in which a RC/WG/TG is involved (as host and/or co-organizer).

News and Opportunities

To become a member of TGo7 without paying ISA registration fees

Below, I show how to become a member of TGo7 with a minimal contribution. The sole subscription to the TGo7 does not guarantee all the benefits of the ISA registration (like subscriptions to Current and International Sociology); however, it allows you to be 100% part of our Thematic Group, with a cost that is very little compared to the entire ISA membership.

- 1) If you do not have an ISA membership account, you need to register (free) here: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/login>. Enter your biographical information.
- 2) On the 'My Account' page (<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/isa-members/my-account>), there is a button for 'Join/Renew your ISA/RC/WG/TG Membership'
- 3) This will bring up invoicing details for 'Individual Membership'. You might have to enter an address for the invoicing.
- 4) Select the option 'I do not wish to renew my membership at this time'
- 5) Scroll down for the list of research councils, with TGo7 towards the bottom. Check that box.
- 6) You can then enter payment data (credit card). The standard option is \$20 for 4 years, but if you need a discount, e.g. because of student status, and that option does not come up on the form, do contact the ISA team (isa@isa-sociology.org)

Call for proposals for ISA book series and special issues

Joy Zhang, the new editor of the ISA's (1) SAGE Studies in International Sociology book series and (2) Current Sociology monographs (special issues), invited us at TGo7 Senses and Society to consider turning Thematic Groups discussions into SAGE Studies in International Sociology (SSIS). Innovative formats that leverage the length of a book are especially welcome. They encourage considering small group co-authored volumes (2-4 authors), allowing for an in-depth dialogical investigation of a specific topic.

Below, I attached the link to the web pages and a small description of each outlet.

SAGE Studies in International Sociology

The ISA's series SAGE Studies in International Sociology (SSIS), founded in 1974, encourages debates of international significance and maps out future trends of sociological importance. The SSIS series identifies new areas of scholarship, informing the discipline internationally, which have global consequences.

Proposals should speak to one of the three themes:

- Challenges of Sociology (CoS) is an initiative to promote, identify, and discuss both new theoretical trends and re-think ideas already familiar to the Sociological Imagination. We welcome proposals from ISA members in good standing.
- Key Texts of World Sociology (KTWS), which acknowledges and promotes (in English translation) important sociological texts, written in other languages, by scholars in various parts of the world since the establishment of the discipline in those regions.
- Proceedings of ISA World Congresses, ISA Forums, meetings of the Research Committees and of the Council of National Associations

Proposals should include the following:

- Draft title and a 150-word summary.
- A general description of the main theme and its intended contribution to global sociology (not exceeding 1,000 words).
- An indicative list of chapters with a 200-300-word description for each.
- If applicable, an indicative list of contributors with short biographies.
- Statement of the intended audience and its sales potential.
- Statement on competing titles.
- An Editorial Board comprising internationally-recognized sociologists will review the initial proposal. The final manuscript will undergo peer review in consultation with SAGE.

Books should not exceed 125,000 words, including tables and figures. The SSIS series adheres to the SAGE Harvard reference style.

Current Sociology Monographs

Current Sociology monograph issues were introduced in 2001, as two additional issues per year of the journal Current Sociology. Current Sociology Monographs highlight both original and novel themes and problematics within the discipline. Each issue has a single or joint guest editor(s), and presents a selection of papers reflecting (but not limited to) global concerns and critical debates within and outside ISA's Research and National Associational networks and conferences. The papers should include a strong introduction and/or conclusion exploring and developing the theme of the issue.

Current Sociology monograph issues are published in English and should include abstracts in French and Spanish. Each monograph issue is typically up to 90,000 words (this is a compulsory constraint) including references; abstracts with translations, contributors list etc. and will therefore be approximately 72,000 words of actual text. Editor(s) may like to have short and long papers to ensure the maximum word length as mentioned above.

Proposals should include the following:

- A brief synopsis (1000-2000 words) describing the main features of the issue, as well as the proposed volume's conceptual and/or empirical significance.
- A statement on how this issue is to be organized. This includes:
- Proposed time frame. Please indicate if the proposed volume is based on a conference or workshop, if it will be an open call, or a hybrid of the two.
- How the guest editors plan to support epistemic diversity and inclusivity.
- If applicable: an indicative list of names and affiliations of the contributors. A 'paper by paper synopsis' is preferable, although not required.
- Short biographies of all guest editors, including their relevant academic and/or editorial experiences.

All monograph proposals are refereed. Guest editor/s will be informed of the outcome within 6 weeks of the submission of the proposal.

Monograph proposal must be sent to cs-monographs@isa-sociology.org

If the proposals are accepted, all authors should submit their individual manuscripts through ScholarOne (<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cso>)

Call for volunteers for "Sensing Meetings"

In the wake of an exciting series of events organized by Nicolás Arenas-Osorio (ISA WGo8 Society and Emotions), we are interested in organizing a series of online/hybrid events called "Sensing Meetings", which consist of 90-minute meetings to discuss a particular topic agreed in advance with speakers and audience. We hope these meetings will allow for interesting dialogues on senses and perception.

On this occasion, I want to extend the invitation to all the members to collaborate and support the organization of these events. The TGO7 president, Mark Paterson, has already expressed his availability to participate in the organization, but we need the help of more members.

Call for workshop participation

Towards an Experience-Driven Touch-Based Paradigm for Robots and Technologies in Assistive and Intimate Interactions • Eurohaptics 2024 • 30/06/2024 • Lille, France • Deadline: 20 May.

In the context of [Eurohaptics 2024](#), Mark Paterson (University of Pittsburgh), together with a team from KTH Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm and UCL, co-organized a half-day workshop that involves a panel with talks from experts and another panel with interactive demos, along with time for discussion. Below, is attached the description:

"Touch-based interaction design, especially the features of soft robotic based actuators has shown increasing potential to be applied to healthcare and domestic settings, especially in care and intimate interaction contexts. However, current haptic devices are still very limited in developing richer and more fine-grained haptic sensations for users. The key to unlock these potentials depends on whether the technology can touch well, i.e. whether the experiential quality or affordance matches the expectation for intended use cases. The workshop intends to gather insights from a cross-disciplinary community including (but not limited to): design, engineering, science, psychology, the healthcare professions, and art practitioners, and aims to discuss how to map the experiential qualities of touch in different contexts and the technical parameters to achieve these qualities, with useful tools and datasets."

Interested participants please submit a short bio and a brief motivational note via [this form \(website\)](#) by May 20. The workshop hosts a maximum of 25 participants. Notifications will probably be sent out before 25th May 2024. Any questions or technical issue regarding submission please contact the principal organizer, Caroline Yan Zheng cyzheng@kth.se

Towards Robot and Technologies that Touch Well – Shaping an Experience-driven Design Paradigm • DIS 24 • 01/07/2024 – 05/07/2024 • Copenhagen, Denmark • Deadline: 27 May.

In the context of the [ACM Conference on Designing Interactive Systems \(DIS 24\)](#), Mark Paterson (University of Pittsburgh), together with the team from KTH Royal Institute and UCL, co-organized a one-day workshop that involves paper presentations, demos, and discussions. Contributions are welcome from those whose research interests and practices intersect with touch or haptics. Below, is attached the description:

"Touch plays a vital role in social communication, bonding, and maintaining physical and emotional well-being. Advances in robotics alongside novel haptic technologies provide opportunities for tactile technology design that supports remote and robotic care, physical and mental well-being, social bonding, and novel sensory experiences. However, the key to unlocking these potentials depends on whether a technology can 'touch well'. Current haptic devices are still very limited in the range and nuances of sensations that they can deliver, and there is still the bottleneck of developing richer and finer-grained sensations that encompass those of human social touch. Currently, we have a limited understanding of the design parameters associated with the quality and nuance of touch, and to develop knowledge in this area requires cross-disciplinary collaborations. Given these challenges, we propose the formulation of a novel experience-driven design paradigm that brings together parameters from the expressive, affective, experiential and soma-aesthetic qualities of touch, as well as technical realizations and ethical dimensions."

Interested participants please submit a short position paper, pictorial or demonstration paper (1~4 pages) in PDF format involves one of the three aspects listed below. In the submission link we also ask for a short bio of the attending author(s) of the paper.

- Reflections on principles, assumptions, and conceptual tools that lie behind an experience-centered approach to touch design;
- Demonstrations of examples, tools, methods and process for mapping design parameters to experiential qualities of touch;
- Illustrate challenges that arise within specific contexts where haptic or robotic technologies must provide particular experiential qualities to the user or operator.

Deadline for submission: 27th May. Notification of acceptance: 31st May.

Please submit via [this link \(website\)](#). If you have any questions or technical issues regarding submission, please contact the principal organizer, Caroline Yan Zheng cyzheng@kth.se

Profiles

Federico La Bruna, Online Communication Manager

Federico La Bruna (he/they) is a sociology doctoral student at the [University of Milan](#) and the [University of Turin](#), with expected completion in 2024. He is a member and co-founder of the independent research collective Stray Urbanities. (federico.labruna@unimi.it)

His educational background is rooted in sociology and methodology of social research. After a Bachelor's in Sociology ([University of Milano-Bicocca](#)), he graduated in Sociology and Social Research ([University of Trento](#)) with a thesis that explored ethnographically social distancing norms in Milan's metro during the Covid-19 pandemic (under the supervision of Professor Andrea M. Brighenti).

Additionally, he enriched his academic profile through various seminars and summer schools, including notable experiences at the CUNY, and the University of Amsterdam.

His current PhD research is titled "Making Up Urban Space: A Comparative Ethnography of Social Distancing on Public Transport." Under the supervision of Paola Rebughini and Giovanni Semi, this investigation explains how social distance, intended as a socially originated separation between the elements of a territory, simultaneously emerges from privileges, practices, and memories of public transport. In this project, [the attention is focused on the surfacing of atmospheres and the emotive and sensorial experience of public transport users.](#)

Research interests span urban and cultural sociology, sociological theory, and territoriality, as well as the sociology of senses and emotions, with a strong focus on ethnographic and qualitative methods. Federico's work aims to enhance our understanding of urban territories and social behaviours, contributing nuanced insights into [the interplay between sensorial and atmospheric perceptions and urban narratives.](#)

Selected publication: La Bruna, F. & Brazioli C. (2024). Atmospheres of degrado. Visibility and Power in Milan's Public Transport. *Etnografia e Ricerca Qualitativa* [Manuscript submitted for publication]

Upcoming conference: Panel organizer at RC21 Conference, Santiago, July 2024. "Navigating Spaces of Power. The Everyday Conflicts and Paradoxes of Public Transport".



Upcoming Events

3rd Feeling Meeting "Emotions & Consumption"

• 30/05/24 16:00 (GMT+1, UK time) • Online

Nicolás Arenas-Osorio has informed us that the ISA WGo8 Society and Emotions has been organizing this year a series of online/hybrid events called the "Feeling Meetings", which consist of 90-minute meetings to discuss a particular topic agreed in advance. These events are having a huge success, with attendants and speakers who engaged in fascinating dialogues on Emotions and Social Action. At the end of the month, the third event of this series will take place, where our president, Mark Paterson, will participate as a speaker, focussing on the topic of consumption.



Conference "Sensuous Consonance: The visual arts in conjunction with music around 1900" • 04/10/24 • Nationalmuseum - The Royal Swedish Academy of Music, Stockholm

In collaboration with The Royal Swedish Academy of Music, the National museum of Stockholm is organizing an interdisciplinary conference in the autumn of 2024. The aim is to shed light on the multifaceted, international efforts to bring music and visual art together in the period around the turn of the 20th century. The deadline for the abstract submission is already expired (1st May) but since the relevance of the event, it seems to deserve a spotlight in our newsletter.

"In the decades around 1900 attempts were made to unify music and visual arts in new ways. Richness of colour, dynamism in time and/or space, and a fundamental (though rarely absolute) absence of words – these characteristics united the two art forms, even as they engaged different senses. An artwork that appealed to both the ear and the eye, in one way or another, and that wholly or partially avoided communicating through words, could be assumed to have particularly favourable conditions for imparting a sense of the intimate as well as the sublime, of hidden connections, and of transcendent meaning. A Swedish example is the intimate artistic and personal interplay between Alice Nordin (sculptor, 1871–1948) and Hugo Alfvén (composer, violinist and painter, 1872–1960), where practices of beholding and listening, of sculpting and musical composition/performance were conjoined reciprocally in a context of romance and aesthetic experiment, visible in Nordin's bust

named after the slow movement, “Andante patetico”, of Alfvén’s Sonata for violin and piano (1896). Another example of art and music in conjunction is Gottfrid Larsson’s sculpture *Symphony* (1906–09) in the old concert hall of The Royal Swedish Academy of Music.”

Keynote speaker: Axel Englund, Professor of Literature and Wallenberg Academy Fellow at the Department of Culture and Aesthetics, member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, as well as President of the International Association of Word and Music Studies (WMA) : ”The Musical Body Seen and Unseen”.



Uncommon Senses V: "Sensing the Social, the Environment, and Across the Arts and Sciences" • 07/05/25 - 11/05/25 • Online - Concordia University, Montreal

The dates for the next conference in the Uncommon senses series are finally out. The conference will be called ‘[Uncommon Senses V: Sensing the Social, the Environment, and Across the Arts and Sciences](#)’, and it will run from 7-11 May 2025, at Concordia University, Montreal, both in-person and on-line. The Call for Proposals for individual papers, panels, roundtables, workshops, as well as material for the physical and virtual art galleries will go out in early October 2024.

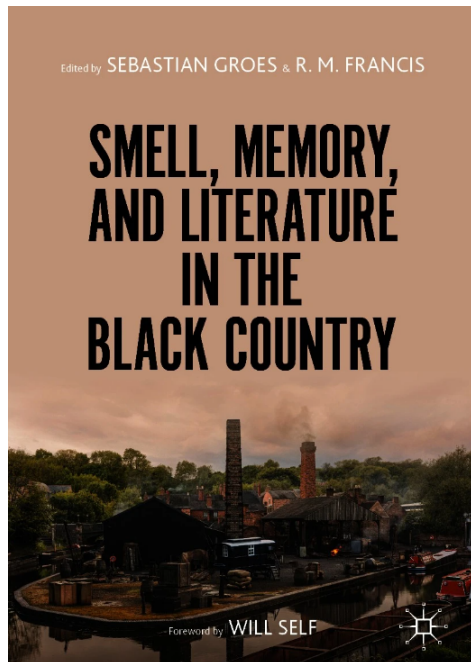
One of the four plenary lectures will be presented by Polina Dimova, Assistant Professor of Russian at University of Denver, and author of ‘[At the Crossroads of the Senses: The Synaesthetic Metaphor Across the Arts in European Modernism](#)’, forthcoming from Pennsylvania State University Press (November 2024).

Visit the [website](#) of the Uncommon Senses IV if you want to know more on the Uncommon Senses Series.

Publication Highlights

Sebastian Groes and R. M. Francis. (Eds.) Smell, Memory, and Literature in the Black Country. Palgrave Macmillan, 2021.

In this 25th issue of our newsletter, we delve into the pluralistic narratives that shape our understanding of past and present. With great pleasure, I open the publication highlights session with the book *Smell, Memory, and Literature in the Black Country*, edited by



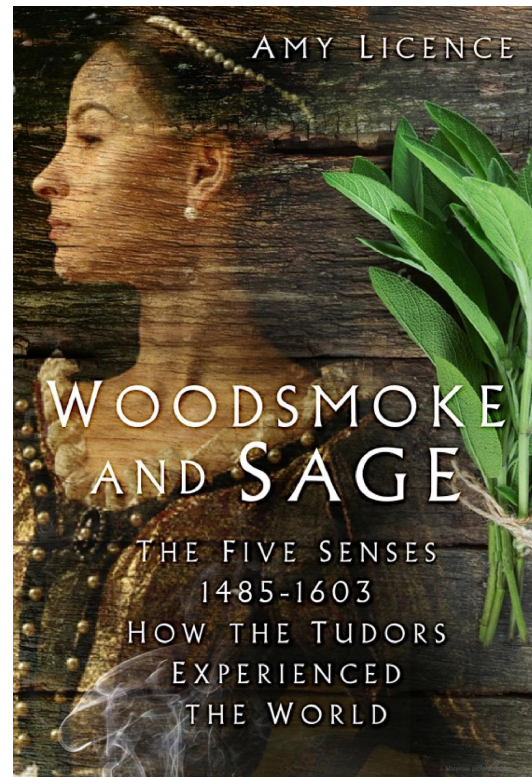
Sebastian Groes and R. M. Francis. This book is an expedition into the olfactory memories that define the Black Country, a region rich with industrial heritage and cultural vibrancy yet often overshadowed in broader historical narratives. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the book explores how smell and memory intersect to form a deep, personal and communal sense of place. Why include this book in our discussion on histories and memories? Because it exemplifies how sensory experiences – specifically smell – serve not just as mere recollections but as powerful conduits through which we can revisit and recontextualize our histories. It shows us that our senses are not passive but are actively involved in shaping cultural identities and heritage. Below, I provide the book description offered by the publisher.

"From Banks's brewery's yeasty stink to groaty pudding to spicy curry, Sebastian Groes and R. M. Francis have assembled a new literary history of the smells and (childhood) memories that belong to the Black Country. This often overlooked region of the United Kingdom at the frontlines of post-industrial upheaval is a veritable treasure trove for studying the relationship between olfaction and place-specific memory. *Smell, Memory, and Literature in the Black Country* is an interdisciplinary exploration of the relationship between smell and memory in which the contributions consider both personal and communal memory. Drawing on psychology, neuroscience, memory studies, literary studies and philosophy, the critical essays reconsider psychogeography through cutting-edge sensory and philosophical engagements with physical space, smell, language and human behaviour. The creative contributions from writers including Liz Berry, Narinder Dhani, Anthony Cartwright, and Kerry Hadley-Pryce meditate on the senses, place, and identity. Not only does this book illustrate the rich cultural heritage of the Black Country, it will also appeal to those interested in place writing. The book is prefaced by Will Self."

Amy Licence. Woodsmoke and Sage: The Five Senses 1485-1603: How the Tudors Experienced the World. The History Press, 2021.

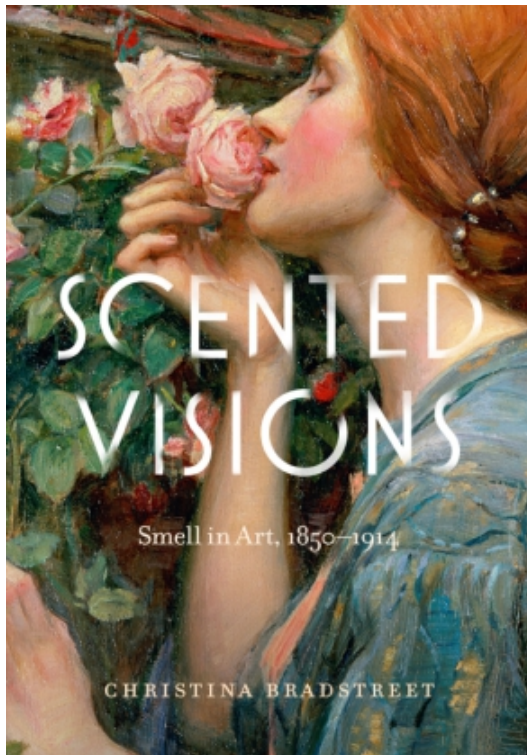
As we continue to explore the profound influence of histories and memories, I am thrilled to spotlight a book that takes us on an immersive journey into the sensory world of the Tudors, offering a vibrant tableau of their daily lives through an intriguing sensory perspective. Amy Licence, a historian, uses the five senses as a framework to delve into the material culture of the Tudor era, providing us with a unique lens to view history. This book is a perfect example of how sensory experiences are integral to our comprehension of history. By examining how the Tudors interacted with their environment, Licence enriches our understanding of how these sensory inputs shaped their beliefs, behaviors, and identity. Below, I provide the book description offered by the publisher.

"Using the five senses, historian Amy Licence presents a new perspective on the material culture of the past, exploring the Tudors' relationship with the fabric of their existence, from the clothes on their backs, the roofs over their heads and the food on their tables, to the wider questions of how they interpreted and presented themselves, and what they believed about life, death and beyond. Take a journey back 500 years and experience the sixteenth century the way it was lived, through sight, sound, smell, taste and touch."



Christina Bradstreet. Scented Visions. Smell in Art, 1850-1914. The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2022.

This publication delves into the fascinating intersection of olfactory perceptions and visual arts during a pivotal period in cultural history. Christina Bradstreet uses the concept of the “period nose” to explore how smell influenced and was represented during a time when fears of miasma and the drive for sanitation reforms were prevalent. This book examines the iconography of scent in their works and how these representations are connected to broader societal debates about evolution, morality, gender, and mental health. It underscores how sensory experiences can be a powerful cultural force that shapes artistic expression and public discourse. Bradstreet’s analysis provides a deeper understanding of how art in the late



nineteenth century mirrored and responded to contemporary concerns, offering readers a nuanced view of sensory history and visual culture. Below, I provide the book description offered by the publisher.

"Smell loomed large in cultural discourse in the late nineteenth century, thanks to the midcentury fear of miasma, the drive for sanitation reform, and the rise in artificial perfumery. Meanwhile, the science of olfaction remained largely mysterious, prompting an impulse to "see smell" and inspiring some artists to picture scent in order to better know and control it. This book recovers the substantive role of the olfactory in Pre-Raphaelite art and Aestheticism. Christina Bradstreet examines the iconography and symbolism of scent in nineteenth-century art and visual culture. Fragrant imagery in the work of John

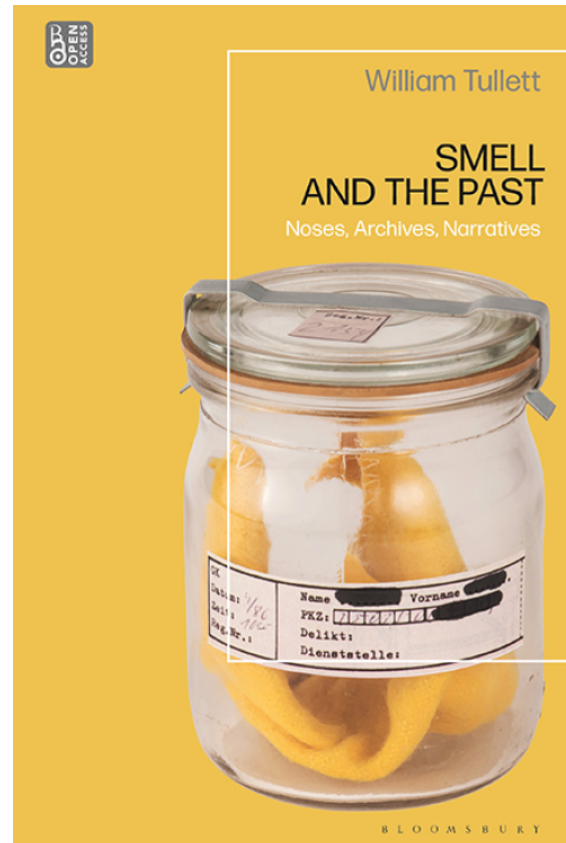
Everett Millais, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Simeon Solomon, George Frederic Watts, Edward Burne-Jones, and others set the trend for the preoccupation with scent that informed swaths of British, European, and American art and design. Bradstreet's rich analyses of paintings, perfume posters, and other works of visual culture demonstrate how artworks mirrored the "period nose" and intersected with the most clamorous debates of the day, including evolution, civilization, race, urban morality, mental health, faith, and the "woman question." Beautifully illustrated and grounded in current practices in sensory history, *Scented Visions* presents both fresh readings of major works of art and a deeper understanding of the cultural history of nineteenth-century scent."

William Tullett. Smell and the Past. Noses, Archives, Narratives. Bloomsbury Academic, 2023.

I am delighted to present a groundbreaking work that challenges conventional approaches to historical research: *Smell and the Past: Noses, Archives, Narratives* by William Tullett. This innovative book invites us to rethink how we connect with history, advocating for the use of our olfactory senses as a dynamic tool in scholarly research. Tullett makes a compelling case for an imaginatively interdisciplinary approach to sensory heritage. He argues that by engaging our noses, we can "re-odorize" archives to discover narratives that traditional methods might overlook. This approach offers a fresh perspective on sensory history, illustrating how smell can reveal hidden aspects of the past and enhance our comprehension

of historical life. Below, I provide the book description offered by the publisher.

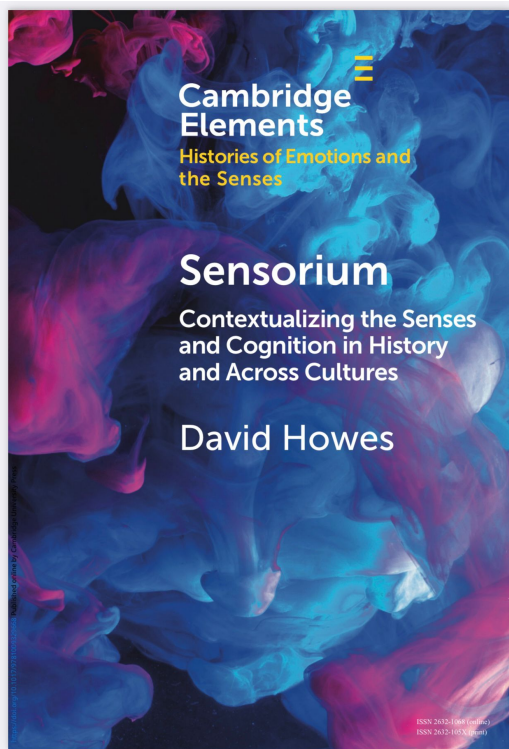
"What if researchers interested in 'the past' used their noses? This open access book makes the case for a more imaginatively interdisciplinary approach to sensory heritage and history, arguing that we can and should engage our noses as a research tool for articulating the past. Assessing how both we and our ancestors approach, understand and conceptualise smell, Tullett shows how archives can be 're-odorized' to uncover narratives that are only implicit in or obscured by the historical record. From perfume libraries to organic compounds emitted by historical objects, this book acts as a guide for employing our olfactory senses when researching and studying history in order to understand and communicate the past more fully. Employing 'olfactory figures' examples, *Smell and the Past* shows how historical narratives and arguments can be found through a structured olfactory experience, and demonstrates how our understanding of the past and its relationship with the present is enriched by opening our minds and using our noses."



Hot off the press

David Howes. Sensorium. Contextualizing the Senses and Cognition in History and Across Cultures. Cambridge University Press, 2024.

I am excited to inaugurate this new column in the publication highlights session with the newest book by David Howes. This book – free access until the 13th of May – offers a profound exploration into the historical and cultural nuances of sensory perception, expanding our understanding of how we experience the world. *Sensorium* moves beyond the confines of the psychology laboratory to explore a rich tapestry of sensory experiences as constructed and lived diversely throughout history. The book offers surprising insights that challenge our “common-sense” assumptions about the sensorium, making what Howes terms “uncommon sense.” This book perfectly complements our theme by highlighting the significant role that sensory perception plays in shaping cultural and historical consciousness. Howes provides a critical analysis of sensory interactions and introduces



readers to historical figures whose works further illuminate the intricate relationship between the senses and cognition. Below, I provide the book description offered by the publisher.

"Do the senses have a history? How many might there be? Are the senses so many independent channels, or do they interact with and modulate each other? If so, how might we cultivate the capacity to see feelingly or hear colours? What makes smell 'the affective sense'? These are among the questions to be addressed in this Element. It pries the senses and perception loose from the psychology laboratory to focus on how they have been constructed and lived differently in different historical periods and across cultures. Many of its findings are surprising because they run counter to our common-sense assumptions about the sensorium. They make uncommon sense.

Plus the reader will meet some fascinating historical characters like the prolific 17th century natural philosopher Margaret Cavendish (also author of the play *The Convent of Pleasure*) and the late 19th century artist James McNeill Whistler, who infused his paintings with music."

Jean Duruz and Nicholas Manganas. (Eds.) Sticky Memories: The Emotional Landscape of Food. PORTAL Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies, 19(1-2) (Special double issue), 2023.

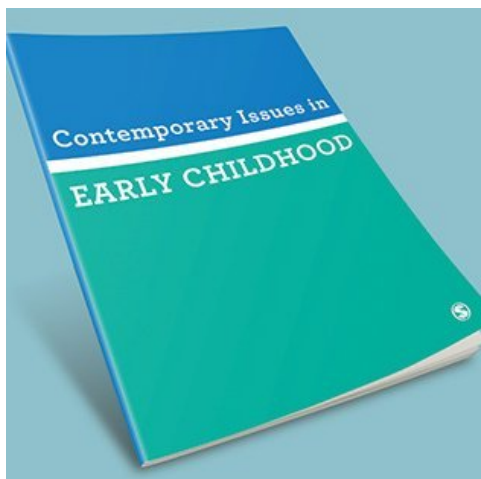
In our ongoing dedication to exploring the depths and nuances of histories and memories, I am excited to present a special non-refereed issue of the PORTAL Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies. I think that the best way to present this publication is by forwarding the message I have received from our estimated colleague Jean Duruz. Below, I provide the book description offered by the publisher.

"Dear friends, as sensory scholars, I thought you might find this interesting. Our decision to make this issue non-refereed was to provide contributors with greater freedom than is usual in academic writing. The result is, we feel, a diverse collection of incidents, memories, reflections, textual forms and images, spanning a number of academic disciplines (geography, sociology, cultural studies, international studies ...) and referencing a multitude of places around the globe (Venezuela, Mexico, England, Bangladesh ...) and historical time

frames (colonial Australia, newly-independent Malaysia, Western Australia under COVID regulations). With encouragement to be creative and, perhaps, to use a more open-ended format to write pieces that otherwise might not be written, we feel that contributors have responded thoughtfully to the challenge."

"This special issue, *Sticky Memories: The Emotional Landscape of Food*, explores the profound impact of culinary experiences on our emotional and cultural landscapes. It examines how food, beyond its material form, becomes a powerful symbol in our personal and communal narratives. The issue engages with Sara Ahmed's (2004) concept of 'stickiness' in food memories, where culinary experiences not only linger but also shape identity, resist replication, and reflect complex sociopolitical realities. The narratives demonstrate food's role in memory-making, highlighting the intricate intersections of taste, emotion and cultural heritage."

Natalia Kucirkova. The explanatory power of sensory reading for early childhood research: The role of hidden senses. *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, 25(1), 2024.



"The Explanatory Power of Sensory Reading for Early Childhood Research" is a pivotal journal article that expands the boundaries of how we understand and engage with sensory reading. This approach incorporates the familiar senses of vision, hearing, and touch, emphasizing the often-overlooked senses of gustation, olfaction, and proprioception. The author of this article argues for broader attention to these 'hidden' senses in order to advance reading studies into new and exciting territories. By critiquing the visual dominance in multimodal research and the typical comparisons



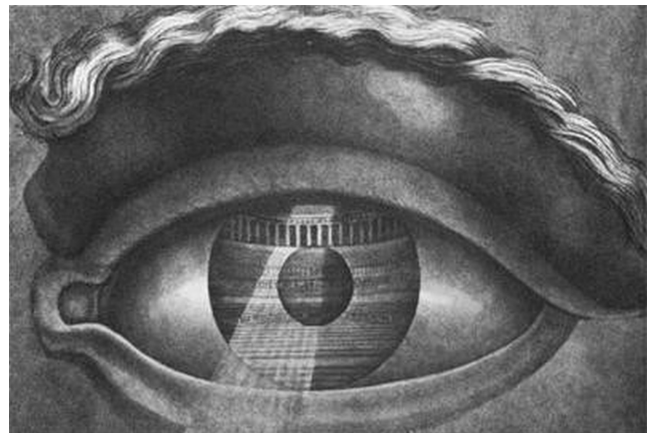
between print and digital media, this work proposes a sensory reading model not tied to any specific medium. This cross-disciplinary discussion opens up new horizons for what the author terms “affective literacies,” integrating psychological and new media studies to address the material, ephemeral, and embodied aspects of reading. Below, I provide the book description offered by the publisher.

"Sensory reading refers to reading that engages all six of the human senses – vision, hearing, touch, gustation, olfaction and proprioception. The author proposes that increased attention be paid to the three ‘hidden’ senses of gustation, olfaction and proprioception to advance innovative reading studies. She articulates the problematic of visually dominated multimodal research and print–digital media comparison studies, and extends the reading field to sensory reading that is not tied to a specific medium or mode of engagement but mediated by individualised sensory stimuli. This cross-disciplinary discussion of sensory reading opens up a new vista for affective literacies and integrates the tensions that emerge between psychological and new media studies concerned with material, ephemeral and embodied reading. This approach refines Rosenblatt’s transaction theory and contributes new insights into materiality, ephemerality and the embodiment of reading, which dominate contemporary reading studies."

On the shoulders of giants

Juhani Pallasmaa. The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses. Wiley, 2024.

Our exploration of the relationships between history, memory, and sensory experiences has come to an end. However, before concluding this brief journey, we can appreciate the new edition of the seminal work in architectural theory by Juhani Pallasmaa that challenged the sensory dimensions of how we perceive and interact with space: *The Eyes of the Skin*. As many other publications here presented, this book provocatively questions the dominance of sight in architectural design and culture. Juhani Pallasmaa argues that the overwhelming emphasis on visual aspects in architecture has led to an impoverishment of our built environments, often at the expense of other sensory experiences crucial for creating genuinely engaging and life-enhancing spaces. *The Eyes of the Skin* provides profound insights into the necessity



of incorporating a more holistic sensory approach, considering how spaces feel, sound, and even smell, in addition to how they look. Below, I provide the book description offered by the publisher.



"First published in 1996, *The Eyes of the Skin* has become a classic of architectural theory. It asks the far-reaching question why, when there are five senses, has one single sense - sight - become so predominant in architectural culture and design? With the ascendancy of the digital and the all-pervasive use of the image electronically, it is a subject that has become all the more pressing and topical since

the first edition's publication in the mid-1990s. Juhani Pallasmaa argues that the suppression of the other four sensory realms has led to the overall impoverishment of our built environment, often diminishing the emphasis on the spatial experience of a building and architecture's ability to inspire, engage and be wholly life enhancing. For every student studying Pallasmaa's classic text for the first time, *The Eyes of the Skin* is a revelation. It compellingly provides a totally fresh insight into architectural culture. This third edition meets readers' desire for a further understanding of the context of Pallasmaa's thinking by providing a new essay by architectural author and educator Peter MacKeith. This text combines both a biographical portrait of Pallasmaa and an outline of his architectural thinking, its origins and its relationship to the wider context of Nordic and European thought, past and present. The focus of the essay is on the fundamental humanity, insight and sensitivity of Pallasmaa's approach to architecture, bringing him closer to the reader. This is illustrated by Pallasmaa's sketches and photographs of his own work. The new edition also provides a foreword by the internationally renowned architect Steven Holl and a revised introduction by Pallasmaa himself."