



TG07 SENSES & SOCIETY
International Sociological Association

Newsletter Issue 2

2011

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Editorial Note

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are pleased to share with all of you our second newsletter in relation to our recent success in establishing a Thematic Group TG07 on ‘Senses and Society’ within the International Sociological Association (ISA).

You will find in this issue, a call for membership participation in the TG which would be instrumental in facilitating the organisation of workshops, meetings, and conferences from this year on. We would also like to draw your attention to 2 calls for papers.

The first event is a ‘**Sensory Urbanisms Workshop**’ taking place at the National University of Singapore in November 2011, and the second is the **ISA Forum** which will be held in Buenos Aires in August 2012.

We warmly invite your participation and look forward to fruitful exchanges in sensory studies!

Coordinators of ‘Senses & Society’ TG

Kelvin E.Y. Low
National University of Singapore
socleyk@nus.edu.sg

Devorah Kalekin-Fishman
University of Haifa
dkalekin@univ.haifa.ac.il

TG07 Membership

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, we have been recognized as an official research unit of the ISA. This was made possible not a little by the warm responses we received from colleagues and friends, social scientists who share our enthusiasm for sensory research.

The work of the group is indeed underway. Having been approved as an initiative, we will moreover be allocated eight sessions for making presentations, sharing ideas and completing our formal organization in the Second ISA Forum ('Social Justice and Democratization') to be held on August 1-4, 2012, in Buenos Aires.

This will be possible, however, only if TG07 has at least 25 members officially enrolled. Membership entitles us not only to take part in all the intermediate activities of our group but also to take part in all the activities of the ISA, including standing for office, as well as to submit abstracts for the Forum, and in two years, for the World Congress in Yokohama.

TG07 dues are US\$ 20 (US\$ 10 Discount) for a 4-year period. The ISA membership registration form is available on http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm

Please take care of registration at your earliest convenience.

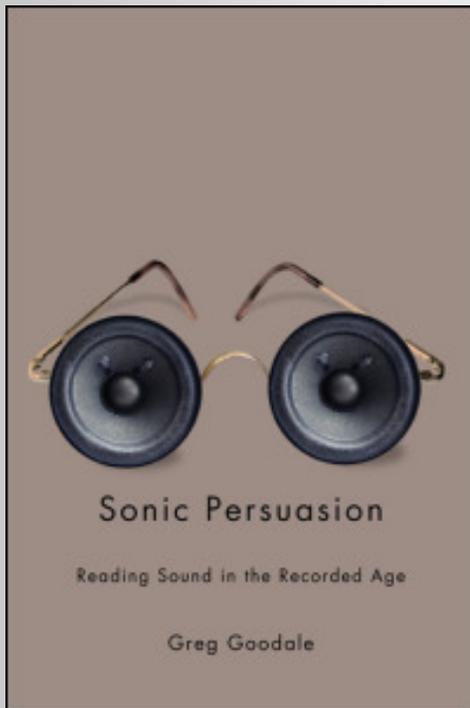
Looking forward to meeting with you soon,

Best wishes from

Devorah Kalekin-Fishman

Kelvin B.Y. Low

Publications Highlights



Sonic Persuasion: Reading Sound in the Recorded Age critically analyzes a range of sounds on vocal and musical recordings, on the radio, in film, and in cartoons to show how sounds are used to persuade in subtle ways. Greg Goodale explains how and to what effect sounds can be "read" like an aural text, demonstrating this method by examining important audio cues such as dialect, pausing, and accent in presidential recordings at the turn of the twentieth century.

Goodale also shows how clocks, locomotives, and machinery are utilized in film and literature to represent frustration and anxiety about modernity, and how race and other forms of identity came to be represented by sound during the interwar period. In highlighting common sounds of industry and war in popular media, *Sonic Persuasion* also demonstrates how programming producers and governmental agencies employed sound to evoke a sense of fear in listeners.

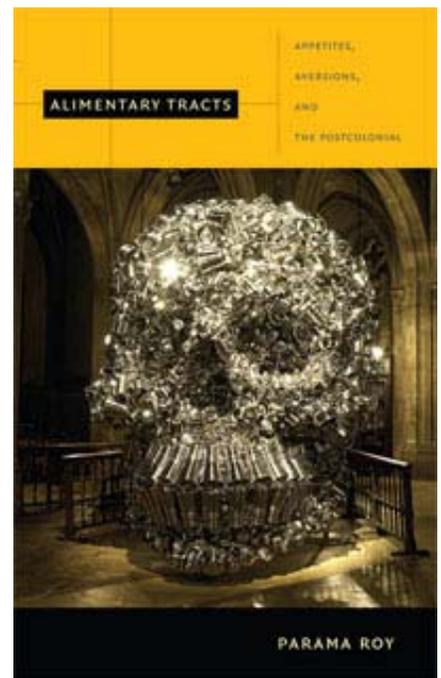
***Sonic Persuasion: Reading Sound
in the Recorded Age***

Greg Goodale

University of Illinois Press (2011)

Publications Highlights

In *Alimentary Tracts* Parama Roy argues that who eats and with whom, who starves, and what is rejected as food are questions fundamental to empire, decolonization, and globalization. In crucial ways, she suggests, colonialism reconfigured the sensorium of colonizer and colonized, generating novel experiences of desire, taste, and appetite as well as new technologies of the embodied self. For colonizers, Indian nationalists, diasporic persons, and others in the colonial and postcolonial world orders, the alimentary tract functioned as an important corporeal, psychoaffective, and ethicopolitical contact zone, in which questions of identification, desire, difference, and responsibility were staged.



***Alimentary Tracts: Appetites,
Aversions, and the Postcolonial***

Parama Roy
Duke University Press (2010)

Call for Papers

SENSORY URBANISMS WORKSHOP

11th November 2011

National University of Singapore

While urban dimensions of landscapes and the physical environment are often thought of in the fore as built structures that relate to functionality in modern life, cities, towns and other sites are also depositories of a spectrum of human experience that indubitably comprise social relationships, memories, emotions, and how they are negotiated on an everyday basis.

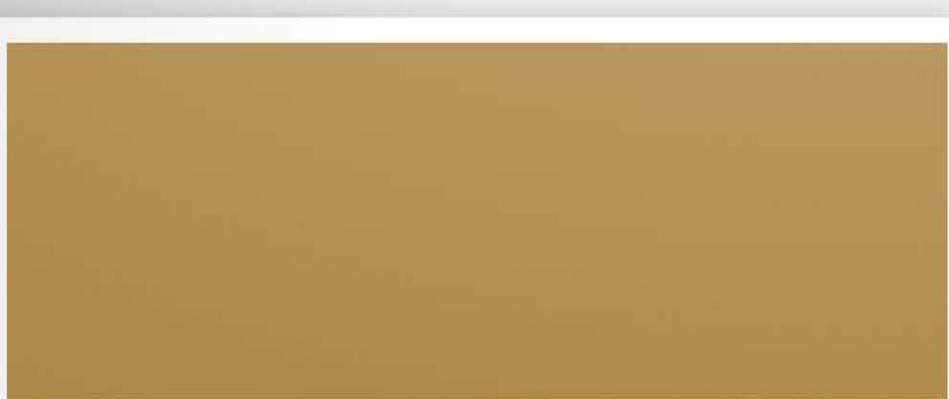
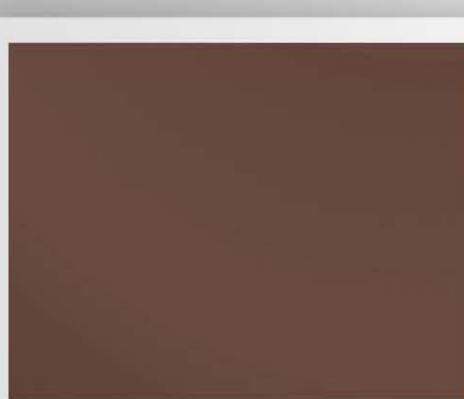
Embedded within these processes of sociality is how the senses mediate one's engagement with urban growth and development, hence rendering insights into the multisensuality of urbanity. Georg Simmel was one of the first intellectuals to locate the links between the sensorium and the metropolitan city towards deliberating on urban culture and urban consciousness. In tandem, Alain Corbin's distinguished work on *The Foul and the Fragrant* (1986) details the manifold ways through which odours intersect with notions of health and hygiene, sanitary planning, and how the control of olfaction in urbanity has been deemed imperative within processes of modernisation and civilisation.

Call for Papers

SENSORY URBANISMS WORKSHOP **11th November 2011** **National University of Singapore**

Similar lines of inquiry have also been undertaken by Cohen, Porteous and Rodaway who expound in different measures, the social significance of the senses and the symbolic meanings they connote within urban landscapes in the fields of sociology, anthropology, and geography.

Providing a suitable point of departure for which sensory urbanisms can be interrogated in both historical and contemporary milieu, what roles do the senses play in urban built-up spaces across different societies and cultures? How do the sensorial alignments and articulations inform in constructing a sense of 'self', and in what manner are the sensorial politics exercised to identify and exclude social 'others'? How are sensorial vocabularies evoked to instate a moral order which has implications in permitting or limiting access to spaces in the city? How do social actors remember and re-experience urban settings through the senses?



Call for Papers

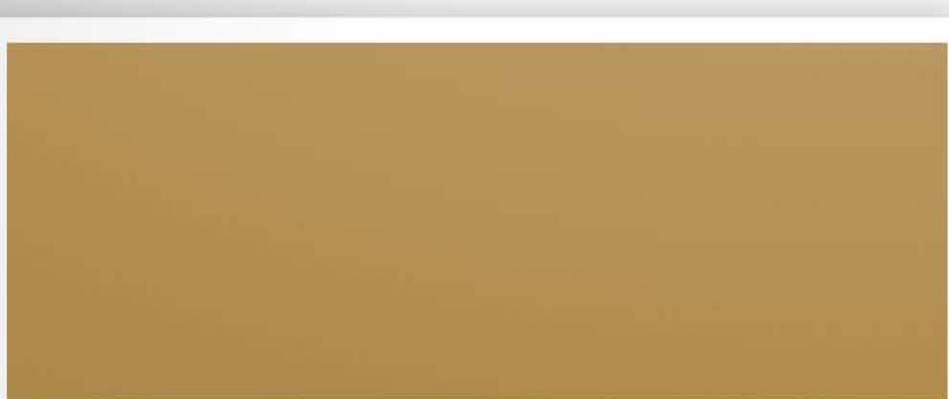
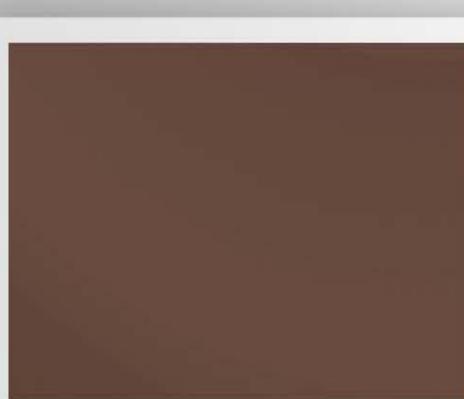
SENSORY URBANISMS WORKSHOP

11th November 2011

National University of Singapore

Is there a transnational dimension built into the equation of sensuous cities and interfaces beyond the local or regional context? What is the multisensual character of physical environments and urban aesthetics?

By calling upon scholarly attention on how urban spaces are experienced sensorially through the bodies of social actors, or planned by various institutions and agencies, we therefore seek to illuminate the ways by which urban environments are distinguished, valued, or reconfigured with the senses as media of evaluation in everyday experiences of space and place. At the same time, we hope to address how sensory qualities of place and sensuous reorganisation elucidate particular sociocultural expressions and practices in urban life. We invite participation from across the different academic disciplines, but we also encourage artists and practitioners of sensorial politics, urban spaces, and bodily performances to engage in this forum.



Call for Papers

The following is a non-exhaustive list of themes that we aim to deliberate upon in this inter-disciplinary workshop:

1. Urban history and sensory experiences
2. Sensory-place making, urban regeneration, and experiential economies
3. Heritage Sites, Social Memory, and Sensory Narratives
4. Transnational Sensescapes/Comparing Global Cities
5. Sensory transgressions in the city
6. Urban planning; Architecture and the Senses
7. Sensory methodologies and fieldwork
8. Theoretical Paradigms/Interventions
9. Body, Emotions, & Culture in Urban Life
10. Sensorial politics of identity, mobility, and morality in urbanity

SENSORY URBANISMS WORKSHOP
11th November 2011
National University of Singapore

Call for Papers

Keynote Speaker

Ursula Rao

University of New South Wales



Submission of abstracts:

Please submit an abstract (300-400 words) and a brief author biography by 3rd October 2011. Accepted submissions will be notified by 7th October 2011.

There are possibilities of travel subsidies for regional participants and graduate students.

Workshop Convenors:

Kelvin Low (National University of Singapore)

socleyk@nus.edu.sg

Pow Choon Piew (National University of Singapore)

geopowcp@nus.edu.sg

Tripta Chandola (Asia Research Institute)

aritc@nus.edu.sg

SENSORY URBANISMS WORKSHOP

11th November 2011

National University of Singapore

Call for Papers

2nd International Sociological Association Forum August 1-4, 2012, Buenos Aires

The Thematic Group on Senses and Society, TG07, has been allocated eight sessions at the Forum in Buenos Aires. The number includes a session in which we are arranging to have discussions with Phillip Vannini, co-author of ***The Senses in Self, Society, and Culture: A Sociology of the Senses (2011)***, as well as the Business Meeting at which members will be able to stand for office, decide on TG statutes, and discuss future activities.

Abstracts are invited for participation in the `substantive` sessions of TG07.

- A) Sensory Scholarship: New directions in theory and methodology?
- B) Sensory Experiences: Constituents of social justice & democratisation?
- C) The senses in selfhood & identity
- D) Sensory order(s), sensory transgressions
- E) Urbanity, space, and place
- F) Migrant sensescapes and transnationalism
- G) Sensory absences

Call for Papers

Deadlines

On-line abstract submission **from August 25 to December 15, 2011.**

All Forum participants (presenters, chairs, discussants, etc.) need to pay the early registration fee by **April 10, 2012**, in order to be included in the programme. If not registered, their names will not appear in the Programme or Abstracts Book.

On-line registration has opened from **August 25, 2011.**

Please refer to the following website for more details:

TG07 Senses & Society ISA website

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/tg07.htm>

**2nd International Sociological Association Forum
August 1-4, 2012, Buenos Aires**