



TG07 SENSES & SOCIETY

International Sociological Association

Newsletter Issue 10

Spring 2016

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Editorial Note

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present the 10th 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.

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

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. We look forward to a fruitful and engaging ISA Forum in Austria, 2016!

Panels:

1. City Scents: Food, Sensory Knowledge & Transnationalism Part I
11 July, 0900-1030
2. City Scents: Food, Sensory Knowledge & Transnationalism Part II
11 July, 1045-1215
3. Beyond the Material Turn? Sensory Interrogations in Religion & Spirituality
11 July, 1415-1545
4. Psychonautism in Contemporary Arts and Societies
11 July, 1600-1730
5. Exploring Sensescapes of Home: Smell, Touch, and Taste
12 July, 0900-1030

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6. Artistic Practices and the Senses

12 July, 1045-1215

7. Pleasing Possibilities: New Perspectives on Pleasure Part I

12 July, 1415-1545

8. Pleasing Possibilities: New Perspectives on Pleasure Part II

12 July, 1600-1730

9. Senses, Society, and A Struggle for a Better World

13 July, 0900-1030

10. TG07 Business Meeting

13 July, 1045-1215

All panels will be held in Juridicum, Seminar 33

Publication Highlights



‘Under the Palace Wall’

A film by David MacDougall

53 minutes (2014)

Filming Location: Delwara, Rajasthan, India

Language: Mewari, with English subtitles

From the 16th century the Indian village of Delwara in southern Rajasthan was ruled as a principality of the kingdom of Mewar. Its palace, which overlooks the village, is now a luxury hotel—a world remote from the daily life of the villagers. Following on from his film *SchoolScapes*, which was inspired by the early cinema of Lumière, David MacDougall here employs a series of precisely observed scenes to explore Delwara's local primary school as a part of contemporary village life—a life that continues "under the palace wall."

"David MacDougall is one of the best known ethnographic filmmakers and writers in the world... The film you are about to see highlights his concept. *Under the Palace Wall* is a sensitive depiction of everyday life in a small village of Rajasthan, India. Having the structure of a single day, this observation project introduces gestures, expressions, composite landscapes, and atmosphere, leaving the viewer with the feeling of being there. The film proposes feelings rather than interpretation, presence rather than explanation — an excellent example of the possibility of a filmic sensory ethnography." [Selectors of the last Göttingen International Ethnographic Film Festival]



<https://vimeo.com/140152888>
password: DELWARA2014

Publication Highlights

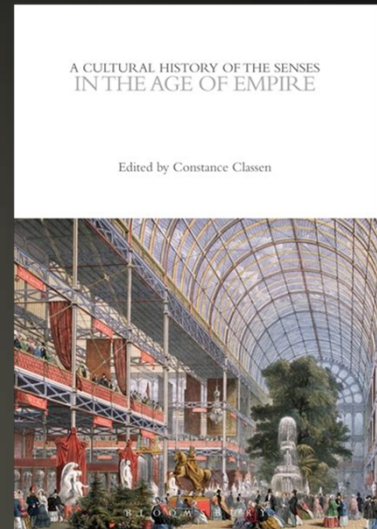
'A Cultural History of the Senses: In the Age of Empire'

Edited by Constance Classen
Bloomsbury (2016)

The 19th century was a time of new sensory experiences and modes of perception. The raucous mechanical intensity of the train and the factory vied for attention with the dazzling splendour of department stores and world fairs.

Colonization and trade carried European sensations and sensibilities to the world and, in turn, flooded the West with exotic sights and savours. Urban stench became a matter of urgent public concern. Photography created a compelling alternate reality accessible only to the eye. At the turn of the 20th century, the telephone and the radio isolated and extended the sense of hearing and electrical networks spread their webs throughout cities. These novel experiences were reflected in contemporary art and literature, which strove for new ways to express modern sensibilities.

A Cultural History of the Senses in the Age of Empire brings together a group of eminent historians to explore the aesthetic, cultural and political formation of the senses during a period of momentous change. The Cultural History of the Senses set delves into the sensory foundations of Western civilization, taking a comprehensive period-by-period approach which provides a broad understanding of the life of the senses from antiquity to the modern day. Each of the volumes explores the following topics: The Social Life of the Senses; Urban Sensations; The Senses in the Marketplace; The Senses in Religion; The Senses in Philosophy and Science; Medicine and the Senses; The Senses in Literature; Art and the Senses; and Sensory Media. Superbly illustrated, this six-volume set is the most authoritative and comprehensive historical survey of the senses available.



Publication Highlights



'Deodorizing China: Odour, ordure, and colonial (dis)order in Shanghai, 1840s-1940s.'

Modern Asian Studies 2016: 50(3): 1092-1122.

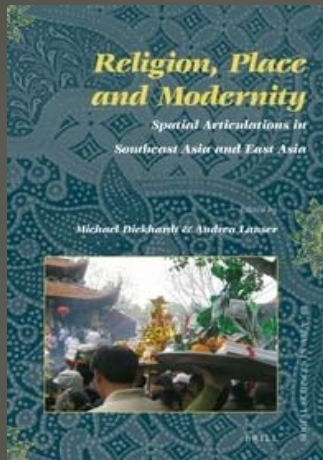
Xuelei Huang

Smell is deeply meaningful to human beings. Often considered elusive, ephemeral, and volatile, it has long been excluded from scholarly accounts on culture and history. This article explores this 'lower' sense and the roles it played in the historical process of modernization in China. Through a close look at the efforts made by the Western colonial administration to deodorize Shanghai as well as diverse Chinese reactions, this article argues that smell constituted a hidden site where the dynamics of power relations were played out. Smell also opened up a window to showcase modernity's power and ambivalence.

The first part of this article looks at how China smelled to the Western nose, against the historical background of the rising consciousness of smell, sanitation, and civility in Europe which began in the eighteenth century. The second part examines the ways in which the British administration applied the olfactory norms of the modern West to the end of taming Chinese stench. The final part provides a case study of ordure treatment in order to show how ambivalence arose in this modern smellscape and why.

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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Social Sciences in Asia Monograph Series, Brill

