

Yokohama



# TG07 SENSES & SOCIETY

International Sociological Association

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Yokohama 2014**
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# Editorial Note

Dear Friends,

It is with pleasure that I bring to you the 7th newsletter of TG07 Senses and Society. I am pleased to share with everyone our TG's participation at the ISA World Congress, Yokohama earlier this year in July.

In the section on publications, you will find a presentation of recent works of interest that address the senses through various approaches, which would add on to the development of scholarly endeavours on senses and society.

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. Presently we have more than 30 members in the TG. We will soon be able to apply for an 'upgrade' to a Working Group. This will avail more panels at subsequent ISA conferences as we expand as a group and draw more interested scholars to join our activities.

Please do drop me a line if you have any ideas for TG07 Senses and Society.

Yours,

Kelvin Low

President/Newsletter Editor, TG07

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[TG07 Senses and Society website](#)



# XVIII ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY

FACING AN UNEQUAL WORLD:  
CHALLENGES FOR GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY

13-19 July 2014

横浜

YOKOHAMA



In July this year, TG07 participated at the XVIII ISA World Congress held in Yokohama, Japan. We received more than 80 papers and had a total of 24 papers accepted based on the allocated 6 sessions. Some of the panel themes included deviance and the senses in the city, performing arts and the senses, and urban food cultures.

Given the substantial numbers of submission for the World Congress, TG07 also organised a 'post-Congress' one-day workshop led by Phillip Vannini to exchange ideas among participants who were not featured at the Congress panels. It was a fruitful exchange and an important session as sensory scholars were able to get together in an informal setting to deliberate on the challenging and exciting topics that revolve sensory scholarship today.



*Presenters and participants  
at the  
ISA World Congress*



*Presenters and participants  
at the Post-Congress  
workshop*



# 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 8 sessions, which includes a business meeting session for organisational matters. The **call for panel suggestions is opened from January 15, 2015.**

If you wish to coordinate a panel of your suggested theme, please do write to me at [kelvinlow@nus.edu.sg](mailto:kelvinlow@nus.edu.sg)

Other dates to be noted:

1. 7 April 2015 – Call for abstracts
2. 3 June to 30 September 2015 – Online abstract submission  
<http://www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016/>

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

# Publication Highlights

In recent years, there has been a burgeoning of academic interest in exercise embodiment issues, including a developing field of phenomenologically-inspired analyses of the lived-body experience of physical activity and exercise. Calls have been made for researchers to explore the sensory dimension of such embodiment, and a corpus of sensory ethnographic studies is now beginning to grow. In this article, we contribute to a developing body of phenomenological-sociological empirical work on the sensory dimension, by addressing the lived experience of organised physical activities in 'natural' outdoor leisure environments. We draw upon the findings from a two-year ethnographic study of a Welsh national physical activity programme, 'Mentro Allan/Venture Out', which aimed to increase physical activity levels amongst specific 'target groups'. Based on fieldwork and 68 interviews with Programme participants, in this article our analytic focus is upon the visual and the haptic dimensions of sensory engagement with organised outdoor leisure activities, including experiences of 'intense embodiment'.



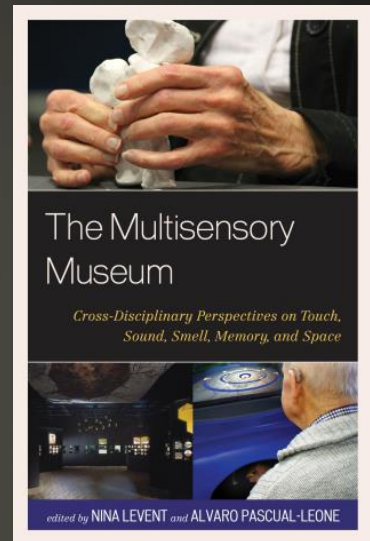
Allen-Collinson, J and Leledaki, A  
(2014) Sensing the outdoors: a visual  
and haptic phenomenology of  
outdoor exercise embodiment,  
*Leisure Studies*.



# Publication Highlights

In *The Multisensory Museum: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Touch, Sound, Smell, Memory, and Space*, museum expert Nina Levent and Alvaro Pascual-Leone, professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School bring together scholars and museum practitioners from around the world to highlight new trends and untapped opportunities for using such modalities as scent, sound, and touch in museums to offer more immersive experiences and diverse sensory engagement for visually- and otherwise-impaired patrons. Psychologists and educators look at the creation of memories through different types of sensory engagement with objects, and how these memories in turn affect our next cultural experience.

An anthropological perspective on the history of our multisensory engagement with ritual and art objects, especially in cultures that did not privilege sight over other senses, allows us a glimpse of what museums might become in the future. Education researchers discover museums as unique educational playgrounds that allow for a variety of learning styles, active and passive exploration, and participatory learning. Designers and architects suggest a framework for thinking about design solutions for a museum environment that invites an intuitive, multisensory and flexible exploration, as well as minimizes physical hurdles.



# Publication Highlights

**'The Sensuous City: Sensory Methodologies in Urban Ethnographic Research'**

**in *Ethnography* (forthcoming, 2015)  
Kelvin E.Y. Low**



While urban dimensions of landscapes and the physical environment are often regarded as built structures that relate to functionality in modern life, cities are also sites of human experience that 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 life, hence rendering insights into the multi-sensory character of urbanity. This article surveys a range of sensory methodologies that may be harnessed towards articulating the social life of the senses in urbanity such as smellscape walkabouts in order to explicate the doing of sensory ethnography in urban contexts.

The aim is to elucidate how place, social actors, and sensory experiences come together in the production and analysis of urban ethnographic research, including the embodied constitutions of researchers in the process of data generation.

# Publication Highlights

## ***Smell organization:***

### ***Bodies and corporeal porosity in office work***

This article contributes to a sensory equilibrium in studies of workplace life through a qualitative study of everyday smells in UK offices. Drawing on Csordas' (2008) phenomenology of intercorporeality, we develop the concept of corporeal porosity as a way of articulating the negotiation of bodily integrity in organizational experience. We explore the corporeal porosity of workplace life through smell-orientated interview and diary-based methods and our findings highlight the interdependence of shared, personal, local and cultural elementals when experiencing smell in office-based work. Our analysis explores three elements of bodily integrity: 'cultural permeability'; 'locating smell in-between'; and 'sensual signifiers'. This suggests that while the senses are part of the ephemeral, affective 'glue' that floats between and around working bodies, they also foreground the constantly active character of relationality in organizational life. Corporeal porosity, therefore, captures the entanglement of embodied traces and fragments – corporeal seeping and secretion that has hitherto taken a backseat in organizational studies of the body at work.



Kathleen Riach and  
Samantha Warren

*Human Relations*  
(online first; 2014)

# 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)

For all enquiries, please contact the academic editor, Kelvin Low at [socleyk@nus.edu.sg](mailto:socleyk@nus.edu.sg)

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