



Senses and Society

THEMATIC GROUP NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 28. SENSING THE CITY



Kampala's Old Taxi Park. Kampala, Uganda. Photo by Kampala City Tours® .

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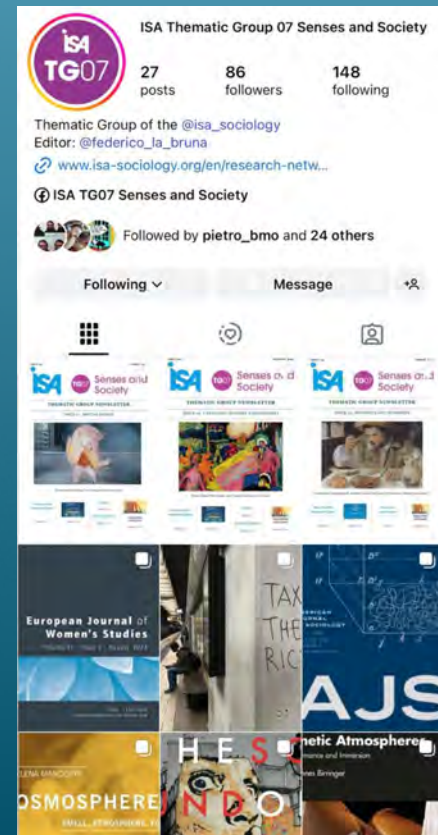
Welcome back to the TG07 Senses and Society Newsletter. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all the new members who have joined our group in recent months.

The excitement surrounding the upcoming ISA Forum this July is already building. Some of us will take the stage to share our research, while others will be actively engaged in shaping meaningful conversations and knowledge exchange. Whichever the case, we're very much looking forward to welcoming everyone to Rabat. For those who won't be able to join us in person, I'll be preparing a comprehensive recap of the main discussions and outcomes, which will likely appear in Issue 29 of the newsletter, due out in September/October 2025.

I also take this opportunity to recommend [Acoustic Ecology Review](#), the international journal of the World Forum for Acoustic Ecology and a key platform for the global sound studies community. As the continuation of Soundscape, which has been a central reference in the field since 2001, the journal expands its scope by publishing peer-reviewed research in accessible digital formats, including audio and video. Edited by Leah Barclay, Milena Droumeva, Jesse Budel, and Lindsey French, Acoustic Ecology Review offers a space for listening, dialogue, and interdisciplinary exchange on the relationships between sound, nature, and society. The [latest issue was released in 2023](#), and the editorial board is currently calling for senior editors, associate editors, and [proposals for special editions for the 2024–2025 cycle](#).



Senses & Society



A quick reminder: since autumn 2023, the official TG07 [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages have been active. Follow us to stay informed about TG07 activities.

Please note that the contact email for TG07 has changed. From now on, all communications should be directed to our institutional address: isa-tg07@isa-sociology.org. Kindly update your records accordingly.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

In this issue

This edition of our newsletter once again places the ISA Forum of Sociology at the centre of attention. Scheduled to take place in Rabat from 6 to 11 July 2025, the TG07 Forum's final programme is presented in full in this issue. We also take the opportunity to remind all members of the new registration procedures for research groups, which now require an active ISA membership. If your [membership](#) has expired, please make sure to renew it before attempting to rejoin TG07 or any other thematic group.

In addition to these updates, the News and Opportunities section features a call for abstracts and a call for proposals for our next [online event](#) — an excellent occasion to share your work with a knowledgeable and engaged audience. This initiative represents an important step forward for our thematic group, strengthening our collective commitment to growth and intellectual exchange.

As always, the Profiles section returns with new contributions that introduce the research interests and trajectories of TG07 members, helping to nurture the sense of community that has defined the group since its foundation. In fact [we warmly encourage new members, early career scholars, and anyone interested to submit a short description of their academic background, current projects, and research interests](#) by writing to: isa-tg07@isa-sociology.org.

Finally, this issue concludes with a selection of upcoming events and recent publications. In particular, you will find updates on the forthcoming "[RedISS Congress](#)" and the conference "[CFP: Haptic Trouble](#)".

Sensing the City: How Do the Senses Weave the Urban Fabric?

Cities are not simply built or represented, but sensed. As John Urry (1999, 2011) reminds us, urban life is saturated with sensory encounters: the smell of traffic and spices, the rhythms of footfall and engines, the changing textures of surfaces and sounds. The social life of the city

is therefore always also a sensory life, one that cannot be fully understood through spatial categories alone. In this view, urban space becomes legible not merely through its physical contours, but through the ways in which it is inhabited, moved through, touched, heard, and perceived.

Rather than assuming a fixed sensory order embedded in urban environments, we might instead follow Kelvin Low's (2023) invitation to explore "sensory infractions"—moments in which normative sensory expectations are disrupted, reconfigured, or resisted. These infractions do not only reflect differences in perception across class, gender, or ethnicity; they also expose how power is encoded in the sensory arrangements of cities. Who is allowed to be noisy, to smell, to take up space? And who is expected to remain quiet, clean, invisible? The sensory fabric of urban life is thus deeply political, woven through both infrastructure and atmosphere, bodies and regulations.

In this context, the notion of the sensorium (Howes, 2024; McLuhan, 2004) provides a useful framework to approach the city as a mediated sensory environment. The city is not a neutral container of stimuli, but an ever-evolving sensorium that reconditions the very way we sense. Streets, screens, walls, and flows interact with the body in ways that shape perception itself, amplifying certain senses while muting others. As the visual continues to dominate many urban experiences—through surveillance, advertisement, digital mapping—it becomes crucial to consider how the non-visual senses are repressed, rechanneled, or revived. What happens, for instance, when tactility re-enters the urban through the textures of resistance—graffiti, uneven pavements, human crowds?

This sensory rebalancing also invites us to reconsider the role of multisensory awareness in navigating urban life. Walking through a city is never only a spatial movement, but a sensory orientation—a process of attunement to rhythms, risks, and relational proximities. From this perspective, to "weave the urban fabric" is to be actively involved in its ongoing



Graffiti on a metro train in The Art Station "Università" of Naples Metro Line 1. March 2023.

References:

- Howes, D. (2024). *Sensorium: Contextualizing the senses and cognition in history and across cultures*. Cambridge University Press.
- Low, K. E. Y. (2024). Of sensory infractions and anthropomorphism across Asian urban histories. *History and Anthropology*, 35(3), 306–325.
- McLuhan, M. (2004). Inside the five sense sensorium. In *Empire of the Senses* (pp. 43-52).
- Urry, J. (2011). City life and the senses. *The new Blackwell companion to the city*, 347-356.
- Urry, J. (1999). Sensing the city. *The tourist city*.

composition, through sensory labour that is at once corporeal and symbolic. Bodies are not merely present in space; they generate space through sensory engagement.

Thus, the question is not only how we sense the city, but how the senses make the city—how they contribute to its legibility, memory, conflicts, and futures. If the city is a layered palimpsest of perceptions, then sensing it becomes a form of reading, writing, and reweaving its fabric. This implies a methodological shift in urban studies, one that takes seriously the sensory as both analytic and experiential, theoretical and embodied. It is in this entangled space—between infrastructure and affect, perception and politics—that the sociology of the senses can open new pathways for understanding how urban life is materially and symbolically constructed.

If you miss the Newsletter issue #26 on "Unveiling Sensory Atmospheres": don't worry! You can investigate what sensory atmospheres are and how they can be a tool for understanding society through our senses [here](#).

Don't forget there are some active links (clickable URLs) in this Newsletter, especially useful for the 'Publication Highlights' section ([page 13](#)).

Please feel free to email me (isa-tg07@isa-sociology.org) with any relevant news, publications, or calls for papers that fellow Group members could benefit from.

Federico La Bruna

Newsletter Editor of TG07

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

V ISA Forum of Sociology • Final Programme

Monday, 7 July 2025

11:00 - 12:45

981 Feeling Fieldwork: Senses, Emotions, and the Body in Ethnographic Research (Part I)

Location: SJES011 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES))

Session Organizer: [Sneha ANNAVARAPU](#), Assistant Professor of Sociology, Singapore

Chair: [Mark PATERSON](#), University of Pittsburgh

Presentations:

1. Epistemological Diffractions: Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and the Limits of Reflexivity in Ethnography. [Federico LA BRUNA](#), University of Milano, Italy
2. Friendship As Method in Collaborative Research. [Gowri VIJAYAKUMAR](#), Brandeis University, USA
3. Fieldnotes of a Feminist Killjoy. [Priyanka KOTAMRAJU](#), University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
4. Close Encounters with a Third Leg: Using Fieldwork Experiences of Sexual Harassment As Research Data. [Danielle CHEVALIER](#), Leiden Law School, Leiden University, Netherlands

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15:00 - 16:45

982 The Contours of Sensory Governance, Law, and Urban Encounters

Location: SJES011 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES))

Session Organizer: [Kelvin LOW](#), National University of Singapore

Chair: [Clara CIRDAN](#), London School of Economics

Presentations:

1. Human-Animal Relations As Sensory Phenomena. [Kelvin LOW](#), National University of Singapore, Singapore
2. Legitimising Graffiti Writing in Contemporary Urban Aesthetic Governance. [Cecilia BRAZIOLI](#), University of Milan, Italy
3. Sensory Archives of the Future: From Arms Fairs to Museums. [Yung AU](#), University of Oxford, Hong Kong & [Nancy SALEM](#), University of Oxford, Egypt
4. Beholden to the Field or the Ivory Tower? the Emotional Resolution and Silencing of Ethical Dilemmas in Ethnographic Research. [Alex DIAMOND](#), Oklahoma State University, USA

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19:00 - 20:30

983 TG07 Business Meeting

Location: SJES011 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES))

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Tuesday, 8 July 2025

11:00 - 12:45

984 Sensory Excursions in the City: Deliberations on Teaching Practices and Interventions

Location: SJES011 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES))

Session Organizers: [Noorman ABDULLAH](#), National University of Singapore & [Catherine EARL](#), RMIT Vietnam

Chair: [Sneha ANNAVARAPU](#), Assistant Professor of Sociology, Singapore

Presentations:

1. Teaching about the City through the Sensory: Pedagogical Interventions in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). [Noorman ABDULLAH](#), National University of Singapore, Singapore

2. Senses, Emotions and Gender Violence in Public Spaces. Reflections on a Sensory Workshop. [Olga Alejandra SABIDO RAMOS](#), Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana - Azcapotzalco
3. Framing Sensations: Ethical Considerations of Teaching Visual Methods in Sensory Research. [Catherine EARL](#) & [Daisy KANAGASAPATHY](#), RMIT Vietnam, Vietnam

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Wednesday, 9 July 2025

11:00 - 12:45

JS-123 Affect, Emotions, Feelings, Senses, Sensibilities: Conceptual Consistencies and Inconsistencies (1)

Location: FSE016 (Faculty of Education Sciences (FSE))

Session Organizer: [Mark Paterson](#), University of Pittsburgh & [Nicolas ARENAS](#), London School of Economics

Presentations:

1. Feeling Resentment: Exploring the Role of Empathy in the Social Construction of Victims and Villains. [Vito GIANNINI](#), University of Bergamo, Italy
2. How Does Normality Feel like? the Case for Unmarked Emotions. [Lorenzo SABETTA](#), Sapienza-University of Rome, Italy
3. Affective Sublimations or How We Feel with Intelligent Technologies. [Ania MALINOWSKA](#), University of Silesia, Poland
4. Affect, Rhetoric, and Identity. [Ferruh YILMAZ](#), Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA
5. Senses As Bodily Apparatuses of Generating and Perceiving Affects. [Taoyi YANG](#), Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

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15:00 - 16:45

985 Recent Interventions in the Senses and Society: Authors Speak

Location: SJES011 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES))

Session Organizers: [Mark PATERSON](#), University of Pittsburgh, [Sarah MALSEN](#), University of Canberra & [Kelvin LOW](#), National University of Singapore, Singapore

Chair: [Noorman ABDULLAH](#), National University of Singapore

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Thursday, 10 July 2025

09:00 - 10:45

986 Exploring Sensory Temporal Landscapes through Everyday Practices

Location: SJES011 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES))

Session Organizer: [Clara CIRDAN](#), London School of Economics

Chair: [Sarah MALSEN](#), University of Canberra

Presentations:

1. The Rhythms of Time and Taste: Sor Juana Inés De La Cruz and the Temporalities of Culinary Knowledge. [Felipe FELIPE ACEVEDO RIQUELME](#), Universidad de Concepción, Chile
2. Situating Temporal Landscapes of Transnational Migrant Food Cultures. [Catherine EARL](#), [Myunjoong KIM](#), [Natasha KOZIY](#), [Nathalie BROUN](#), [Tham NGUYEN](#) & [Abbas MTEIREK](#), RMIT Vietnam, Vietnam
3. Temporalities in Museum Spaces. [Clara CIRDAN](#), London School of Economics, United Kingdom
4. Is Making Really Connecting? Research on Pro-Ams DIY Experience of Making. [Jacek GADECKI](#), [Wojciech KOWALIK](#) & [Hetmańczyk HETMAŃCZYK](#), AGH University of Kraków, Poland
5. Sensory and Temporal Dimensions of Homemaking Among Syrian Female Refugees in Istanbul. [Dilek ÜSTÜNALAN](#), Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Turkey

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13:00 - 14:45

987 Sensing Climate Change - the Anthropocene through the Sociology of the Senses

Location: SJES011 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES))

Session Organizer: [Natalia CANTO-MILA](#), Open University Catalonia & [Olga Alejandra SABIDO RAMOS](#), Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana - Azcapotzalco

Presentations:

1. Lost and Sensation: Embodied Encounters with Industrial Ruins in the Anthropocene. [Anna CLOT GARRELL](#), University of Barcelona, Spain
2. Aging in a Changing Climate: Sensory Experiences of Older Adults. [Zofia BIENKOWSKA](#), University of Warsaw, Poland
3. 'More-Than' Human Senses and Sensations in a Time of Climate Change. [Mark PATERSON](#), University of Pittsburgh, USA

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For more information and to view the full programme, please visit the [programme website](#).

News and Opportunities

Call for proposals for an online international event (late 2025/early 2026)

The official ISA Forums and Congresses occur in sequence every two years, but at TG07 we would like to encourage the sharing of our sensory scholarship around a particular theme or area in between these major international events. [If you have an idea for an online meeting](#) which deals with work on the senses, especially an under-explored or under-represented topic area or regional area, please go ahead and submit a paragraph in the first instance to the President (paterson@pitt.edu) and we can work together to make it happen. ISA is a truly global organization, so proposals that deal with sensory scholarship outside the usual North America/Europe areas will be particularly welcome.

To become a member of TG07

You're interested in sensory scholarship. You read this Newsletter. So why not become a member of our thematic group?

What are the benefits? You are already on a mailing list and receive a triannual Newsletter. But becoming a member means you get to shape an agenda in sensory scholarship, propose international events, and get to pitch ideas for conference sessions at ISA. We need your ideas and your energy. The bigger we become as a TG, the more we can do, and we can then help younger scholars attend future conferences and events. With membership of TG07 you can also join our Board and help steer our activities and priorities.

Interested in joining?

It is no longer possible to become a member of TG07 without paying ISA registration fees. being part of a RC/WG/TG now is possible only for ISA members. Below, you can find how to become a member of TG07 with a minimal contribution.

- 1) Log in at <https://members.isa-sociology.org/login>.
- 2) If you do not have an ISA membership account, you need to register (free) here: <https://members.isa-sociology.org/register>. Enter your biographical information.
- 3) If you do not have an ISA membership, you need become a member by following the instruction at: <https://members.isa-sociology.org/my-affiliations>. Within the same process you will be able to join also the RC/WG/TG you are interested in.
- 4) In case you already have an ISA membership, on the same page (<https://members.isa-sociology.org/my-affiliations>), will appear the button for 'Affiliate to RC/WG/TG'.
- 5) This will bring up invoicing details for 'Update affiliation'. Scroll down for the list of research councils, with TG07 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)

Ambiances Journal Special Issue

Until 7 July 2025, it is possible to submit abstracts for the special issue of Ambiances Journal entitled '[Cultural Scenes and Atmospheres. Intersections, Articulations, Contextualisations](#)', edited by G  r  me Guibert, Amparo Lars  n, and Rainer Kazig. The issue

aims to foster dialogue between research on cultural scenes and studies on ambiances and atmospheres, opening new interdisciplinary perspectives on the role of sensory, spatial, and symbolic dynamics in urban and cultural contexts.

Call for Book Proposals - New Book Series: Environment, Senses and Emotions

Book proposals are currently being accepted for the series Environment, Senses and Emotions, edited by Tatiana Konrad and published by University of Exeter Press. The series explores how environmental crises are sensed, narrated, and emotionally experienced, highlighting the role of perception, affect, and more-than-human relations in shaping ecological knowledge. Contributions are welcome from a wide range of disciplines and perspectives—including decolonial and Global South approaches—and may take the form of monographs or edited volumes. Interested authors are encouraged to discuss book proposal contacting the Series Editor: Tatiana Konrad (tatiana.konrad@univie.ac.at) or University of Exeter Press Commissioning Editor: Becky Taylor (b.taylor@exeterpress.co.uk)

Profiles

Taoyi Yang, New Member

Taoyi Yang is a PhD candidate in Sociology at [Freie Universität](#) Berlin. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from [Nanjing University](#) and a master's in Culture and Society from the [London School of Economics and Political Science](#). Her bachelor's thesis explores how music in Model Operas (yangbanxi) mobilizes people to engage in China's Cultural Revolution, and her master's thesis investigates the affective economy of loneliness in the digital music industry and overseas students' listening practices.

Her current doctoral research, conducted within the [Sociology of Emotions](#) research group at the FU, explores digital practices of health, well-being, and self-care. In her dissertation, she introduces the concept of [affective treatment](#) and develops an ethnographically



grounded theorization of it. Affective treatment can be generally understood as a social practice through which individuals try to modulate affect and realign feelings and emotions with the perceived standards of health and well-being by interacting with other human and nonhuman entities, for example, watching [Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response](#) (ASMR) media to relax. Pertinent work is expected to be published in later 2025 and 2026. Her research interests include the sociology of affect and emotions, the sociology of health and illness, sensory studies, media and technology studies, and cultural sociology.

Upcoming Events

[Haptic Trouble](#) • 10/10/25 - 11/10/25 • Sorbonne Nouvelle University. Paris, France.

Following up on our previous issue dedicated to the "digitalisation" of the senses, we are pleased to circulate the call for papers for [Haptic Trouble](#), a two-day conference that will take place at Sorbonne Nouvelle University. The event invites participants to reflect on the aesthetic, political, and [social dimensions of touch](#)—not only as a site of connection, care, and repair, but also as a medium of friction, constraint, and ambiguity. Bringing together perspectives from sensory studies, affect theory, performance, media, disability, and postcolonial critique, the conference explores how tactile experience shapes, disrupts, and reconfigures embodied relationality. Below a few word on the event by the organisers.

"Taking its cue from Spillers's insight into the affective contradictions of touch, this conference proposes to interrogate haptic trouble as a site of sensory and social subversion, urging us to acknowledge the unresolved discontents of the haptic, to embrace its critical disturbances, and to test its emancipatory potentialities. Drawing on the polysemy of trouble in critical theory, this conference will place touch at the interdisciplinary intersection of aesthetics, political philosophy, cultural and material studies, and the biomedical humanities."



3rd RedISS International Congress // 3er Congreso Internacional de RedISS • 27/10/25 - 31/10/25 •

The third RedISS International Congress, titled Politics of Sensibilities and Poverty. Between Criticism and Utopias, will take place this October. The event aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on the politics of sensibilities, conditions of poverty and precarity, and the critical and utopian possibilities that arise within contemporary social contexts. Entirely free and



fully virtual, the congress is designed to ensure broad participation across geographical and disciplinary boundaries. The deadline for abstract submissions is [July 16, 2025](#). Below a few word on the event by the organisers.

"Since the creation of RedISS three meetings have taken place, with the participation of more than 50 panelists from Latin America, Canada, China and Europe. During 2020, as a consequence of the global pandemic and health emergency related to Coronavirus (COVID-19), the annual meeting of the International Network of Sociology of Sensibilities (RedISS) that had been planned in Perugia did not take place. In that framework, we have been organizing an international congress, entirely virtual and free of charge, every two years. In 2021, with

the support of the University of Palermo, Argentina, the 1st Congress of the International Network of Sociology of Sensibilities "Trust, Crisis and Social Sciences" was held. Then, in 2023, we held the 2nd Congress of the International Network of Sociology of Sensibilities "Love, Hope and Trust: A Look at the current crisis from Sensibilities". On this occasion, with the 3rd Congress of the International Network of Sociology of Sensibilities "Politics of Sensibilities and Poverty. Between criticism and utopias", scheduled from October 27 to 31, 2025, we open a space for discussion around poverty criticisms and utopias, as a contribution from those who study emotions and sensibilities. Organized into 20 Working Groups, the Congress hopes to contribute to developing renewed horizons to put academic production in contact with the links between sensibilities and poverty in today's society."

Publication Highlights

Ekaterina Gladkova. More-than-human urban food growing imaginaries: engaging with the senses. *Social & Cultural Geography*, 2024.



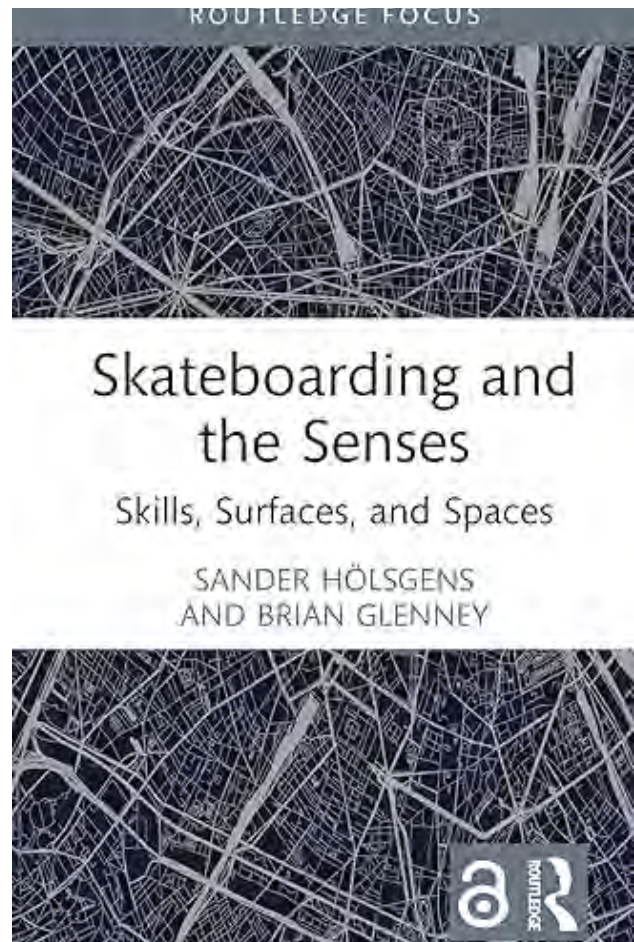
Elena Gladkova's (2024) article explores how sensory experiences in Berlin's community gardens generate alternative ways of knowing and inhabiting the city. Practices like touching soil, smelling herbs, or listening to bees are not treated as secondary embellishments, but as central to the very making of urban life—an idea that speaks directly to this issue's core question of how the senses weave the urban fabric. Urban food-growing becomes here a sensory ecology, where the city is shaped not only through infrastructure or policy, but through embodied interactions across species. These gardens invite a slower, more attentive engagement with place,

challenging dominant sensory hierarchies and offering fertile ground for imagining multispecies urban futures. Below, I provide the abstract of the article.

"This paper catalyses the academic urgency to understand agrifood system transformation pathways. Such transformation requires new food growing imaginaries of rooted in a change of thinking and ways of engaging with more-than-human perspectives. Urban spaces are hubs of human and more-than-human interactions, and urban organic farming offers an excellent site for exploring such new food growing imaginaries. The research presented here innovates theoretical and methodological knowledge in more-than-human geography. It develops alternative food growing imaginaries through a sensory ethnography at an urban organic workers' cooperative Organiclea and visual arts methodologies. Through that, the paper brings to the fore the marginalized more-than-human perspectives by exploring more-than-human sensory Umwelts – taste and nutrition for the soil, sound for soil denizens, smell for honeybees, tactile perception for common weeds – and understanding human experience of food growing through sight. Attuning to a more-than-human sensorium broadens our knowledge of the life stories of other biotic and abiotic critters and recognizes that human and more-than-human world-making projects are interconnected. The paper concludes that sensory engagement is critical to the development of new imaginaries for a more sustainable food production."

Sander Hölsgens and Brian Glenney. Skateboarding and the Senses. Skills, Surfaces, and Spaces. Routledge, 2024.

Sander Hölsgens and Brian Glenney's *Skateboarding and the Senses* offers a compelling account of how urban space is shaped through embodied, sensory practice. Centred on the concept of "city craft," the book explores how skateboarders use movement, sound, and touch to engage critically with the built environment—transforming city streets into sites of experimentation, resistance, and attunement. In line with this issue's theme *Sensing the City: How Do the Senses Weave the Urban Fabric?*, the authors show how skating is not just a subcultural activity, but a sensory mode of reading and rewriting the urban. Through bruises, vibrations, and improvised flows, skaters acquire somatic knowledge and emotional resilience, revealing how the senses actively produce the city's form, rhythms, and meanings.. Below, I provide the abstract of the book.



"This book presents a new perspective on skateboarding, centred on the senses, skill acquisition, embodiment, and the concept of "city craft". *Skateboarding and the Senses* traces how skaters use their skilled bodies to bring vitality to contested spaces. Building on sensory anthropology, the book draws connections between the diverse ways skaters move and their boundless drive for social action – from rebellious interventionism to a critical engagement with sportification and the Olympics. Coalescing around skateboarding's pedagogy of enskilment, the book examines what to make of the skater's way of sensing the city, of their bruised heels and scabbed elbows and of their sensory attunement to their friends and foes. Grounded in historical, anthropological, and phenomenological theories of body and space, it examines how skaters acquire somatic knowledge and socio-emotional resilience through their sonic and vibratory experience of the city streets. This sensory anthropology of skateboarding reveals new insights into its long arc of subculture, lifestyle, and sport. This is essential reading for anybody with an interest in the sociology, culture or history of sport, urban geographies, sensory studies, or social and cultural anthropology."

Hot off the press

Solène Le Borgne. Beyond binaries in the urban politics of the senses: Ambivalent sensory encounters in French medium-sized shrinking cities. Urban Studies, 2025.

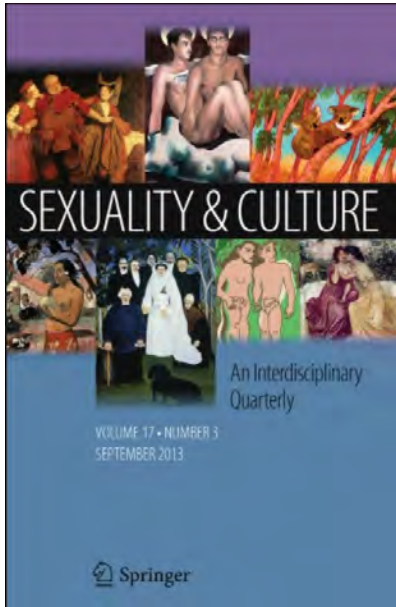
Many of the works featured in this issue have been published very recently, making this Hot off the Press section particularly rich. Among them, Solène Le Borgne's 2025 article offers a subtle take on the sensory politics of shrinking French cities. Through ethnographic research in Dieppe and Nevers, Le Borgne explores how sensory encounters between residents of different backgrounds give rise to ambivalent experiences—marked by tension, contradiction, and proximity. Moving beyond binary framings of disruption or emancipation, the article shows how sensory life in shrinking cities is shaped by everyday frictions that are as much emotional as they are spatial. Below, I provide the abstract of the article.



"This article contributes to scholarly analyses of urban sensory politics, which emphasise the 'othering' strategies of middle-class residents targeting the sensory practices and embodied presence of marginalised urban residents. It introduces greater nuance to three structuring binaries that are readily apparent in current scholarly understandings of urban sensory politics: disrupted/disruptive; familiar/unfamiliar; and oppressive/emancipatory. The article focuses on the sensory politics at work in contexts of urban shrinkage. Shrinking cities are characterised by specific processes of economic, spatial and social change, where affordable housing continues to attract new residents, including a growing proportion of socially and economically marginalised people, even as demographic decline eats away at the urban core. The proximity of people of varied socioeconomic statuses with different lifestyles gives rise to sensory encounters marked by difference, and at times tension. I ask, how can we understand the complex and ambivalent sensory experiences of urban change in medium-sized shrinking cities? Drawing on ethnographic material collected in two French shrinking cities, Dieppe and Nevers, and focusing on more vulnerable residents attracted by affordable housing, I analyse a series of ambivalent sensory encounters, marked by intricate, plural, sometimes contradictory feelings and meanings."

Ashish Makanadar. Sensual Urbanism: Hyper-Sexual City? or Inclusive Urban Design Approach. *Sexuality & Culture*, 2025.

Also included in this issue's Hot off the Press section is A. Makanadar's 2025 article, which introduces the concept of sensual urbanism as a critical response to the dominance of hypersexual narratives in urban theory. Rather than reducing urban life to visual and



sexualised tropes, the article proposes a multi-sensory approach to urban design grounded in queer theory, feminist geography, and non-representational thought. Through case studies in London and Toronto, Makanadar shows how soundscapes, tactile elements, and sensory diversity can foster inclusion and challenge normative assumptions about who belongs in public space. The piece offers a timely framework for thinking urban intimacy and accessibility beyond visual hegemony Below, I provide partially the abstract of the article.

"This article introduces the concept of "sensual urbanism" as a critical intervention in urban theory, challenging the dominant paradigm of hypersexuality in urban discourse. While acknowledging the valuable insights gleaned from critiques of hypersexual urbanism—particularly regarding objectification and exclusion in public spaces—we argue that this narrow

focus often reduces the complexity of urban experiences to overt sexuality, neglecting the multifaceted sensory dimensions that shape social connections and everyday life. [...] Through case studies, including London's sensory gardens and Toronto's Church-Wellesley Village redesign, we demonstrate the practical application of multi-sensory urbanism. Our findings reveal that reducing urban spaces to sexualized identities can perpetuate exclusion and hinder diverse experiences of belonging. Conversely, incorporating sensory design elements—such as tactile surfaces, multi-sensory signage, and soundscapes—can create more inclusive public spaces [...]."

Luis Achondo and Leonardo Díaz-Collao. Sound, Precarity, and Mapuche Reality in Urban Santiago. *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, 2025.

Among the recent contributions in this issue, the article by Achondo and Díaz-Collao (2025) offers a powerful reflection on sound, precarity, and Mapuche presence in urban Santiago. Focusing on the ceremonial practice of *Illellipun*, the authors show how sound becomes a medium for sustaining human, non-human, and more-than-human relations in a context of

ecological and spiritual disruption. Rather than being silenced by urban precarity, Mapuche sonic practices reassert a cosmological presence often erased from city life. The article reveals how ceremonial sound not only resists marginalisation but also weaves an alternative urban sensibility—one that is deeply attuned to land, spirit, and collective memory. Below, I provide the abstract of the article.

"This article explores the role of sound during the performance of the Mapuche ceremony *Illellipun* in Santiago. It argues that ceremonial sounds create an immersive experience that facilitates intercommunication between humans, spirits, and the ecosystem amid an eco-spiritually precarious space, thereby making audible a distinctively urban Mapuche way of thinking and being in the world. In establishing and rendering perceptible human, non-human, and more-than-human relations, sound production and sensation reaffirm the often-neglected presence of eco-spiritual forces and entities in the city—central components of the Mapuche lived world. However, this lived entanglement of the anthropological, ecological, and cosmological orders facilitated by *Illellipun* differs from that of rural Mapuche settings. Indeed, Santiago's ecological and urban precarity, which hinders communication with nature and spirits, turns *Illellipun* into an essential means of Mapuche existence, allowing them to reactivate an eco-spiritual relationality that urbanity has certainly obstructed but not yet destroyed."



Chanelle Dupuis. *The Senses and Memory*. Vernon Press, 2025.

Although not directly tied to the central theme of this issue, *The Senses and Memory*, edited by Chanelle Dupuis, deserves a special mention. Recently published by one of our own members, this volume brings together interdisciplinary contributions exploring the intricate relationship between sensory experience and memory. Covering themes from the "Proust effect" and synaesthesia to materiality, technology, and memory in place and art, the book opens up rich methodological and conceptual perspectives at the crossroads of sensory and memory studies. With its accessible structure and diverse case studies, it is a valuable resource for both researchers and educators, and a testament to the excellent scholarship emerging from our network. Below, I provide the abstract of the book.



"How are the senses and memory linked? What do sensory approaches to research reveal about the functions of memory? This edited volume encompasses various interdisciplinary projects that showcase the value of viewing the world through all of the senses and the ways that memory is multisensorial. From smell's "Proust effect" to music's ability to improve memory and mood, we remember and memorize the world through sensory input. This book expands research on multimodal work, the senses and materiality, the senses and methodology, sensing memories of the past, and technology's impact on sensory lives. The chapters included cover all the senses, as well as the cross-modal experience of synesthesia. Each chapter further covers concepts related to memory studies, ranging from nostalgia, traumatic memories, and memorials to remembering the past (history), archives, and questions of identity.

This edited volume is divided into five sections, each containing two to three chapters. The five sections, "Sensing Place and Space," "Art as a Medium of Memory," "In the Mind of Synesthesia," "Making Sense of Materiality," and "Technology and the Sensorium," describe different groupings of interest. From questions of spatiality to digital life, each section invites the reader to explore new developments in the fields of memory studies and sensory studies and new insights on established topics. In these intimate, critical, and penetrating chapters, the authors of this book share new visions of what it means to write at the crossroads of the senses and memory and present new methodologies, frameworks, and pedagogies for examining this interconnection. A resource for both research and teaching, this volume represents a valuable guide for scholars working in sensory studies and memory studies. The hope is that "The Senses and Memory " will inspire future research and thinking in these evolving and expanding fields of study."