

## SENSOTRA PRE-SEMINAR AND SUMMER SCHOOL 2017 ANNOUNCEMENT

### Sensory Transformations pre-seminar and joint Creole & SENSOTRA<sup>1</sup> Summer School/Intensive Programme

#### Sensory Dimensions of Ethnographic Fieldwork

3. - 9. 7. 2017 Ljubljana and Piran

What most scholars within the humanities seem nowadays to agree on is that smell, hearing, touch, taste, and vision are historical, i.e., they are not universal but products of place and time (cf. Smith 2007; Howes 2011; Low 2013; Howes & Classen 2014): “The number and order of the senses are fixed by custom and tradition, not by nature” (Howes 2011: 435). One of the premises of the anthropology of the senses is that sensory perceptions are cultural as well as physical (Feld 2013(1982), Classen 1993, Smith 2007).

The pre-seminar and first part of the IP (Tuesday and Wednesday morning) are organised in the frame of the European Research Council funded AdG Project Sensory Transformations (SENSOTRA). It endorses the view held by Cultural Studies of Technology (CTS) that technology is always cultural (Suopajarvi 2015, Mackay 2005, Barad 2007, McNeil 2007). SENSOTRA extends this stance by emphasizing that sociocultural processes and the specific agency or “lifeness” (Kember & Zylińska 2012) of media technologies themselves are mutually constitutive.

Proponents of the “sensory revolution,” such as Michel Serres (2009/1985) in *Five Senses*, and David Howes (2005) in *Empire of the Senses*, are turning their backs on language and the linguistic turn, which implies the textualization of everything from dance to sound. In contrast, an emergent trend in “new materialist musicology” attempts to bring its scholarly focus to bear squarely on the dynamic materiality of human music-making bodies as well as the other materialities actively affecting the sonic and sensed situation (Tiainen 2013, Tiainen 2012, Tiainen 2008).

More than ten years ago there was a call for a new kind of ethnography (Shryock 2004) in a situation where human communities are connected and transgressed by, for instance, telecommunication networks. The methodological situation has to some extent developed since Shryock published his protest; for instance, the recent emergence of sensory and multimodal ethnographies (Pink 2009a, Dicks et al 2011, Harrop & Njaradi

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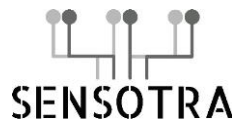


2013), the development and spreading of multi-sited (Marcus 1995) and increasingly common transnational ethnographies (Vuorela 2009).

The field of anthropology of the senses has developed over the past ten years and we are honoured to present one of the pioneers Professor David Howes from Concordia University. He will give a keynote lecture in pre-seminar offering some new perspectives on Sensory Studies.

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**SENSOTRA Pre-Seminar, 3. 7. 2017**

**Summer School/Intensive Program "Sensory Dimensions in Ethnographic Fieldwork"**

**University of Ljubljana**

**Sensorial Studies and Challenges in Methodologies**

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM 10:00—18:00

Ljubljana, place: Stara mestna elektrarna

9:30 Registration / coffee

10:00—11:00

Professor Rajko Muršič: Opening words

Professor Helmi Järviluoma: Introduction to the study of Sensory Transformations

Dr Annu Haho and Researcher Mari Jolkkonen: Touch as a part of the Professional Skills and Ethics in Elderly Care – Introducing AKTE project

11:00—12:30

Panel discussion on Sensory Dimensions in Ethnographic Fieldwork

Short 5-10 minutes presentations each:

Laura Formenti (chair, Epistemological groundings); MA Sandi Abram, MPhil Inkeri Aula, MA Sonja Pöllänen, MA Mari Jolkkonen:

Discussion

12:30—14:00 Lunch (with own cost)

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14:00—15:30

Keynote session

Professor David Howes Sensing Cultures: The Rise of Sensory Anthropology

Adjunct professor Taina Kinnunen (Marjo Kolehmainen) : Touch as an Affective Practice

Discussion

15:30—16:00 Break / Refreshments

16:00—18:00 Sensory Transformation in Focus

Prof. Helmi Järviluoma (Chair, Embodied remembering and senses)

Dr Juhana Venäläinen: Sensory commons

Dr Milla Tiainen: Transformations in mediations of sensory experience

MA Blaž Bajič: Running as a way of becoming

Organised by: SENSOTRA ERC AdG 2015 694893 (More info: <http://www.uef.fi/en/web/sensotra>) in collaboration with AKTE. (More info: <http://www.uef.fi/en/web/akte>) and Creole Intensive Programme)

More:

Key Concepts in the study of Sensory Transformations – Workshop at the Summer School/IP on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 4 and 5 2017.

Piran, Mediadom Pyrhani

Participants: The whole SENSOTRA team, professor Howes, AKTE team, and CREOLE Summers School participants