Call for papers

Conference: Making sense of sensory studies

Abstract deadline: 13.11.2022

The event will be held at the Aarhus University (Thu 27th-Fri 28th of April 2023).

Recent archaeological, historical, and ethnographical research has witnessed a phenomenon that can be called a sensory turn or even a sensual revolution with a growing number of publications aimed at sketching the sensory landscapes of past societies. In these recent studies, several methods to trace the ephemeral and already vanished sensory encounters have been developed from the more traditional approaches to more experimental ones.

The workshop Making sense of sensory studies aims to bring together the trailblazers of sensory studies in social sciences, archaeology, and history, for sharing the best methodological developments in recent sensory scholarship.

The keynote speakers are Helmi Järveluoma-Mäkelä (professor emerita, Cultural Studies, University of Eastern Finland, and Visiting Professor at Turku Institute of Advanced Studies), William Tullett (associate professor in Sensory History at the Anglia Ruskin University), and Jo Day (assistant professor at the School of Classics, University College Dublin).

We invite papers that explore the various ways to investigate the sensory landscapes of the past (of any time period). Particularly welcome are proposals from scholars, who have developed further the traditional methods used in sensory studies or have come up with new approaches for investigating the senses of the past. The conference is divided into four sessions of oral presentations (20 min. talks + 10 min. Q&A). In addition, there will be a lightning round, concentrating on case studies of particularly interesting methods developed in recent years, presented in 6 min. talks, followed by a panel discussion. Please indicate in the abstract whether you are planning to present a 20 min. paper or attend the lightning round.

The conference is organized by Laura Nissin, Assistant Professor, AIAS-COFUND Fellow and Qian Janice Wang, Tenure Track Assistant Professor and AIAS Associate Fellow, and the event is hosted by the Aarhus Institute for Advanced Studies, AIAS (aias.au.dk). The conference aims to advance networking between sensory scholars; therefore, we hope to have as many in-person presentations as possible. Nevertheless, in case a force majeure prevents a speaker from attending we will offer a possibility to participate via Zoom.

Please submit your abstract (max. 400 words) as an MS Word file to Laura Nissin at nissin@aias.au.dk no later than Sunday 13th of November. Please include your name and academic affiliation in your email.

For any queries, please contact Laura Nissin at the above address.