



CENTRE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN SOCIETY AND CULTURE

## MARK M. SMITH

CAROLINA DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF HISTORY,  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### PUBLIC LECTURE: A SENSORY HISTORY MANIFESTO

Thursday, October 5, 2017 2 p.m.  
MB 9A

#### *Lecture Details:*

Consider this an engaged meditation on the state of the field of sensory history. I ponder what, collectively, sensory historians are doing with their field and suggest what else they could be doing with it. This is a modest manifesto, a call to practitioners to think about how their field—now well over two decades old—needs to evolve if the real interpretive dividends of the approach are to be realized. The lecture highlights ways both to help the field flourish and avoid pitfalls which can deprive us of the dialectic necessary for robust interpretive growth.

**ADMISSION IS FREE. ALL ARE WELCOME.**

#### *Bio*

Mark M. Smith, Carolina Distinguished Professor of History, University of South Carolina is the most prominent historian of the senses in the United States. He is the author of *Listening to Nineteenth Century America* (2001), *How Race is Made: Slavery, Segregation and the Senses* (2006), *Sensing the Past* (2007) and, most recently, *The Smell of Battle, The Taste of Siege: A Sensory History of the Civil War* (2014, 2017). He is also the co-author of *Hurricane Katrina and the Forgotten Coast of Mississippi* (2014)

This event is co-sponsored by the Centre for Sensory Studies and the Department of History.

### GRAD SEMINAR: SENSORY HISTORIES OF NATURAL DISASTERS

Friday, October 6, 2017 12 p.m.  
*George Rudé Seminar Room LB 1014*

#### *Seminar Details:*

Based on two pre-circulated readings—one published, the other as yet unpublished—this seminar introduces graduate students to the underdeveloped but important connection between sensory history and natural disasters. The seminar focuses on tsunamis, hurricanes, and earthquakes in the Atlantic World during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It explores how such disasters were processed and experienced sensorially and how they functioned to destabilize established sensory hierarchies. The importance of context is stressed and the seminar examines ways in which the sensory history of natural disasters grants us access to questions not only of immediate experience but also questions concerning diplomacy and politics

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