

The Centre for Sensory Studies is pleased to present

## THE WINTER SEMESTER SENSORY STUDIES RESEARCH SEMINAR

### Senses, time and urban change

Speaker: Monica Degen, Brunel University

In this talk I would like to present initial findings from two projects I'm currently involved in. The first project is my research on timescapes of urban change (funded by the British Academy) where I explore the temporal aspects of the sensory experiencing of urban space. Underpinning urban change are a multiplicity of temporal narratives, practices and ideologies which operate at different speeds and intensities (Harvey 1990; Lefebvre 2004; Edensor 2010). By drawing on research projects from Barcelona (Spain) and Doha (Qatar), I argue that we need to examine how diverse timescapes converge or conflict in urban regeneration processes across the structural and experiential level to produce a particular sense of place. In particular I propose to understand urban change as a long-term process and place making as a temporal-sensory practice. The second project I would like to introduce is my 'Sensory Cities' network (funded by the AHRC) which aims to bring together urban professionals, academics and museum curators across Europe to discuss how to research, represent and curate present and past sensory urban experiences. What links these two projects is together is questions around how academic research on the 'soft attributes' of the city such as time, the senses or emotions can be made meaningful and available to the wider public and urban professionals. Both projects show that sensory-temporal narratives, practices and ideologies lie at the heart of the contested politics of urban change.

**Dr Monica Degen** is a Senior Lecturer in Cultural Sociology at Brunel University London. Her current research interests include urban life and culture, spatial politics with an emphasis on urban change and the sociology of the senses. She is the author of *Sensing Cities: Regenerating Public Life in Barcelona and Manchester* (Routledge, 2008). She is currently a British Academy Mid-Career Research Fellow examining 'Timescapes of Urban Change', she blogs about this on [www.sensescitiescultures.com](http://www.sensescitiescultures.com), and a full list of her publications can be found at <http://www.brunel.ac.uk/people/monica-degen>

**When:** Friday, April 1, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

**Where:** Room H-1124, Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve W.  
(Metro Guy-Concordia)

Open to the public. Bring your lunch!

[www.centreforsensorystudies.org](http://www.centreforsensorystudies.org)

