The Centre for Sensory Studies is pleased to present

THE FALL SEMESTER SENSORY STUDIES RESEARCH SEMINAR

Evangelist of Fragments: Mite-Box Capitalism in the Late Nineteenth Century

Speaker: Dr. Hillary Kaell, Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Concordia University

A century ago, the mite box (penny collection box) was ubiquitous in North America as a religious fundraising tool, especially for women and children. Using the Methodist Missionary Society as a case study, this talk examines what such boxes reveal about Christianity and market capitalism from c. 1870-1930. It offers a more complex understanding of religion and capital that includes emotional attachments and material sensation, thereby moving beyond traditional Weberian and Marxist analyses. I argue that mite box giving was a technique for ‘doing’ capitalism that created an imaginative bridge between the immediacy of specific sensory experiences and the projections of social policies and prayers.

Dr. Hillary Kaell is author of Walking Where Jesus Walked: American Christians and Holy Land Pilgrimage (New York University Press, 2014). She sits on the executive of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion and was selected as a Young Scholar in American Religion (2013-2015). Her work centres on material culture, money and commercialization, and global imaginaries. She is assistant professor in Concordia’s Department of Religion.

When: Friday, November 27, 13:00 – 14:30
Where: Room H-1124, Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve W. (Metro Guy-Concordia)

Open to the public. Bring your lunch!

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