CENTRE FOR SENSORY STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT
1 JUNE 2016 – 31 MAY 2017

Bianca Grohmann (Marketing), Co-Director
David Howes (Sociology & Anthropology), Co-Director

Submitted 15 September 2017
ANNUAL REPORT • 1 JUNE 2016 – 31 MAY 2017

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Introduction

The Centre for Sensory Studies (CSS) was granted recognition as a university research centre by a vote of Senate in April 2016. CSS had been a faculty research centre (Arts and Science) since January 2012. Its actual origins go back to the founding of the Concordia Sensoria Research Team (CONSERT) in 1988.

2016-2017 has been a very dynamic and productive year for the Centre. Highlights include:

- Two new faculty members joined the Centre in August 2016: Carolina Cambre (Education) and Orit Halpern (Sociology and Anthropology)

- One faculty member was awarded a research chair: Kathleen Vaughan now holds the Concordia University Research Chair in Socially Engaged Art and Public Pedagogies (2016-2021).

- CSS Postdoctoral fellow Piet Devos, who held a prestigious Niels Stensen Fellowship from the Dutch Government, completed his term at the Centre (October 2015-November 2016); other visitors included Fiona Carlston, Scent Design Director at International Flavors and Fragrances Paris, who spent a month of her sabbatical at the Centre (October 2016)

- Five students graduated in 2016-2017 (3 Ph.D. and 2 M.A.) and eight new students joined the Centre (5 Ph.D. and 3 M.A.)

- Centre members singly and jointly secured 11 new research grants, bringing the total level of funding for sense-related research initiatives from $2,045,375 to $2,848,916.

- Centre members published 57 journal articles and/or book chapters, presented 59 conference papers or invited talks, and staged 21 group or solo exhibitions and installations – locally, nationally (Cambridge, ON; Vernon, BC) and internationally (New London, CT; Shanghai; Hong Kong; Venice; Berlin)

- The work of the Centre occupied centre stage at “Beyond Disciplines: Come to Your Senses” organized by the Office of the Dean, Arts and Science; two other high profile events included the Joseph Naytowhow public lecture on “Cree Ways of Knowing” and a dance performance roundtable on “Sensing Mental Illness: Dance and Psychiatry”


- The editorship of The Senses and Society journal transferred back to Concordia University from Sussex University, and two new books came out in the Sensory Studies series from Bloomsbury (the editorship of which is based at Concordia).
This Report is divided into five (5) sections:

1 Membership. There are six categories of membership in the Centre. This section distinguishes them and lists the researchers who come under each of the six categories.

2 Funding. This section provides details on all of the grants that come within the purview of sensory studies held by Centre members, singly or jointly, on 1 June 2016. It also gives details on the outcome of grant applications submitted during the 2016-2017 academic year.

3 Publications and Other Productions. This section lists only those journal articles and book chapters, multimedia installations and exhibitions, and conference papers and invited talks by Centre members that pertain to the field of sensory studies.

4 Activities. In this section, an overview is given of the seminars and public lectures as well as the international conference sponsored by the Centre during the 2016-2017 academic year.

5 Research Orientations. This section sets out the research axes and clusters that define the work of the Centre as a prelude to the discussion in section 6. It also provides details on the training of graduate students.

In closing, we wish to thank the Members of the Advisory Board – Michael Bull (Sussex University), Fiona Candlin (Birkbeck College) and Richard Newhauser (Arizona State University) – for their feedback on an earlier draft of this Report, their encouragement, and the shining example they set as sensory studies scholars. We also wish to thank all of the members of the Centre, faculty and students alike, for their prompt responses to our request for information.

Bianca Grohmann, Co-Director
Marketing

David Howes, Co-Director
Sociology and Anthropology
1. MEMBERSHIP

1.1 Members

- Carolina Cambre (Education)
- Martin French (Sociology and Anthropology)
- Bianca Grohmann (Marketing), Co-Director
- Orit Halpern (Sociology & Anthropology)
- David Howes (Sociology and Anthropology), Co-Director
- Aaron Johnson (Psychology)
- Hillary Kaell (Religion)
- Marc Lafrance (Sociology and Anthropology)
- Jordan Le Bel (Marketing)
- Jeremy Stolow (Communication Studies)

1.2 Associate Members

- Cynthia Hammond (Art History)
- Christopher Salter (Design Arts)
- Kelly Thompson (Studio Arts)
- Kathleen Vaughan (Art Education)
1.3 Emeritus Members

Andra McCartney (Communication Studies)
Anthony Synnott (Sociology and Anthropology)

1.4 Fellows

Constance Classen, Senior Fellow
Piet Devos, Postdoctoral Fellow

1.5 Visiting Professors, Professionals and Interns

Fiona Carlston, International Flavors and Fragrances (Fall term, 2016)
Kirsty Jones (Fall term, 2016)

1.6 Student Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<th>Co-supervisor</th>
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<td>2009-2017</td>
<td>Verushka Lieutenant-Duval</td>
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<td>Tom Waugh</td>
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<td>Natalie Doonan</td>
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<td>Sofian Audry</td>
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<td>SOAN MA</td>
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<td>Gabrielle Desgagné</td>
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<td>Gabriel Dharmoo</td>
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<td>Ida Toft</td>
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2. FUNDING

2.1 Ongoing Research Grants


“Engaging the Senses: 48th International Visual Literacy Association Conference,” Hexagram Co-production Funding Program. Principal Investigator: David Howes (SOAN/CSS), $4,965 [2016]


Centre for Sensory Studies

(Communications, Calgary), Sheryl Hamilton (Law, Carleton), Christiane Wilke (Law, Carleton). Collaborator: Constance Classen (CSS). $178,000
[2015–2018]

“Evaluating Methods of Aesthetic Enquiry Across Disciplines.” The Leverhulme Trust International Network Grant. Principal Investigator: Dee Reynolds (Manchester University). Concordia co-applicants: David Howes (SOAN/CSS), Constance Classen (CSS), Erin Manning (Film). £122,941 [or $368,044]
[2015–2018]

[2015-2017]

« Codes matériels: fils éphémères / Material Codes: Ephemeral Threads. » FRQSC Programme d'appui à la recherche-création. Principal Investigator: Kelly Thompson (Studio Arts/CSS) $131,983.
[2014–2018]

[2014–2018]

[2014–2017]

“When There is Noise! Investigating the Impact of Auditory Stimuli in Retail Environments on Elderly Consumers’ Shopping Decision Quality and Search Efficiency,” Centre de Recherche Interdisciplinaire en Réadaptation (CRIR) PSI MALL Operating Grant. Principal Investigator: Aaron Johnson (Psychology/CSS). Co-applicants: Bianca Grohmann (Marketing/CSS), H.O. Bodur (Marketing). $10,000
[2014–2016]

“Picturing Aura.” SSHRC Standard Grant. Principal Investigator: Jeremy Stolow (Communication Studies/CSS). $177,777
[2012–2018]

2.2 New Research Grants and Applications


“The Cultural Sensorium: An Indigenous Ethnography of the Senses.” Australian Research Council. Principal Investigator: Jennifer Biddle (University of New South Wales), Chris Salter (Design Arts/CSS), David Howes (SOAN/CSS), and others. $200,000 [2017-2020]


« Jeu responsable à l’ére numérique. » Funding for a project to create a gaming ‘collaboratory’ and conduct research on responsible gaming strategies in the digital era. Principal Investigator: Martin French (SOAN). Fonds de recherche – Société et culture (FRQSC). $359,354 [2017-2019]

“Stereotype beliefs and assistive devices in the rehabilitation of low vision – Phase 2, Grant Funding Sources: Institut Nazareth et Louis Braille (Longueuil, QC) Fondation En Vue Principal Investigator: Walter Wittich (Optometrie, UdeM). Co-applicant: Aaron Johnson (Psychology/CSS). $20,000 [2017–2018]


“Ka-Ching Pokie Nation: A look inside the machine.” Funding to support the translation, subtitling, and North American premiere of the documentary, Ka-Ching! Pokie Nation. Principal Investigator: Sylvia Kairouz (SOAN), Martin French (SOAN/CSS), and Eva Monson (Research Chair on Gambling). Aid to Research Related Events (ARRE). $3,000 [2017]
“Re-Storying Canada: Reconsidering Religion and Public Memory.” Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Connection Grant. Co-applicants: Emma Anderson (UOttawa), Hillary Kaell (Religion) and Pamela Klassen (Religious Studies, UofT). $25,000.
[2016-2017]

“Re-Storying Canada: Reconsidering Religion and Public Memory.” Ministry of Canadian Heritage. Co-applicants: Emma Anderson (UOttawa), Hillary Kaell (Religion) and Pamela Klassen (Religious Studies, UofT). $34,029
[2016-2017]

[2016-2017]

“Everyday Sacred: Religion in Contemporary Quebec,” Concordia University Vice-President Research and Graduate Studies Aid to Research Grant. Principal Investigator: Hillary Kaell (Religion) $5000
[2016-2017]
3. PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER PRODUCTIONS

3.1 Journal Articles & Book Chapters

• Carolina Cambre


• Bianca Grohmann


• Orit Halpern


“Resilience as Infrastructure”, *Technosphere Magazine*, Haus Der Kulturen der Welt, [http://technosphere-magazine.hkw.de/author/1fa07440-ff4e-11e6-8f36-abaf4cdeb849](http://technosphere-magazine.hkw.de/author/1fa07440-ff4e-11e6-8f36-abaf4cdeb849)

• Cynthia Hammond


• David Howes


- Aaron Johnson


- Hillary Kaell


“Evangelist of Fragments: Mite-Box Capitalism in the Late Nineteenth Century,” Church History, 86 (1) 2017: 86-119.


• Marc Lafrance


• Christopher Salter


• Jeremy Stolow


• Kelly Thompson


• Kathleen Vaughan


3.2 Multimedia Installations & Exhibitions

• Carolina Cambre

SACRIFICIAL FEMME. [Multi-media collage] In The Postal Collage Project No.5 (Berkeley, CA). Ramon's Taylor Exhibit San Francisco (April 7- May 22, 2016) http://www.ramonstailor.com/20160221/postal-collage-project-no-5/ and Pro-Arts East Bay Open Studios Art Festival (June 4-5 & 11-12, 2016)
“The Speed of a Dream” Visual essay in the Visual Sociology Showcase (December 2016)
Available at: http://visualsociology.org/?p=1296

Cover Art: Photo-collage for Special issue of Networking Knowledge: Journal Of The MeCCSA Postgraduate Network, 9(6), 8-25. Available at:
http://ojs.meccsa.org.uk/index.php/netknow/issue/view/togetherWHILEapart

- Cynthia Hammond

(group) Safety Strategies: Space, Gender and the City. With Caroline Alexander and 35 co-exhibitors. Gallery Studio XX, Montréal, February 11-25. All new work.

(solo) The Edge of the Garden: Sveva Caetani, Port Gallery, Vernon, BC, 22-23 April. All new work.


(group) Feminist City Light Caper. Performance/urban intervention (lead artist: Caroline Alexander), Mont-Royal, 5 January.

- Christopher Salter


Counterpolis (with Erik Adigard). Large Scale Public Art Work for OpenSkyGallery. ICC Tower (77,000 square meter LED screen on surface of building), Hong Kong, China. October-November 2016.


- Kelly Thompson

(group) World of Threads Festival 2016, Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre.
Oakville, Ontario, Canada

(group) *Glorious matter: The exhibition.* Artists in the ‘Textiles and Materiality’ cluster of Concordia’s Milieux Research Centre for Art, Culture, Technology, exhibit and panel presentation as part of the Conference of the International Visual Literacy October 5-10, 2016

(group) *Fiberworks 2016* Ideal Exchange, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada

(solo) *Open all Ports,* Hygienic Art Gallery, New London, Connecticut, USA (invited)

(group) ‘*Un paradis sans pommiers’ :Le jardin des Soeurs Grises,* Montreal

• Kathleen Vaughan

*Il giardino dell’Eden.* A collaborative suite of off-Biennial art activities with Cynthia Hammond and Kelly Thompson, addressing the histories and current realities of Venice’s largest private garden (inaccessible to visitors for a generation), and linked to the thematics of local determination of the future of the tourist- overrun city. Installations at various sites on La Giudecca, Venice, and documented on the project blog, [https://giardinodelleden.wordpress.com/](https://giardinodelleden.wordpress.com/) May 16-22, 2017


3.3 Conference Papers & Invited Talks

• Carolina Cambre


“Introduction to Visual Methods. For the Viestintätieteiden laitos/ Department of Communication, Jyväskylä, Finland. December 2016

“A Quantum of Meaning: Parallelism and Transvisuality. For the Space and Culture Research Group at the City Region Studies Centre (CRST) University of Alberta. Edmonton, AB, Canada. July 2016


“Quantum meaning: The power of parallelism as transvisual technique” at The Lisbon Consortium: Transvisuality at Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Lisbon, Portugal, June-July 2016


“Swiping as-if intimacy: Tinder and the interface mediated crisis of relations” at The 2nd Toxic Media Ecologies Symposium at the Intermedia Research Studio in the University of Alberta, Edmonton, CA. March 2016

• Martin French

Reynolds, Jennifer, Samantha Ilacqua, Martin French, and Sylvia Kairouz, “Responsibilizing Capitalism: Responsible Gambling in the Late Capitalist World,” presented (by Dr. Reynolds) at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Sociology Association, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, May 29, 2017.


French, Martin, “Player (Self) Tracking: Responsible Gaming in the Digital Era,” presented at the Surveillance Studies Centre Seminar Series, Queen’s University, Kingston, Canada, November 30, 2016.
• Bianca Grohmann


• Orit Halpern

Orit Halpern gave invited talks at multiple venues including University of Westminster in London, University of Copenhagen, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, Canadian Center for Architecture, Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, University of Chicago, and Transmedile 2017 in Berlin.

• Cynthia Hammond

"The Edge of Her Garden.” Séminaire annuel de LEAP (Laboratoire d'étude de l'architecture potentielle research group), Montreal, 16 June.

• David Howes


“'Now Smell This!' Beyond Disciplines: Sensescapes in Research and in Life.” Concordia University, Montreal. 20 October 2016.


• Aaron Johnson


• Hillary Kaell


• Marc Lafrance


Christopher Salter


Jeremy Stolow
‘Photographing Phantom Bodies’ (invited public lecture). Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University, NC, 2 December 2016.


• Kelly Thompson

“Artist at Sea: Codes and Cargo.” Paper presented at Textile Society of American Symposium, Savannah, Georgia, USA. October

“Glorious matter, engaging the senses: A panel presentation by artist-researchers in “Textiles & Materiality.” Vaughan, K., Daines, M.J., Hunter, F., Legault, D., Moisan, G., & Thompson, K., Panel at the Conference of the International Visual Literacy Association. Montreal, QC, October

• Kathleen Vaughan


4. ACTIVITIES

4.1 Seminars and Lectures

The Centre hosts a research seminar. It features presentations by CSS members and visiting professors and professionals, such as Fiona Carlston, Scent Design Director at IFF Paris (who spent part of her sabbatical at the Centre in the Fall of 2016).

The Centre collaborated with the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture (CISSC) to stage two public lectures in 2016-2017. The first was a talk-performance by Cree elder Joseph Naytowhow on “Cree Ways of Knowing” and the prospects for indigenizing university education. The second was a dance performance-roundtable discussion on the theme of “Sensing Mental Illness.”
Sensory Literacies: The role of the senses in new literacy practices,
Speaker: Kathy A. Mills
24 April 2017, 1:00 – 2:30pm
Room H-1124, Hall Building, Concordia University

Sensing Mental Illness: Dance and Psychiatry
Performance and Roundtable Discussion
21 April 2017, 2:30 – 4:30pm
Room MB 7.255, Molson Building, Concordia University
Les rapports entre le Droit et la musique
Speaker: Norbert Rouland
3 February 2017, 2:00 – 3:30pm
Room H-1124, Hall Building, Concordia University

CREE WAYS OF KNOWING (NEHIYO ITÂPISINOWIN): Indigenizing University Education
Speaker: Joseph Naytowhow
2 November 2016, 2:00 – 4:00pm (public lecture)
Room H-763, Hall Building, Concordia University
3 November 2016, 10:00 – 11:30am (graduate seminar)
Room EV 11.705 (Milieux Resource Centre), Concordia University

Life of the Senses at International Flavors and Fragrances (IFF), Paris
Speaker: Fiona Carlston, IFF
21 October 2016, 1:00 – 2:30pm
Room H-1120, Hall Building, Concordia University

Come to your Senses: Sensescapes in research and in life
Beyond Disciplines Series, Faculty of Arts and Science
20 October 2016, 5:00 – 7:00pm
EV Building, Room EV 2. 260, Concordia University

4.2 Conference

The Centre hosted the 48th Annual Conference of the International Visual Literacy Association (IVLA) in October 2016. The three-day conference was co-sponsored by the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture (CISSC), the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and the Department of Art Education. Additional financial support was provided by the Office of the Dean of Fine Arts, a Hexagram co-production grant, and a $3,400 grant from the Aid to Research Related Events (ARRE) program
Community partners included the Canadian Centre for Architecture CCA), which offered two free guided tours of its archives for conference-goers, and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA), which offered three free guided tours of its collections, permitted the Maxwell Cummings Auditorium to be used for two of the plenary lectures, and hosted a temporary art exhibition in Studio 4. The exhibition, curated by Kathleen Vaughan, which featured textile works by Concordia faculty and students, was entitled “Glorious Matter.”

The full conference program is available at the following link:
Engaging the Senses: The 48th Annual International Visual Literacy Association Conference

For a report on the conference please follow this link to the Hexagram website:
5. Research Orientations

5.1 Axes

There are four principal axes to the Centre’s program of research:

• **AXIS 1: SENSORY STUDIES (CULTURE & THE SENSES).** Sensory Studies is an interdisciplinary area of inquiry which involves taking a cultural approach to the study of the senses and a sensory approach to the study of culture. It has its origins in history and anthropology, but has since expanded into numerous other social science and humanities disciplines. Sensory Studies can be divided along sensory lines into: visual culture, auditory culture (or sound studies), smell culture, taste culture, and the culture of touch. However, the work of the Centre is known for its focus on the interdependence and interactivity of the senses, or holistic approach.
  – Classen, Howes, Le Bel, Lafrance, Hammond, Stolow, Kaell, French, Halpern, Cambre

• **AXIS 2: MULTISENSORY AESTHETICS.** The study of aesthetics in history and across cultures with a focus on the interaction of the senses, the creation of intermedia/multisensory artworks, and the design of performative sensory environments.
  – Salter, Classen, Hammond, Thompson, Vaughan, Cambre

• **AXIS 3: SENSORY MARKETING.** The study of the sensory turn in marketing which has resulted in an intense new focus on augmenting the sense appeal of commodities and retail environments.
  – Grohmann, Le Bel, Howes, Classen, Johnson, French

• **AXIS 4: SENSORY ENGINEERING & COMMUNICATION.** The study of technologies as extensions of the senses, either for purposes of control (e.g. the coming to be of “the sensor society”) or for the enhancement of well-being (e.g. sensory substitution, sensory augmentation)
  – Johnson, Salter, Howes, Stolow, French, Thompson, Halpern

5.2 Clusters

In addition to the axes there are three clusters. The clusters represent emergent areas of research concentration where the interests of 3-4 members coalesce:
Cluster A: Sensori-Legal Studies. Sensori-legal studies is a branch of socio-legal studies. It views law as sense-making activity. In place of viewing law as text to be interpreted, it directs attention to the rootedness of law in the body and senses (e.g. the very term “right” or “droit”) and the role of law in the construction and regulation of the senses.
– Howes, Lafrance, French, Classen

Cluster B: Emplacement. Emplacement is a new paradigm for research and research creation which is akin to the paradigm of embodiment, but more extensive. It focusses on the sensuous relations between people and space, and includes such subfields as the sense of place, atmosphere, sensuous architecture, and sensorial urbanism.
– Hammond, Thompson, Vaughan, Howes, Kaell, Cambre

Cluster C: Disability and the Senses. The sensory turn in disability studies has challenged both the medical model and the social model of disability by highlighting the cultural construction of blindness, deafness, and so forth, as well as the subjective experience of those who are otherwise abled.
– Johnson, Lafrance, Classen, Grohmann, Howes

5.3 Graduate Student Training

Concordia already has a doctoral program in Sensory Studies. This research area has been featured as one of the “Research Currents” within the Individualized Programs (SIP) and the Humanities Doctoral Program (HUMA) since the Fall of 2007.
http://www.concordia.ca/sgs/programs/individualized/research-currents.html

It is possible to graduate with a concentration in sensory studies in other doctoral programs as well, such as the Ph.D. in Marketing, the Ph.D. in Communication Studies, and the new Ph.D. in Social and Cultural Analysis.

A number of students at the Master’s level have also pursued research in sensory studies, either through the M.A. program in Social and Cultural Anthropology or the INDI M.A. program.

In 2016-2017, the Centre welcomed six new Ph.D. students and two new Master’s students. The benefits of student membership include: supervision for independent studies courses related to degree requirements; participating in both large and small research and research-creation projects (and the joint publications and/or installations that result from these), access to funding in the form of research assistantships; and, access to conference and research travel support.

Research Assistantships take many different forms, from assisting the Managing Editor of The Senses and Society journal with the processing of manuscripts or working as the Centre Coordinator (curating the Centre’s websites, coordinating events to carrying out bibliographic and/or field research as a member of one of the Centre’s numerous research teams or travelling to cities like Berlin or Shanghai to help with the set-up of installations like Chris Salter’s Displace and Haptic Field. All of these opportunities provide vital training in the research methods and practices of the expanding field of sensory studies.