

**Wanted: Ethnographers for Nuit Blanche****The pitch:**

A group of ethnographers from the Centre for Sensory Studies' *Explorations in Sensory Design* (ESD) team will be conducting a mobile sensory ethnography of Nuit Blanche in Montreal on the night of **Saturday, Feb. 25**. We're looking for other ethnographers who might want to join our expedition (and learn a bit about doing sensory ethnography in the process!).

*Interested in participating?* Contact Erin Lynch at [e.e.lynch.art@gmail.com](mailto:e.e.lynch.art@gmail.com) (with "Nuit Blanche" in the subject line) no later than Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

**The project:**

The idea of a "Nuit Blanche" – a night-time arts festival, where museums and other cultural spaces stay open late and the city becomes "one giant performance and carnival venue" - has taken hold as a cultural regeneration strategy in cities around the world. On the one hand, Nuit Blanche seems like the poster child for spectacular urbanism or the production of a so-called "experience economy." However, because the public are actively involved in producing festive atmospheres, these atmospheres may be more resistant to attempts to stabilize the meaning and feeling of the city than they at first seem. We want to ask: what does it feel like to be immersed in the atmosphere(s) of Nuit Blanche? What happens to the sensory dimensions of the city – and particularly its cultural spaces – when they are bathed in this aura of the carnivalesque? And what role does the public play in co-producing these atmospheres?

We will be conducting a mobile sensory ethnography of Nuit Blanche. Sensory ethnography involves attending to the body in ethnography through the practice of participant sensation. The objective of our Nuit Blanche outing is to gather a variety of sensory ethnographic impressions from across the spaces of the event. Select impressions will be assembled by the organizers into a co-authored probe (which will be posted on the *Explorations in Sensory Design* website – coming soon), with participants credited as contributors.

**The plan:**

Where?: Beginning on campus (Hall Building, 11<sup>th</sup> floor, room H-1120), then venturing out across Montreal

When?: Saturday Feb 25 (7pm)- Sunday Feb 26 (1/2am ...or beyond!)

We will meet for a short orientation session on campus (and a brief primer on sensory ethnography led by Dr. Erin Lynch) before hitting the streets. Members of the ESD team will be visiting several museums over the course of the night, in addition to some immersive/multisensory artistic interventions. You can find our tentative itinerary attached. However, there's also lots of room for participants to attend events of their choosing – most events are free! (Check out the official program here: <https://www.montrealenlumiere.com/Programmation?volet=nuit> ).