Content and aims of the course

What role do the senses play in the process of making and communicating scientific knowledge? The traditional view of science as a disembodied and a-sensuous practice has recently been called into question by scholars in STS and the history and anthropology of science.

Not only have these scholars investigated the “visual cultures of science”, but they have also shown the importance of sound, touch, smell and taste in scientific practice – and indeed, they have shown that the different senses interact with each other in the making of scientific knowledge.

In this course, we will explore the role of the senses and embodied practices in a variety of scientific disciplines and different sites of knowledge-production, and encounter the method of sensory ethnography as a tool to study the senses in the sciences.

Advice for registration:
The registration is obligatory. If you decide not to take part in the seminar, there is the possibility to sign off (online at UNIVIS) with no negative consequences until May 12th, 2013. In this case, please also inform the teaching assistants via e-mail: lv.wissenschaftsforschung@univie.ac.at.

Course attendance:
Attendance is mandatory. Absences up to 20% of total course presence are tolerated.

The reader for this class can be purchased during the institute’s main office hours:
Mo + Thu 10:00-15:00
Tue + Wed 10:00-16:00

Please note that plagiarism of any kind is not tolerated at the University of Vienna!
## Seminar schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Topics</th>
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<td><strong>Friday, 3.5.2013</strong></td>
<td>13:00-15:00</td>
<td>Introduction and Course Overview</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, 6.5.2013</strong></td>
<td>13:00-15:00</td>
<td>The visual culture of science?</td>
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<td>Optional reading:</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, 7.5.2013</strong></td>
<td>13:00-15:00</td>
<td>Science and the senses: questioning the dominance of words, numbers and images</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, 13.5.2013</strong></td>
<td>13:00-15:00</td>
<td>Sensory histories of science</td>
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**Tuesday, 14.5.2013**  
**13:00-15:30** The sciences of the senses  

And read **one of the following:**  

**Friday, 17.05.2013**  
**13:00-15:00** Sensory ethnographies of science  

And read **two out of the following three:**  

In this session, we will also discuss your plans for a small ethnographic research project of your own, to be discussed during the last two classes. Before the session, think about where and how you plan to conduct your research, and hand in a brief proposal (about half a page) by 09:00 am on the day of the class on moodle. The literature from this session should help you to develop a research design, but don’t hesitate to already browse through the literature for the final two sessions for inspiration, too.

**Thursday, 23.05.2013**  
**9:30-11:30** The senses in the lab  

Optional reading:  
<table>
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<th>Authors/References</th>
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During this discussion, we will draw and reflect upon your own experiences of doing a sensory ethnography of an academic library (unless you are studying a lecture for the next meeting). In preparation of the meeting, submit a short report (about 2 pages) describing your most interesting findings and most striking observations by **09:00 am on the day of the class on moodle**. |
During this discussion, we will draw and reflect upon your own experiences of doing a sensory ethnography of a lecture (unless you studied a library for the previous meeting). In preparation of the meeting, submit a short report (about 2 pages) describing your most interesting findings and most striking observations by **09:00 am on Monday, the 27th of May on moodle**. |
Requirements for passing the course:
To pass the seminar, students are expected to complete the following tasks:
- Read and discuss the required readings.
- Conduct a small ethnographic study of an academic library or academic lecture.
- Write a final essay, and hand it in on time.

Grading scheme:
- 20% In-class participation
- 10% Research design for the sensory ethnography
- 20% Written report of your sensory ethnography
- 45% Final essay
- 5% Delivery of assignments on time and formal criteria (citation, layout, ...)

Grades are between 1 and 5, 1 being the best grade, 5 being a fail.

Requirements for assignments:
For your ethnographic study, you will need to hand in on moodle a short proposal (about half a page) of what you intend to do by 09:00 am on Friday, May 17\textsuperscript{th}. A short report (about 2 pages) detailing your most important findings and most striking observations has to be handed in by 09:00 am by Monday, May 27\textsuperscript{th}. We will draw upon these experiences in our discussions during the final two sessions, so be prepared to discuss them in class!

You are free to choose your own subject for your final essay related to the theme of the course. You may choose to make use of your ethnographic research presented during class, but are not obligated to do so. Whether your essay is primarily ethnographic, historical or theoretical, it must show a thorough engagement with the literature from this course. It should be between 12 and 15 pages long, and is due on July 31\textsuperscript{st}, 2013.

Important Grading Information:
If not explicitly noted otherwise, all requirements mentioned in the grading scheme and the attendance regulations must be met. If a required task is not fulfilled, e.g. a required assignment is not handed in or if the student does not meet the attendance requirements, this will be considered as a discontinuation of the course. In that case, the course will be graded as "fail" (5), unless there is a major and unpredictable reason for not being able to fulfill the task on the student's side (e.g. a longer illness). In such a case, the student may be de-registered from the course without grading.
If any requirement of the course has been fulfilled by fraudulent means, be it for example by cheating at an exam, plagiarizing parts of a written assignment or by faking signatures on an attendance sheet, the student's participation in the course will be discontinued, the entire course will be graded as "not assessed" and will be entered into the electronic exam record as "fraudulently obtained".