Where to go?

Directions in Studying Sensory Environments

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Where to go?

1. Five Village Soundscapes (1975)
3. Acmesocs - Auditory Cultures, Mediated, Sounds, Constructed Spaces (2023)
4. Sensotra (2023)
5. Villages 2.0 (working title for new project, 2025)
FVS (1975) Goals and methods

- investigate local history
- study local archives for references to sound (town crier, post horn etc.)
- to chart all significant changes in the soundscape
- record and measure the intensity of all village signals
- draw profile maps for prominent community signals
- record all antique sounds in the village (blacksmith, old tools etc.)
- make recordings of characteristic ambiences in each village
- enumerate and measure the frequency of specific types of transportation sounds
- make lists of sounds heard throughout the village at different times of day
- Sound Preference Test in the village schools
- conduct interviews with elderly people concerning the past soundscape of the village
Sensory transformations (SENSOTRA) 2016–2021

- 2016–2021 *Sensory Transformations and Transgenerational Environmental Relationships in Europe, 1950–2020* (SENSOTRA), ERC Advanced Grant project
- Principal Investigator Helmi Järviluoma
SENSORY TRANSFORMATIONS (SENSOTRA)

- sensobiographic walking – is a kind of culmination in a long row of attempts to chase the ever-escaping phenomena related to sensory remembering
- the method has a long history, but this particular format was developed for SENSOTRA
- engaging participant pairs composed of different generations
  - Three mid-sized European cities: Turku, Brighton, Ljubljana
  - About 180 walkers altogether (from 26-32 transgenerational pairs in each city)
  - Approximately half of them artists
**Members of the research group:** PI Helmi Järviluoma; researchers Sandi Abram, Inkeri Aula, Blaž Bajič, Laura Formenti, Lesley Murray, Rajko Muršič, Eeva Pärjälä, Sonja Pöllänen, Milla Tiainen, Heikki Uimonen, Juhana Venäläinen, Henna Volotinen, Jari Ruotsalainen

**Discipline(s):** Ethnomusicology, Cultural Anthropology, Sociology of the Arts, Geography, Psychology and Adult Education.

**Main collaborators:** University of Ljubljana (Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology), University of Brighton (School of Applied Social Science), Milano Bicocca University (Department of Human Sciences for Education)

**See more:** Web-page
https://uefconnect.uef.fi/en/group/sensotra/
Sensobiographic walking is an ethnographic research method. It provides a possibility for the study of rich, embodied and site-specific emergence of sensory remembering and experiences.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sensobiographic_walking
AEC project and the study of sonic memories

- Finnish cultural analysis of soundscapes aimed since the 1990's at developing especially the qualitative methodologies.
- In the project that Helmi Järvi luoma led from the late 1990s, Acoustic Environments in Change (AEC), we returned to the WSP and studied five small towns and villages, adding one Finnish. studying the changes in soundscapes from 1975 to 2000 in those villages.
- We did not want to replicate FSV as such, even if we borrowed some of its tests aiming at the possibility of doing some kind of comparisons.
- Leading towards SENSOTRA: slowly these developments, especially the work carried out in the Breton village, Lesconil, started the development of the method of *sensobiographic walking*.
Co-operation with Cresson scholars

- Carrying out the AEC project, listening and sound walking were developed into Sensory Memory Walking in the year 2000 in Lesconil with researchers from:
  - The Centre for Research on Sonic Space and Urban Environment (CRESSON in Grenoble)
  - Nicolas Tixier and Julien Oisans based their listening method, *écoute située*, on commented city walks of the sociologist Jean-Paul Thibaud (2013)
- However, it was impossible during the fieldwork to receive "only" sonic memories
- Often the result was an overwhelming flow of sensory memories (see Järveluoma 2009; Listen, also, Soundcloud Lesconil: Sonic memory walk in in Quartier de Quatre Vents).
Sensotra tour

Sensotra Tour – voice acted online demonstration pages of the project

https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1364831714358067201
Mobile search for relational knowledge

- We have queried and pondered upon how multisensory processes usually unfold – or as Barad would probably say – are moulded through interaction and become meaningful in a constitutive relationship with material, discursive and social factors during walks and subsequent interviews.

- While walking with researchers, people from different generations, create a unique situation in which sensing and memories entangled with personal experiences of place are communicated, invited, verbalized, and produced in interaction.
“Nature intertwined with the wired life?”

- How digital media technologies affect especially young, city-dwelling people’s everyday sensory relations with their more than-human environments?
- Inkeri Aula’s article ’Urban nature and digital media technologies entangled’
- Digital entangled in complex ways in young people’s lived environmental relationships
- She analyses SENSOTRA data from perspective of sensory attunement with affective atmospheres
  - Headphones
  - Route choices
"Nature intertwined with the wired life?"

BOTH methods used in attuning to desired affective atmospheric qualities of the environments

Smartphones being an element of being-in-space, as music device, camera, recorder, social media channel, torch

Technological affordances do not determine the experience – camera, tree, and selfie posing are mutually constituted

**EVEN SMALL** natural stretches in the city, parks, wooded areas, watersides with diverse greenery offer deeply beneficial experiences to the young, both with and without gadgets.
"Nature intertwined with the wired life?"

Urban sensescapes are not taken as static or mechanical collections of features of the environment.

The research not only offers sustenance to analysts of sensory transformations but may also possess a transformative power of its own.

Järviluoma, Helmi & Lesley Murray (Eds)

Villages 2.0 – open discussion

Use of media / mediated existence (sociocultural, demographical, economical technological etc. implications)?

Methodology revisited and revised?

Digital anthropology i.e. sound diaries?

Anthropocene?

Sensory commoning?

Dissemination e.g. radio programmes?
Thank you for listening!

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