

DEVELOPPER UNE REFLEXION THEORIQUE SUR LES MODALITES ET LES ENJEUX D'UNE
CRITIQUE DE L'URBAIN A PARTIR DES AMBIANCES¹

- 2nde modalité de travail : organisation de rencontres scientifiques (conférences, sessions dans des colloques internationaux, journées d'études, atelier de travail, déjeuner Cresson, écoles thématiques...) pour mettre en débat le positionnement du groupe de recherche sur cette question de la critique sensible de l'urbain

Masson Damien & Thomas, Rachel (2020). From a sensitive ecology of ambiances / atmospheres to a political ecology

Titre de la conférence

4th International Congress on Ambiances : « Ambiances, Alloaesthesia: Senses, Inventions, Worlds », Santa Barbara, 2nd-4th December 2020

Résumé

Recently, there has been an evolution in urban practices and sensibilities that bear more or less directly the mark of the effects of certain "ambiances policies" (in terms of urban marketing, security, pacification, aestheticization, hygiene, entertainment, etc.). Many works in the field of ambiances show how they affect the experience of spaces, by giving a certain tone to the situations in which we find ourselves, we act and interact. But, few of them clearly highlight the role they play in situations of unrest, marginalization, stigmatization - in short, in situations that undermine our ability to participate in ordinary social life. However, these "ambiances proposals" also generate diffuse forms of normativity that make certain practices, some attentional regimes, some ways of being and being together in public more or less acceptable.

The challenge of this session is precisely to pay attention to the ways in which descriptive approaches to ordinary social life - attentive to their sensitive and affective dimension - can help to understand the social, cultural, ethical and moral issues involved in the current transformations of urban atmospheres, in particular when these transformations reflect climates of tension, vulnerability, intranquility, threat... How does an ambiance-based approach allow us to apprehend these issues in terms of symbolic violence, hierarchy, inequalities? How does it allow us to access these phenomena below their visibility and enunciation? In which ways do they upset our affects, ways of feeling, tones of experience? How can this become a critical research category that addresses changes in our living environments?

We invite papers (theoretical or field studies) that address the above points within themes including:

- How to switch from a sensitive ecology of atmospheres to a political ecology of atmospheres? What theoretical and methodological postures?
- What are the political uses of ambiances? On what kind of *dispositifs* do they rely? What are the pervasive values that drive them?
- How do ambiances/ atmospheres contribute to produce discrimination, "marginalization", fragility, unrest, vulnerability?
- How do ambiances/ atmospheres affect the bodies, sensitivities, capacities of individuals to act and participate in ordinary social life?
- How to take into account these problems critically without being in a denunciatory posture?

¹ En noir figurent les actions réalisées ou en cours ; en gris, les actions en projet

Masson Damien & Thomas, Rachel (2019) : sessions 1 & 2 « Towards a political ecology of ambiances/atmospheres »

Titre de la conférence

AAG - Association of American Geographers, Annual Meeting, Washington, 3-7 avril 2019 (colloque international)

[Programme des deux sessions en ligne]

Session 1 : <https://aag.secure-abstracts.com/AAG%20Annual%20Meeting%202019/sessions-gallery/23210>

Session 2 : <https://aag.secure-abstracts.com/AAG%20Annual%20Meeting%202019/sessions-gallery/23664>

Résumé des sessions

Research on ambiances and atmospheres* has largely contributed to making explicit the role of sensitive phenomena in space, perceptual modalities and affects in the construction of social life. Deriving from an aesthetic thought to ecological approach, and focusing on the forms of situated experience, most of these works reveal how ambiances/atmospheres affect the tones and forms of social life. However, one can also witness a lack for consideration of the societal challenges – as well as of the political and moral issues – that are necessarily carried out by the physical and sensory transformations of our living conditions. Some are more problematic than others. These transformation could take into consideration some "atmospheric properties" that surround situations, intend to give these a "tone" that is more or less "warm" and engaging; place individuals in "states", may these be of confidence or of destabilization; put dwellers at risk or, on the contrary, enhance our capabilities to play an active part within society; sometimes put at risk our feeling of belonging to the same "common world" or our ability to welcome the 'Other'. How is it possible to understand these sensory experiences, without questioning, evaluating and even criticizing the value of the ambiances/atmospheres in which they take place?

This session aims at questioning the possibility of reconciling descriptive approaches of mundane social life (attentive to its sensitive, emotional and atmospheric/ambient dimension), with critical approaches? In other words, how can the sensory, affective, atmospheric research convey issues of social and political criticism?

We invite papers that address the above points within themes including:

- Thinking together an ecology of places and an ecology of ambiances/atmospheres, or a political ecology of ambiances/atmospheres
- What could be an ambiance/atmosphere-based critique? What could be the objects of this ambiance/atmosphere-based critique?
- Theoretical and empirical relationship with critical theory?
- The role of ambiance/atmospheres in creating situations of unrest, symbolic violence and marginalization? How do they contribute to the creation of "sidelining"?
- What do ambiances/atmosphere do to the mundane body and senses?
- How do atmospheres participate in the production and duplication of "alienations", indispositions to action, impossibilities of engagement and sharing?
- Political uses of ambiances/atmospheres
- Ambiances/atmospheres and spaces of consumption

Date et lieu : 5 avril 2019 à Washington (USA)

Collaborations :

Équipe CRESSON UMR 1563 AAU
MRTE Université de Cergy Pontoise,

Bidet Alexandra, Cefai Daniel, Thomas Rachel, Thibaud Jean-Paul, Von Hollebecke Sarah (2019) : École thématique CNRS 2019 PRAGMA "Pragmatisme et enquêtes empiriques en sciences sociales : sur le terrain du politique"

Résumé

L'école thématique PRAGMA consistera en une semaine de formation avancée pour les étudiants et chercheurs en sciences sociales et en philosophie souhaitant approfondir leurs usages et leurs mises à l'épreuve empirique de la pensée du pragmatisme. Dans sa version 2019, elle renversera la priorité qui avait souvent été donnée à la philosophie et mettra beaucoup plus l'accent sur ses usages empiriques. Il s'agira avant tout de faire connaître, à partir d'enquêtes empiriques concrètes, les apports du pragmatisme à l'enquête sur le politique et, à partir de là, de remonter vers des points d'histoire et de théorie. Dans cet objectif, diverses thématiques seront traitées :

- La portée politique des espaces publics urbains
- La portée politique des espaces de travail
- La portée politique des controverses et des institutions

Date et lieu : du 24 au 29 juin 2019 à Porquerolles

Collaborations :

UMR 8178 CEMS EHESS
UMR 8097 Centre Maurice Halbwachs
Équipe CRESSON UMR 1563 AAU
UMR 8183 CESDIP
UMS 3610 CAPHES ENS Ulm
USR 3609 République des savoirs, ENS Paris, Collège de France
UMR 7218 LAVUE

Mettre lien vers article pragmata – cpte rendu dès qu'il sera en ligne

Fregonese Sara, Laketa Sunčana & Masson Damien (2018). Session « Changing landscapes / Changing the landscapes of terror and threat: materialities, bodies, ambiances, elements ».

Titre de la conférence

Annual International Conference « Geographical landscapes/changing landscapes of geography», The Royal Geographical Society (colloque international)

[Programme de la session en ligne]

<http://conference.rgs.org/AC2018/e522a029-447a-4f5d-b260-bc64e65cb276>

Résumé de la session

We are witnessing an upsurge of deadly acts of terrorism. In Western Europe, for example, the number of incidents has remained stable, but deadly attacks have increased, from 2.7% in 2012 to 7.2% in 2015 and 11.2% in 2016 (Source: Global Terrorism Database). The landscapes of terror and terror threat are complexly interwoven with those of conflict, radicalization, grievance and

displacement in and from the Middle East and the so-called Islamic State. While IR and terrorism studies struggle to analyze, index and measure the increasingly elusive structures of Jihadi terrorism, and critical security scholars assess the deployment and effectiveness of counter-terrorism measures, the contemporary impact of jihadi terror and terror threat on the everyday landscapes are understudied.

The session addresses this gap, by bringing attention to new spacings of terror and terror threat that go beyond the representational, state-centred, and territorial framings of national security, risk and resilience, geopolitics and identity studies. Katz's work on security, performativity and the everyday urban environment (Katz 2007) is updated here and the research question and analysis pushed further into the everyday visceral materialities, bodily experiences, elemental aspects and ambiances/atmospheres that compose the changing landscapes of terror and terror threat. Conversely, terror and terror threat as research objects might provoke epistemic shifts within the paradigms underlying the 'atmospheric turn', notably by shifting their phenomenological focus towards a critical and (geo)political one. If so, in what ways can affective and atmospheric sensitivities be reconciled with social and cultural understandings and engagements with terror and terror threat?

We invite papers that address the above points within themes including:

- Living with to terror and terror threat
- Responding, reacting, coping, absorbing: extraordinary violence and ordinary experiences
- Governing / regulating public experiences of and responses to terror
- Studying terror within the atmospheric turn
- More-than-human landscapes of terror and terror threat
- Performances of terror / security in public space?
- Elemental geographies of terrorism and terror threat
- Atmospheric / material / elemental / bodily histories of urban terror and terror threat
- Representing, visualizing and/or mapping the everyday, embodied, elemental and ambient geographies of terror fear and threat
- Collecting, grasping, and other sensory methodologies to understand the mundane feelings / affects / intensities of terror and terror threat

Date et lieu : 28-31 août 2018 à Cardiff (UK)

Collaborations :
Nottingham University
St Gallen Université
MRTE Université de Cergy-Pontoise

Rachel Thomas, Anthony Pecqueux, Théa Manola, Gretchen Schiller (2018) : invitation et organisation de la conférence et du workshop de Barbara ERWINE (March Berkeley, University of Washington, Seattle)

Titre de la conference
Sculpting the Sensescape: An Embodied Approach to Design
<http://www.grenoble.archi.fr/manifestations/conference-detail.php?conf=conf20181016-erwine>

Titre du workshop
A puddle of quiet
<https://lcv.hypotheses.org/13346>

Résumé

The relatively bland, homogeneous palette of contemporary sensory design pales by comparison to the lush and sensuous environments of antiquity. With ever-increasing technological accuracy, the places we now design and construct are controlled to narrowly acceptable ranges of light, smell, sound, texture and color, resulting in experiences that are acceptable but not inspiring, comfortable but not comforting, predictable but not memorable. This talk explores the origins of this move toward relative sensory deprivation and proposes an alternative design framework to rekindle the variety and vitality of a fully embodied sensory approach. Sculpting the sensescape into cathedrals of smell, caves of sound, alcoves of warmth, thresholds of texture, and cones of light, we will explore sensory spaces as volumetric entities that we enter and leave independent of the tectonic constructions of walls, floors, ceilings, etc. that are the traditional purview of the architect. Like their tectonic counterparts, the location, shape and boundaries of these sensory spaces can be rigid or fluid, permanent or ephemeral, solid or porous. We'll see that although tectonic space leans toward the former of these, sensory space leans toward the latter, and thus brings with it magical qualities that may linger just below consciousness. We'll explore the delicate balance of creating authentic and nurturing sensory environments that provide interest without overwhelming or harming occupants and evoke a sense of place/belonging without manipulation. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of how we can finally value the importance of sensory modalities in architecture and design to reinstate a celebration of the senses in our contemporary design world of education and practice.

Date et lieu : 16 & 17 octobre 2018 à l'ENSAG (Grenoble, France)

Collaborations:

March Berkeley University of Washington (Seattle)
Équipe CRESSON UMR 1563 AAU
SFR Création, Université Grenoble Alpes
École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Grenoble

Albertsen Niels, Devisme Laurent & Thomas Rachel (2016). Session « Ambiance, atmosphere, climate. Theory, politics and criticism »

Titre de la conférence

Congrès International sur les Ambiances (Volos, 2016) : Ambiances, demain / ambiances, tomorrow /

[Programme de la session en ligne]

<http://ambiances2016.arch.uth.gr/en/program/sessions-programme/4-ambiance,-atmosphere,-climate-theory,-politics-and-criticism>

Résumé de la session

Dans la session « Ambiance, atmosphere, climate. Theory, politics and criticism », nous invitons à expliciter les enjeux théoriques et critiques des notions d'ambiances, d'atmosphères et de climats. Les ambiances nous affectent politiquement. Certaines « dissonances » atmosphériques, d'ambiances suscitent parfois des émotions et des désaccords très forts, tout en demeurant difficile à saisir et à expliciter. Printemps arabes, mouvements des Indignés, « Occupy Wall Street », marches républicaines, manifestations contre les politiques d'austérité économique en Europe..., les espaces publics urbains contemporains donnent partout à voir et à entendre des appels citoyens à «

changer le monde ». Si ces campements pacifistes et/ou ces marches collectives bénéficient d'un large relais médiatique, d'autres mouvements ou pratiques, moins manifestes ou volontaires, plus discrets, relevant parfois de la sphère privée, participent d'une reconfiguration lente des cadres sensibles de l'expérience urbaine et des urbanités contemporaines. Les atmosphères sont partagées, mais peuvent diviser. Comment se saisir et décrire ces mutations à l'œuvre, dont la plupart relèvent de processus longs, en cours, inachevés et qui, en outre, sont porteurs d'enjeux sociopolitiques complexes ? Comment les décrire, les conceptualiser, les théoriser, les critiquer ? De quelle manière l'attention à la dimension sociopolitique des ambiances/ des atmosphères peut-elle nourrir une réflexion critique sur le devenir sensible du monde urbain ?

Date et lieu : 21 - 24 septembre 2016 à Volos (Grèce)

Collaborations :

Réseau International Ambiance(s)

UMR CNRS/MCC/ECN 1563 « Ambiances, Architectures, Urbanités »

Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication

École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Grenoble et de Nantes

Département d'architecture, École Polytechnique, Université de Thessalie