

We
are

All Able Bodies

From Sensory Deprivation to Sensory Augmentation

*How can our
bodily abilities
inform design,
and how can
design have an
intensifying or
diminishing effect
on our sensory
abilities?*

A trans-disciplinary **workshop/seminar**
organised in a partnership between the Institute of
Technology Faculty of Architecture, San Pablo CEU
University Madrid/ Spain, and the School of Architecture,
University of Reading/ UK, with the support from the
International Ambiances Network

UNIVERSIDAD CEU SAN PABLO | Campus Montepríncipe
Urbanización Montepríncipe | 28925 Alcorcón (Madrid)

16 | 17
NOV
2018

/// Introduction

This **two-day workshop/seminar** aims to bring into dialogue researchers and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines to re-examine potentials and limitations of bodies experiencing the sensory realm. Far from the existing research on sensory augmentation devices and wearables, we want to explore the hidden agency of somatics and bodily capabilities. A body in movement could become a challenge for everyone. We want to think of sensory perception *otherwise*, developing new ways of *moving* towards the understanding of disability as *ableness*, as a 'creative act of constantly challenging boundaries' – to paraphrase the dancer Joel Brown [1]. In doing so, we hope to learn through action, subverting and redefining sensory thresholds and, thus, to reclaim the role of the body and the senses in creating new meanings and collective sensibilities. By focusing on the intertwinement between sensory perception, affect and aesthetic practices, we want to exchange experiences, skills and knowledge, addressing diverse ways of creating inclusive environments that operate beyond what we can or cannot perceive, providing a possibility for action and interaction for *All Bodies*. Our research question explores how our bodily abilities can inform design and how design can have either an intensifying or diminishing effect on our sensory abilities.

The event includes **three keynote discussions, four panel sessions composed of both academic and performative presentations, and a workshop organised as a series of sensory practices**. Through the seminar we aim to establish both theoretical and methodological trans-disciplinary frameworks. The workshop and artistic installations will actively explore specific sensory dispositions and intensities – i.e. diverse forms of seeing, hearing, motion and interaction, **adapting the body to a particular ambiance and adapting the ambiance to the body**.

We hope that this event will present an opportunity for testing and discussing diverse somatic and artistic practices and methodologies and, above all, will become a catalyst for reconsidering our corporeality and our engagement with the environment.

| Chairs:

M^a Auxiliadora Gálvez Pérez (EPS USP-CEU)
Carolina Vasilikou (UoR)
Izabela Wieczorek (UoR)

[1] Joel Brown in a Panel Session 'Cultures of Movement' at the event 'How does the city move you? On bodies, identity and urban design' held at the Siobhan Davies Studio in London on 30th June 2018, part of London Festival of Architecture

| Keynote Addresses:

Phenomenologies of Affect / Threshold Choreographies

Susan Kozel Professor, K3/ School of Art and Culture Malmö University

This keynote will explore the threshold between sensory perception and affective sensibility, contributing to a deeper understanding of somatic materialism by way of a practical and methodological elaboration of phenomenology of affect.

Disability, a Sensitive Expertise for Accessibility

Rachel Thomas Director of CNRS/ CRESSON, École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Grenoble - Université Grenoble Alpes

It is through the question of the accessibility of the city to all that I will address the theme of the seminar. Two ideas will cross my subject. The first one is that architectural and urban ambiances have a role in the creation of disabling or enabling situations for pedestrians. The second one is that disability can be thought as a universal experience rather than as the stigma of a few isolated individuals. As such, it is a tool to better understand the processes at work between moving bodies, space and ambiances. Based on examples of journeys made in different urban contexts, I will show that accessibility to public spaces involves the motor and perceptual capacities of any pedestrian and mobilizes the sensitive modalities (sound, light, smell, touch...) of space.

Listening to the Body

Jone San Martín Dancer and choreographer

Using the knowledge that is archived on her body after years of working and developing dance improvisation techniques, Jone San Martín will give herself tasks that she will solve during a performative lecture. The lecture will not be approached from a demonstrative point of view, but from the fragile and ephemeral condition of the improvised dance.

/// Programme*

Day 1 | Friday, November 16th

09:15-09:45 Registration [AULA DE ANÁLISIS]

09:45-10:00 Welcome & Opening Address [AULA DE ANÁLISIS]

10:00-11:00 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS 1** [AULA DE ANÁLISIS] **Suzan Koziel** | *Phenomenologies of Affect / Threshold Choreographies*

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break [AULA -1.3.2]

11:15-12:35 **PANEL 1 | ENABLING THE CITY** [AULA -1.3.2]

> María Teresa García Sánchez | *Listening to the city: perceptual effects in Barber's concert*

> Sofía Balbontín & Mathias Klenner | *Traslaciones Sonoras*

> Sandra González Álvarez | *Feeling the city since childhood: the workshops of 'The city of tomorrow/La Ciudad del Mañana/ A Vila do mañá'*

12:35-13:30 **PANEL 2 | THE NON-DISABLING VIEW OF DISABILITY** [AULA -1.3.2]

> Thomas Tajo | *Blind and blindness in the age of neuroplasticity and echolocation: towards a non-disabling view of blindness*

> Natalia Pérez Liebergesell, Peter-Willem Vermeersch, Ann Heylighen | *Enriching interpersonal relations: two disabled architects' aesthetic appreciation and conception of built space*

13:30-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30-15:25 **PANEL 3 | THE LIVING BODY** [AULA DE ANÁLISIS]

> Jaime Bartolomé Yllera | *The biomechanical joy of architecture and the admiration for our living body: The Volupyuos Floors*

> Claudia Carbone & Angus James Hardwick | *Actions of bodily encounters - dislocated and delayed*

15:25-15:30 Break

15:30-17:15 **WORKSHOPS & INSTALLATIONS | SENSORY THRESHOLDS** [AULA DE ANÁLISIS]

> M^a Jesús Jiménez Mazuelas | *Impairment in elderly: attention as a therapeutic tool* [15:30-16:30]

> Rennie K Tang & Steven Chodoriwsky | *Listening to a Gesture* [16:30-17:15] | in parallel (installations):

Michail Rybakov, *Strategies of Arrival*, Hannah Rachel Jones Dewhirst, *Sensory Deprivation*

17:15-17:45 **INTERNATIONAL AMBIANCES NETWORK ADDRESS** [AULA DE ANÁLISIS] **Rachel Thomas** | *Disability, a sensitive expertise for accessibility*

17:45-18:45 Discussion and Drinks [AULA DE ANÁLISIS]

21:00-22:30 Dinner (optional)



The event will be held at the Institute of Technology Faculty of Architecture (EPS), San Pablo CEU University, Campus Montepríncipe, Madrid/ Spain, and will be inscribed within the programme of the Laboratory of Somatics for Architecture and Landscape (LSAAP).

More information at psaap.com

Public transport:

METRO LIGERO (MLT 3) from COLONIA JARDÍN

IINTERURBAN BUSES 571 from ALUCHE

573 from MONCLOA

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Day 2 | Saturday, November 17th

09:15-9:30 Registration

9:30-10:50 **PANEL 4 | SOMATIC AGENCIES** [AULA DE ANÁLISIS]

> Théa Manola | *Understanding sensory experiences from and for urban design*

> Doerte Weig | *The Somatics Toolkit: A transdisciplinary catalyst for research with all bodily capabilities*

> Victor Fraigneau | *From sensoriality to sensitivity through the sense of smell*

10:50-11:00 Coffee Break [AULA DE ANÁLISIS]

11:00-12:00 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS 2** [AULA DE ANÁLISIS] **Jone San Martín** | *Listening to the Body*

12:00-13:00 **WORKSHOP** | **Jone San Martín** [AULA DE ANÁLISIS]

13:00-14:00 Plenary Discussion & Close [AULA DE ANÁLISIS]

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Bodies

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* Registration fee 30€

including refreshments and Friday lunch

Image: LSAAP | Courtesy of Maria Ruiz

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