

## *Inaugural Event*

### **Aesthetic Communication:**

# **The Role of Senses in Social Interaction, Across and Beyond the Human**



#### **KEYNOTE:**

**Nicholas Harkness**

**(Professor of Anthropology,  
Harvard University)**

#### **BIO:**

Nicholas Harkness (PhD, Chicago) is Modern Korean Economy and Society Professor of Anthropology at Harvard University. Among his books: *Songs of Seoul: An Ethnography of Voice and Voicing in Christian South Korea* (University of California Press, 2014); and *Glossolalia and the Problem of Language* (The University of Chicago Press, 2021).



**Wenner-Gren Foundation**  
*supporting anthropology worldwide*

#### **ORGANISER: SENSE Lab\***

\*SENSE Laboratory of Semiotics, Ethnosemiotics,  
Nonfictional Studies and Audiovisuality

#### **CONVENER:**

**Dr Tatsuma Padoan (SENSE Lab, UCC)**

#### **PARTICIPANTS:**

**Prof Constantine Nakassis (Chicago)**

**Prof Griffith Rollefson (UCC)**

**Prof Jamin Pelkey (Toronto Metropolitan)**

**Dr Lijing Peng (TCD)**

**Dr Di Wu (Oxford)**

**Prof John Leavitt (Montréal)**

**Dr Federico Montanari**

**(Modena and Reggio Emilia)**

**Dr Alex Oehler (Regina)**

**Prof Laura Rascaroli (UCC)**

**Dr Tatsuma Padoan (UCC)**

**Dr Steve Coleman (Maynooth)**

**Marilena Frisone (UCC)**

**Dan O'Connell (UCC)**

**Prof Franciscu Sedda (Cagliari)**

**Dr Alvise Mattozzi (Turin Polytechnic)**

**Tue 11th June 2024, 17.00-21.00, Aula Maxima**

**North Wing, UCC – ALL WELCOME**

**The event will be followed by refreshments**





**Nicholas Harkness** is Professor of Anthropology at Harvard. As a linguistic anthropologist, he has worked on sociocultural semiosis in South Korea across various topics, including voice, language, religion, and the city of Seoul.



**Constantine Nakassis** is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, working on the linguistic anthropology of film and the semiotics of style in Tamil Nadu. Among his books: *Onscreen / Offscreen* (University of Toronto Press, 2023).



**Griffith Rollefson** is Professor of Music at UCC. He is the author of *Flip the Script: European Hip Hop and the Politics of Postcoloniality* (University of Chicago Press, 2017).



**Jamin Pelkey** is Professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures of Toronto Metropolitan University. Among his books: *The Semiotics of X* (Bloomsbury, 2017).



**Lijing Peng** (PhD, Maynooth) is a linguistic anthropologist at TCD, where she works as literary translator and researcher in anthropology and literature.



**Di Wu** is Lecturer in Social Anthropology at Oxford. He is the author of *Affective Encounters: Everyday Life Among Chinese Migrants in Zambia* (Routledge, 2021).



**John Leavitt** is Professor of Anthropology at Montréal, where he teaches linguistic anthropology. Among his books: *Linguistic Relativities* (Cambridge, UP 2010).



**Federico Montanari** is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. He has published widely on semiotics, STS, and urban design.



**Alex Oehler** is Associate Professor in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Regina, Canada. He is the author of *Beyond Wild and Tame: Sioot Encounters in a Sentient Landscape* (Berghahn, 2020).



**Laura Rascaroli** is Professor of Film and Screen Media at UCC, where she lectures on film theory, documentary, and European and World Cinema, and where she is the codirector of the SENSA Lab.



**Tatsuma Padoan** is Lecturer in East Asian Religions at UCC, where he teaches within the MA and BA Anthropology programs. He is codirector of the SENSA Lab.



**Steve Coleman** is Lecturer in Anthropology at Maynooth University. He has published widely on Irish language revitalization, Irish music and verbal art, and the semiotics of C. S. Peirce.



**Marilena Frisone** is Assistant Lecturer for the MA Anthropology programme at UCC, working on religious conversion, ritual, and food in Nepal and in the Newar diaspora.



**Dan O'Connell** is Lecturer in Filmmaking at UCC. He is a multi award-winning director and has written and directed dozens of short films and documentaries, which have been screened at film festivals both locally and internationally.



**Franciscu Sedda** is Professor of Semiotics at the University of Cagliari. He is the author of *Tradurre la Traduzione* [Translating the Tradition] (Meltemi, 2019).



**Alvise Mattozzi** is Assistant Professor of Social Studies of Science and Technology at Polytechnic University of Turin.





**Wenner-Gren Workshop**  
**SENSA Lab (Laboratory of Semiotics, Ethnosemiotics,**  
**Nonfictional Studies and Audiovisuality)**  
**University College Cork**

Tuesday, 11 June – Friday, 14 June 2024

**AESTHETIC COMMUNICATION:**  
**THE ROLE OF SENSES IN SOCIAL INTERACTION,**  
**ACROSS AND BEYOND THE HUMAN**

Workshop Convenor: Dr Tatsuma Padoan (SENSA Lab, UCC) [P.I.: Gr. CONF-938]  
[Sponsored by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research,  
and the Future Humanities Institute, University College Cork]



Keynote speaker:

\***Prof Nicholas Harkness** (Dept. of Anthropology, Harvard University)

Speakers, chairs and discussants (in alphabetic order):

\***Dr Steve Coleman** (Dept. of Anthropology, Maynooth University)

\***Marilena Frisone** (Dept. of Study of Religions, UCC)

\***Prof John Leavitt** (Dept. of Anthropology, Université de Montréal)

\***Dr Alvise Mattozzi** (Dept. of Environment, Land and Infrastructure Engineering,  
Polytechnic University of Turin)

\***Dr Federico Montanari** (Dept. of Communication and Economy,  
University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)

\***Prof Constantine Nakassis** (Dept. of Anthropology, University of Chicago)

\***Dan O'Connell** (Dept. of Film and Screen Media, UCC)

\***Dr Alex Oehler** (Dept. of Anthropology, University of Regina)

\***Dr Tatsuma Padoan** (Dept. of Study of Religions, UCC)

\***Prof Jamin Pelkey** (Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Cultures,  
Toronto Metropolitan University)



\***Dr Lijing Peng** (Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation, TCD)

\***Prof Laura Rascaroli** (Dept. of Film and Screen Media, UCC)

\***Prof Griffith Rollefson** (Dept. of Music, UCC)

\***Prof Franciscu Sedda** (Dept. of Literatures, Languages, and Cultural Heritage, University of Cagliari)

\***Dr Di Wu** (Dept. of Anthropology, University of Oxford)

#### **Abstract:**

This project aims at investigating the role of bodily perception in social life, by looking at everyday verbal and nonverbal semiotic practices of communication. Following the etymology of aesthetics as “aesthesis” – originally defined by philosopher Alexander Baumgarten as “sensuous cognition” (Wiseman 2007) – we propose to analyze the aesthetics of communication in everyday practices, including but not limited to artistic expression, in order to find new ways to understand the social role of sensory and affective interaction in producing and interpreting meanings and identities at the individual and collective level. In contrast to common reductions of senses to the physiological and biological nature of the brain and the nervous system, and starting from a socio-cultural anthropological approach as a general framework, we want to bring into conversation scholars working on linguistic anthropology, inter-species ethnography, semiotics, anthropology of STS, film and screen media, as well as video-makers and artists to investigate the sensory dimension within and without verbal language, as well as across and beyond the human. Such a redefinition of aesthetic communication will help us to rethink the role of perception in “making the social”, and in composing and recomposing our diverse, and increasingly hybrid, common world.

#### **PROGRAMME**

##### **DAY 1: INAUGURAL OPEN EVENT**

**TUESDAY, 11 JUNE 2024** – Aula Maxima, North Wing, 17.00 – 21.00

##### **WELCOME, 17.00 – 17.15**

Workshop Convenor: **Dr Tatsuma Padoan**

SENSA Lab Co-Directors: **Dr Tatsuma Padoan and Prof Laura Rascaroli**

Greetings from the Institutions and Sponsors

CACSSS Vice-Head of Research: **Dr James Kapalo**

Head of Future Humanities Institute: **Dr Yvon Bonenfant**

Director of the MA programme in Anthropology: **Dr Lidia Guzy**

##### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS and DISCUSSION, 17.15 – 18.45**

###### **Keynote speaker:**

\***Prof Nicholas Harkness** (Dept. of Anthropology, Harvard)

“The Sign Shape of Culture”

Chair: Dr Tatsuma Padoan (SENSA Lab, UCC)

##### **WINE RECEPTION AND BUFFET 18.45 – 21.00**

##### **ACCOMPANIED BY TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC PERFORMANCE**

**with UILLEANN CEOIL 19.00 – 21.00**



**DAY 2: CLOSED WORKSHOP**

**WEDNESDAY, 12 JUNE 2024 – MORNING SESSION**

Mary Ryan Room, ORB G28, O’Rahilly Building, 9.00 – 12.30

**REGISTRATION AND WELCOME, 9.00 – 9.15**

Welcome from the Workshop Convenor: **Dr Tatsuma Padoan**

**SESSION ONE, 9.15 – 11.15**

**Sensory Landscapes I**

Discussant: Prof Franciscu Sedda (Dept. of Literatures, Languages, and Cultural Heritage, University of Cagliari)

\***Dr Lijing Peng** (Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation, TCD):

“Sound and Movements in Landscapes: A Study of Epic Chanting and Harvest Rituals in Dege and Rebgong”

\***Dr Federico Montanari** (Dept. of Communication and Economy,

University of Modena and Reggio Emilia) [in collaboration with Dr Emilio Cocco and Emanuela Diodati, University of Teramo]:

“Entangled in Translation. Space and Emotions between Sea and Land, Starting from an Experience of Fieldwork at Surin Island with Moken people”

**COFFEE BREAK, 11.15 – 11.30**

**SESSION TWO, 11.30 – 12.30**

**Sensory Landscapes II**

Discussant: Prof John Leavitt (Dept. of Anthropology, Université de Montréal)

\***Dr Alex Oehler** (Dept. of Anthropology, University of Regina):

“Engaging Landscape as Conversant in Interspecies Communication”

**LUNCH BREAK at UCC Main Restaurant, 12.30 – 14.00**

**WEDNESDAY, 12 JUNE 2024 – AFTERNOON SESSION**

Film and Screen Media Auditorium, KANE B10B, Kane Building, 14.00 – 18.15

**SESSION THREE, 14.00 – 16.00**

**Passions, Senses, and Identities**

Discussant: Dr Steve Coleman (Dept. of Anthropology, Maynooth University)

\***Prof Griffith Rollefson** (Dept. of Music, UCC):

“Sonic Sociogeny: Hip Hop’s Musical Intersubjectivities from ‘Structures of Feeling’ to ‘Identity of Passions’”

\***Prof Franciscu Sedda** (Dept. of Literatures, Languages, and Cultural Heritage, University of Cagliari):

“The Dance of the Senses: Aesthetics and Communication in the Light of a Popular Ritual”

**COFFEE BREAK, 16.00 – 16.15**



**SESSION FOUR, 16.15 – 18.15**

**Aesthetics and Poetics of Audiovisuality**

Discussant: Dr Alvise Mattozzi (Dept. of Environment, Land and Infrastructure Engineering, Polytechnic University of Turin)

\***Prof Constantine Nakassis** (Dept. of Anthropology, University of Chicago):  
“Three Types of Entextualization”

\***Prof Laura Rascaroli** (Dept. of Film and Screen Media, UCC):  
“The Affective Cine-Writing of Penny Siopis: Between Grammar and Viscerality”

**DAY 3: CLOSED WORKSHOP**

**THURSDAY, 13 JUNE 2024 – MORNING SESSION**

Mary Ryan Room, ORB G28, O’Rahilly Building, 9.00 – 12.30

**SESSION FIVE, 9.00 – 11.00**

**The Semiotics of Affect and Emotions I**

Discussant: Dr Alex Oehler (Dept. of Anthropology, University of Regina)

\***Dr Alvise Mattozzi** (Dept. of Environment, Land and Infrastructure Engineering, Polytechnic University of Turin):

“The De-Description of Affected and Affecting Bodies: The Senses, STS and Semiotics”

\***Dr Di Wu** (Dept. of Anthropology, University of Oxford):

“Similar Form but Different Spirit: Affect, Social Fact and Cross-Modal Comparison”

**COFFEE BREAK, 11.00 – 11.15**

**SESSION SIX, 11.15 – 12.15**

**The Semiotics of Affect and Emotions II**

Discussant: Prof Constantine Nakassis (Dept. of Anthropology, University of Chicago)

\***Prof John Leavitt** (Dept. of Anthropology, Université de Montréal):

“Toward the Whole Semiosphere: Three Modalities, Two Attributes, and Two Orientations of Aesthetic/Poetic/Sensory Events”

**LUNCH BREAK at UCC Main Restaurant, 12.15 – 14.00**

**THURSDAY, 13 JUNE 2024 – AFTERNOON SESSION**

Film and Screen Media Auditorium, KANE B10B, Kane Building, 14.00 – 18.15

**SESSION SEVEN, 14.00 – 16.00**

**Sensory Mediations of Music, Song, and Performance**

Discussant: Prof Jamin Pelkey (Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Toronto Metropolitan University)

\***Dr Steve Coleman** (Dept. of Anthropology, Maynooth University):

“The Sensory Surfaces and Depths of Irish-Language Song”

\***Marilena Frisone** (Dept. of Study of Religions, UCC):

“The (Un-)Folding of Memory: Taste, Rhythm, and Lyrics in Newar Music Videos”



**COFFEE BREAK, 16.00 – 16.15**

**SESSION EIGHT, 16.15 – 18.15**

**The Doors of Perception**

Discussant: Prof Laura Rascaroli (Dept. of Film and Screen Media, UCC)

\***Dr Tatsuma Padoan** (Dept. of Study of Religions, UCC):

“Becoming Imperceptible... Ritual Aesthetics in a Community of Ascetic Practice”

\***Dan O’Connell** (Dept. of Film and Screen Media, UCC):

“Sensory Ethnography: *Boxing Beyond Words*”

**SOCIAL DINNER at Thali Nepalese Restaurant, Thu 13 June at 19.30**

Address: 15 Maylor Street, Cork City Centre, T12 XC78, Ireland

**DAY 4: CLOSED WORKSHOP AND EXCURSION**

**FRIDAY, 14 JUNE 2024 – MORNING SESSION**

Mary Ryan Room, ORB G28, O’Rahilly Building, 9.00 – 12.30

**SESSION NINE, 9.00 – 10.00**

**Aesthetics Across and Beyond the Human**

Discussant: Prof Nicholas Harkness (Dept. of Anthropology, Harvard)

\***Prof Jamin Pelkey** (Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Cultures,  
Toronto Metropolitan University):

“Involutionary Aesthetics: Cognitive, Poetic, and Biosemiotic Dimensions”

**SESSION TEN, 10.00 – 11.00**

**Round Table**

Chair: Dr Tatsuma Padoan (Dept. of Study of Religions, UCC)

**COFFEE BREAK, 11.00 – 11.15**

**FINAL REMARKS, 11.15 – 12.15**

**On Aesthetic Communication**

**LUNCH BREAK at UCC Main Restaurant, 12.15 – 13.30**

**FRIDAY, 14 JUNE 2024 – AFTERNOON**

**SENSORY EXCURSION to Jameson Distillery in Midleton, 13.45 – 18.30**

Address: Distillery Walk, Townparks, Midleton, Co. Cork, P25 Y394, Ireland

Travel on Private Coach from UCC Campus, and Visit to the Distillery