

'Sensory Methods towards
More-than-human Placemaking'

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Sensory Walk Seminar

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Placemaking Design
Creative Placemaking

(Creative) Placemaking

*“the interplay of the needs and aspirations
of the community enacted in the design of the (...) environment.”*

(Kelkar, Spinelli, 2016)



*Sensory Mapping Vacant Land,
with migrant women, 2020, Glasgow*

Photos: Zsófia Szonja Illés, 2020



"The fruit stops are the colour of the streets"

"When I wake up to pray at 4 that's when the seagulls and all the birds wake up and sing"

"When cars go slow, you can hear more birds singing"

"When people feel us care about me, no one likes me, no one loves me. That makes people do rubbish. Because they feel angry"

"Those are bad buildings, there were not made with love, just money. No care, no green American style, but no with love. People just go there and sleep. It's not built for the future"

"I like the wall, the wall makes the plants grow. The flowers and the hay. All that comes, because it's hidden behind the wall."



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More-than-human Placemaking
Tacit Ecological Knowledge

“Our results suggest that (...) grazing in floodplains is effective at controlling invasive alien shrub species. Furthermore, (...) grazing would contribute to multifunctional management of invaded floodplains by enhancing local biodiversity, reducing flood risk...”

Demeter et al., 2021





*Communities: Flood-meadow farmers
Challenge: Tacit ecological knowledge*

- To involve other-than-verbal knowing*
- To record, analyse and disseminate tacit knowledge*

More-than-human Oral History Methodology:
Looks at people's entangled
relationship with the environment



Sensory Methods

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*What Sensory Methods can contribute to
place-based and environmentally engaged research?*

Sensory Methods

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What Sensory Methods can contribute to place-based and environmentally engaged research?



*1. Fieldwork method:
More-than-verbal
knowledge*



*2. Communicating
complexities*



„Fermented Futures”, TRAFÓ (2023)

*3. ‘Landscape Futuring’
Co-Imagining possible
future scenarios*

Sensory Methods and Approaches

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Can help participants, stakeholders and recipients of the research to:

- empathise with more-than-human perspectives
- imagine future scenarios ('futuring', spatial imaginaries)
- make sense of phenomena that may otherwise escape the human sensorium (e.g. climate crises, Anthropocene)

Sensory methods and approaches can be well used:

- in participatory projects and research
- to enable diverse engagement and collaboration
- to capture, analyze and disseminate tacit knowledge
- to provide alternative perspectives
- to communicate multi-faceted, complex environmental issues
- to imagine possible future scenarios
- and help pre-adaptation

Thank You!

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