# Places of possibility: Applying sensory methods to inspire inclusive, future oriented development and design of heritage

HARRIET PARRY University of Brighton



Figure 1. Newhaven Town, East Sussex. Memorial Bench 2018. Screenshot from author's presentation.

## ABSTRACT

This film (links below) introduces an interdisciplinary PhD research project that utilises principles of scenographic theatre design, more than-representational theory (Divya Tolia-Kelly 2006), and co-productive fieldwork practices to weave together sensory, cultural, and social responses to heritage sites.

By attending to the multiple ways that participants respond to heritage sites, the research explores the ways that neurodiverse and embodied entanglements with place are articulated (Ingold 2010). A scenographer reads and records the geometry and identity of a found space or purpose-built arena to understand its affective qualities to stimulate connection between performance, performers, and the audience through their design. The interplay between a heritage site's identity and locale, its visitors, and its atmosphere, has a sensory affect that influences the nature of connection to, or rejection of, that site. This methodology combines creativity with inclusivity when considering how heritage might be regarded, sustained, managed, developed, and made relevant for future generations.

## **KEYWORDS**

Sensory, affect, heritage, inclusive, design

#### To view please follow the Vimeo link

No captions https://vimeo.com/458912198/ea42158daa



Closed captions https://vimeo.com/672250408/5f3911d51e

### References

Cahnmann-Taylor, Melisa, and Richard Siegesmund, eds. *Arts-Based Research in Education: Foundations for Practice*. Inquiry and Pedagogy across Diverse Contexts. New York: Routledge, 2008.

DeSilvey, Caitlin. *Curated Decay: Heritage Beyond Saving*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2017.

Hann, Rachel. *Beyond Scenography*. New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2019. Howard, Pamela. *What Is Scenography?* Second edition. London ; New York: Routledge, 2009.

Ingold, Tim. 'Bringing Things to Life: Creative Entanglements in a World of Materials', 2010, 16.

Ingold, Tim 'Forward' in Vannini, Phillip, ed. *Non-Representational Methodologies: Re-Envisioning Research*. Routledge Advances in Research Methods 12. New York: Routledge, 2015.

Lorimer, Hayden. 'Cultural Geography: Non-Representational Conditions and Concerns'. *Progress in Human Geography* 32, no. 4 (August 2008): 551–59.

McCormack, Derek P. *Refrains for Moving Bodies: Experience and Experiment in Affective Spaces.* Durham: Duke University Press, 2013.

Thrift, N. J. *Non-Representational Theory: Space, Politics, Affect.* International Library of Sociology. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge, 2008.

Tolia-Kelly, Divya P. 'Affect - an Ethnocentric Encounter? Exploring the "universalist"

Imperative of Emotional/Affectual Geographies'. Area 38, no. 2 (June 2006): 213-17.

#### Images

All images within the footage that are not owned by the author have been included by kind permission of Newhaven Fort Archive.

Closed Captioning Icon By WGBH - <u>http://main.wgbh.org/wgbh/hire/symbols.html</u>, Public Domain.

**Harriet Parry** is a PhD student researching heritage and community engagement at the University of Brighton. Her interdisciplinary project is developing a more-than representational and participatory methodology to better understand what heritage sites might mean to the communities that they have been preserved for.

Networking Knowledge 15 (2) Mediating Place (Feb. 2022)

Email: <u>h.parry1@brighton.ac.uk</u>