

HISTORIA CRITICA

CALL FOR PAPERS

Sensory experiences and political practices in the Spanish and Portuguese empires - 15th to 18th centuries

Historia Crítica, journal of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia), will receive articles for the dossier "**Sensory experiences and political practices in the Hispanic and Portuguese empires - 15th-18th centuries**," with the participation of Joan-Lluís Palos Peñarroya, professor of Modern History at the University of Barcelona (Spain) and Verónica Salazar Baena, professor of the Department of History, Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Bogotá), as guest editors. **Papers will be received between January 15 and February 28, 2024.**

In historical studies, scholars have recently referred to the term sensory revolution¹, or sensory turn, in the social sciences². Both expressions attempt to label a new orientation, already perceptible among some anthropologists in the 1980s, which has been gradually permeating the territory of historians since the beginning of the 21st century.

Since the pioneering studies of Alain Corbin³, Sidney Mintz⁴ and Constance Classen⁵, the history of the senses has sought to unravel the mechanisms that conditioned the perceptions of the so-called external senses, i.e., hearing, sight, smell, taste and touch, in specific historical and cultural contexts. Among its contributors –mainly concentrated in the Anglo-Saxon academic world– the old axiom is coming back to life, from Aristotle through medieval scholastic philosophy to the empiricists of the 18th century, according to which "Nihil est in intellectu quod prius non fuerit in sensu" (there is nothing in the intelligence that has not first passed through the senses). By revitalizing it, scholars reclaim the impact of sensorial experiences on social and political practices, beliefs and individual behaviors. At the same time, the awareness that sensory perceptions are cultural constructs that must be, consequently, historically unraveled is intensified.

¹ David Howes, "Charting the sensorial revolution," *The Senses and Society* 1, n.º 1 (2006): 113-128.

² Martin Jay, "In the realm of the senses: an introduction," *The American Historical Review* 116, n.º 2 (2011): 307-315.

³ Alain Corbin, *El perfume o el miasma* (España: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1987).

⁴ Sidney Mintz, *Dulzura y poder. El lugar del azúcar en la historia* (New York: Viking Penguin, 1985).

⁵ Constance Classen, *Worlds of Senses: Exploring the Senses in History and Across Cultures* (UK: Routledge, 1993).

In addition to being an expanding field of study, the history of the senses requires new approaches to documentary and visual sources, often rich in often unnoticed "sensory marks." From the methodological point of view, the challenges are enormous.

Objective

Sensory experiences have a double function. On the one hand, their result –sensation– is by nature immanent. Still, on the other hand, the experience itself (such as attending a show, contemplating an image, listening to a melody, touching a fabric or tasting a spice) creates a strong sense of community, contributes to establishing bonds that intensify the responses of adhesion or rejection towards the issuer. As potential generators of consensus, the senses can be an effective instrument of control, as was well understood by the drafters of the "decree on images" of the Council of Trent (1563), which could well be defined as a decree on the communicative power of the senses.

Thematic Focus

Supported by this hypothesis, the thematic focus of the dossier is the identification of sensory experiences induced by different power centers to produce basic consensuses that favored the establishment and conservation of Complex Political Systems, as were some of those created at the beginning of the Modern Era from the aggregation of a plurality of heterogeneous territories.

Field of study and chronology

This call for papers focuses mainly on the Spanish and Portuguese empires between the 15th and 18th centuries, considering that they were not only the ones that provided the paradigm of the referred Complex Political Systems but also the ones that, supported by a scholastic-based doctrinal corpus, made the most skillful use of sensory experiences to generate consensus and thus pave the way to domination. Contributions regarding other empires of modernity will also be valued to obtain a comparative perspective.

Suggested areas of application of the thematic focus

- The European expansion in America and the encounter of different sensory codes
- Communities and sensory regimes
- Cities as sensory scenarios
- Evangelizing practices and sensory communication
- Circulation of objects and sensory experiences
- Any other that may reflect the application of the proposed thematic axis

We invite participants to submit unpublished contributions in English, Spanish or Portuguese. Manuscripts should be submitted in Word format for Windows and conform to the journal's guidelines: maximum length of 11,000 words, New Roman font, 12 points, single-spaced, letter size, with equal margins of 3 cm. The author's details are presented in a separate file. Footnotes and bibliography follow the adaptation of the Chicago Manual of Style.

Detailed rules for manuscript submission can be found at <https://revistas.uniandes.edu.co/for-authors/histcrit/editorial-policy>

Non-compliance leads to automatic rejection of the manuscript.

Texts must be submitted through OJS, using the link provided on the journal's website during the call for papers period (-Submission of articles-).

<https://revistas.uniandes.edu.co/callforpapers/histcrit>

<https://revistas.uniandes.edu.co/index.php/histcrit/about/submissions>

Material submitted to *Historia Crítica* cannot be simultaneously under review in another publication.