

*27th Annual Visiting Scholar Conference
Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University Carbondale*

Making Senses of the Past: Toward a Sensory Archaeology

March 26-27, 2010

CALL FOR PAPERS



Human interaction with the surrounding world is mediated through our senses. Yet archaeological interpretation has traditionally been dominated by visual descriptions, thus effectively marginalizing the senses of smell, taste, hearing, and touch as unmeasurable ways of engaging with the world. This has led to a silent, odorless, disembodied, and sense-less past. Recent work, however, has explored alternative ways to make sense of past societies, investigating soundscapes, olfactory and haptic analyses, and somatic memory, as well as other less tangible visual qualities such as shimmer and color.

This conference will bring together researchers who share an interest in such sensory modes of approaching the past, and it will cross boundaries between chronological periods, geographical regions, and material specializations.

Potential themes for papers include, but are not limited to:

- the presentation of new results of sensory archaeological projects •
- multisensory and synesthetic aspects of the production and consumption of material culture •
 - the recognition of sensory hierarchies in past societies •
 - embodied practices, including memory •
- the dissemination of sensuous pasts in the present •

Submissions

Please submit a 300 word abstract plus title to Dr. Jo Day (contact details below). PDF files are preferred. Presentations will be limited to 25-30 minutes. Deadline for submission: **1st December 2009**. The CAI selection committee will review the abstracts, and authors will be notified of the decision in mid-December. Papers are eligible for inclusion in a peer-reviewed volume published in the Occasional Papers series of the Center for Archaeological Investigations.

Conference attendance is open to all. For registration details and other information see:

www.cai.siu.edu/vspages/day/vsconf.html

For further information, or with any queries, contact:

Dr. Jo Day, the 2010 CAI Visiting Scholar, at joday@siu.edu (618) 453-5032