



17th EASA Biennial Conference of the European Association of Social
Anthropologists
School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics
at Queen's University Belfast
26-29 July, 2022

Panel 071 entitled: “Experiencing the sensing body: mind-body techniques, contemporary spiritual practices and the senses”

Short abstract:

By advancing heterogeneous interpretations of the sensing body, mind-body techniques and contemporary spiritual practices promote holistic conceptions of the body. This panel seeks to address these phenomena, particularly their bodily, sensorial, and spiritual aspects.

Long abstract:

Anthropologists are increasingly interested in the body, especially the sensing body, focusing on the relationship between contemporary spiritualities and mind-body techniques, thereby giving rise to discussions of bodily and sensorial experiences. Bodily practices can promote heterogeneous interpretations of the sensing body. Examples include contemporary Pagan ceremonies and mediumship sessions where somatic experiences are conceptualized as being produced by non-human beings, neo-shamanic rituals where sensory experiences are positioned as evidence of the presence of entities, and mind-body practices such as yoga, meditation and Tai Chi which encourage physical movements that are interpreted as having the potential to bring about physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, or union. This panel seeks to address the experience of the sensing body as a culturally constructed phenomenon. We wish to place particular emphasis on the relationship between learning processes and sensory experiences, the heterogeneous conceptualizations accorded to the body, the holistic dimensions promoted by contemporary practices and/or spiritualities, the translation and interpretation given to somatic experiences, and the collective and individual experience of the body and of the senses. Expected proposals may include but are not limited to: (1) How sensorial reality is learned, interpreted, and developed? (2) What the ethnographies on bodily experiences are? (3) How participants shape individual experiences? (4) How spiritual practices can bring about holistic dimensions of the body? and (5) How the intimate and subjective experience of the body is verbalized in order to be shared with others?

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For paper submissions, please visit: <https://easaonline.org/conferences/easa2022/cfp>

Deadline for submissions: **21 March 2022**, at 23:59 GMT.

EASA2022 will be a **fully hybrid conference**: delegates will have the option to participate in person or online, with everyone able to attend all academic content. All panels will be hybrid, allowing for a mix of face-to-face (f2f) and online presentations/participants. You can find out about the conference fees and membership requirements on: <https://easaonline.org/conferences/easa2022/registration>