

The Centre for Sensory Studies is pleased to present

THE FALL SEMESTER SENSORY STUDIES RESEARCH SEMINAR

Evangelist of Fragments: Mite-Box Capitalism in the Late Nineteenth Century

Speaker: Dr. Hillary Kaell, Assistant Professor,
Department of Religion, Concordia University

A century ago, the mite box (penny collection box) was ubiquitous in North America as a religious fundraising tool, especially for women and children. Using the Methodist Missionary Society as a case study, this talk examines what such boxes reveal about Christianity and market capitalism from c. 1870-1930. It offers a more complex understanding of religion and capital that includes emotional attachments and material sensation, thereby moving beyond traditional Weberian and Marxist analyses. I argue that mite box giving was a technique for 'doing' capitalism that created an imaginative bridge between the immediacy of specific sensory experiences and the projections of social policies and prayers.

Dr. Hillary Kaell is author of *Walking Where Jesus Walked: American Christians and Holy Land Pilgrimage* (New York University Press, 2014). She sits on the executive of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion and was selected as a Young Scholar in American Religion (2013-2015). Her work centres on material culture, money and commercialization, and global imaginaries. She is assistant professor in Concordia's Department of Religion.

When: Friday, November 27, 13:00 – 14:30

Where: Room H-1124, Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve W.
(Metro Guy-Concordia)

Open to the public. Bring your lunch!

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