

The University Teaching & Learning Office

Cordially invites you to a Seminar on

'SENSING' THE CURRICULUM: THE ROLE OF AESTHETICS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



by

Professor Chats Devroop

Cluster Academic Leader for the
Discipline of Music, School of Arts
College of Humanities,
University of Kwazulu-Natal

Seminar Details

DATE: Friday, 18 March 2016
TIME: 13h30 - 16h00
VENUE: The Centre for Jazz and Popular Music (CJPM), Level 2,
Shepstone Building, Howard College Campus, UKZN

RSVP Essential

Online: <http://utlo.ukzn.ac.za/rsvp>
By: Tuesday, 15 March 2016

Seminar Overview

Aesthetics, used in the 18th Century Western sense of the word, emerged in response to the demands of a Naturalist programme in philosophy, as well as those of newly established Commercial Art academies. It came to Immanuel Kant's attention, when in his *Critique of Judgment*, he expressed doubt as to the nature and validity of a doctrine of the senses, stemming in part from a pedagogy in art, and from medico-anatomical speculations, providing a form of reason *sui generis*, hence a family of ideas, similar to those of objective knowledge or of moral sensibility, grounded in the philosophy of his *Oeuvre*. Immanuel Kant wrote from the point of view of a teaching curriculum.

Experimental Physiology on the other hand isolated the mechanisms of sensory and experiential illusion, which rapidly became the 'rationale' for developments in the ongoing technological media. This fusion of senses and media through the re-use of misperception mechanisms, ultimately placed sensory vocabularies beyond aesthetic judgment, in the midst of technical criteria and concepts derived from this 'fusion', which played the role formerly occupied by Aesthetics.

In this presentation, I will trace the history of the adoption of Aesthetic notions in the Western academy as well as the alternatives that have arisen to them. The applicability of Aesthetic notions to curricular change and canon formation will be probed and their implications for radical curriculum change.

About Professor Chats Devroop

Professor Chats Devroop recently joined the University of Kwazulu-Natal as Academic Leader for the Cluster of Music. The struggle of the artist-academic, which hallmarks his profession, saw his career undergoing several mutations over the past twenty-five years. Toggling between these career dimensions - performing artist and academic - has equipped him to better understand the role of artists or 'creatives' within the academy and the sector. Apart from being active on the live music circuit in genres ranging from art to commercial and popular music traditions, Devroop is the author of several publications and a book entitled *Unsung: Jazz Musicians under Apartheid*. His current research interest rests in diaspora studies, the remapping of South Africa's music landscape and transformation of the academy. This presentation forms part of a larger body of work (together with Professor Jean-Pierre de la Porte), to be released in book form later this year.