The Centre for Sensory Studies is pleased to present

A BOOK LAUNCH
TO MARK THE NORTH AMERICAN RELEASE OF
WAYS OF SENSING:
UNDERSTANDING THE SENSES IN SOCIETY
BY DAVID HOWES AND CONSTANCE CLASSEN

When: Friday, January 24, 15:00 – 17:00
Where: Room H-1120, Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve Boulevard West
(Metro Guy-Concordia)

The authors will speak to the theme of one of the chapters of the book – namely, “The Politics of Perception” – followed by a brief Q&A and a sumptuous open buffet of spicy (or mild) vegetarian fare and drinks catered by Burritoville.

Characterizing the working classes as coarse or women as soft, attributing a malodour to immigrants, are all examples of the senses being put to the service of social ordering. Along with the use of such sensory typologies, the social control of perceptibility – who is seen, who is heard, whose pain is recognized – is fundamental to establishing hierarchies of power. Political communities are sensed, not simply imagined. This talk will explore the visceral ways in which people are bound together in communities through their senses, with particular emphasis on the gustatory metaphors & practices that are constitutive of national & transnational identities.

David Howes is the editor of Empire of the Senses and co-author with Constance Classen and Anthony Synnott of Aroma: The Cultural History of Smell. Constance Classen is the author of The Deepest Sense: A Cultural History of Touch, The Color of Angels and Worlds of Sense.