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**Cultural and Media Studies : Asian Cinema and TV**

Fahey, J., Prosser, H., Shaw, M. (Eds.), Monash University, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

# In the Realm of the Senses

**Social Aesthetics and the Sensory Dynamics of Privilege**

- **Intervenes in the theorization of education, class and globalization through the deployment of fresh critical lenses**
- **Represents a major methodological innovation exploring the social aesthetics of privilege through a global ethnography of elite schools**
- **Challenges conventional studies of elite schools that merely focus on their social purposes by examining the ways in which class permeates the senses**
- **Mobilizes a series of visual essays that complement the written accounts of the aesthetics of privilege**

This book charts new territory both theoretically and methodologically. Drawing on MacDougall's notion of social aesthetics, it explores the sensory dimensions of privilege through a global ethnography of elite schools. The various contributors to the volume draw on a range of theoretical perspectives from Lefebvre, Benjamin, Bourdieu, Appadurai, Kress and van Leeuwen to both broaden and critique MacDougall's original concept. They argue that within these elite schools there is a relationship between their 'complex sensory and aesthetic environments' and the construction of privilege within and beyond the school gates. Understanding the importance of the visual to ethnography, the social aesthetics of these elite schools are captured through the inclusion of a series of visual essays that complement the written accounts of the aesthetics of privilege. The collection also includes a series of vignettes that further explore the sensory dimension of these aesthetics: touch, taste—though metaphorically understood—sight and sound. These varying formats illustrate the aesthetic nature of social relations and the various ways in which class permeates the senses. The images from across the different schools and their surroundings immerse the reader in these worlds and provide poignant ethnographic data of the forces of globalisation within the context of elite schooling.

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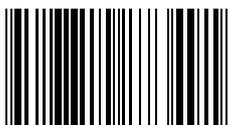
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