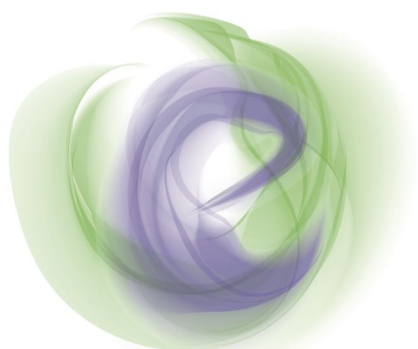


PastScent
Deliverable D5.1
Version FINAL



Odeuropa

NEGOTIATING OLFACTORY AND SENSORY EXPERIENCES IN CULTURAL HERITAGE PRACTICE AND RESEARCH



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Abstract: This document contains a brief description of the PastScent network set up by Odeuropa to bring together scholars working across multiple disciplines on smell and the past.	

Table of Revisions

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0.1	05/12/21	First Draft	Dr William Tullett	all
0.2	09/12/21	Post-internal-review draft	Dr William Tullett	all
1.0	26/12/21	Final check and approval by project manager	Marieke van Erp	-

Executive Summary

This deliverable contains an overview of the construction, purpose, and component parts of the PastScent group, a group for bringing together academics across multiple disciplines working on smell and the past. The document discusses the selection process in forming PastScent and the role of the lead, advisory board, and members. The document then discusses the formation and management of the other two key components of PastScent: the mailing list and the bibliography. Finally, the document discusses the immediate impacts and next steps for PastScent. This document accompanies the online launch of the group on the [Odeuropa website](https://odeuropa.eu) with its membership list and bibliography.

Contents

Table of Revisions	3
1 Introduction: The Purpose of PastScent	5
2 PastScent: Membership and Structure	6
3 PastScent: Mailing List	8
4 The PastScent Bibliography	9
5 Immediate Impacts and Future Steps	10

1 Introduction: The Purpose of PastScent

Over the last twenty years or more there has been an efflorescence of new scholarship on smell and the past in a multitude of disciplines. The past no longer comes deodorized and smell is no longer as undervalued or frequently ignored as it once was in academic scholarship [Reinarz, 2014, Smith, 2007].

A number of excellent networks have begun to bring together scholars interested in the senses and particular elements of the sensory past. This includes [Concordia's Sensory Studies directory](#), as well as networks on [hospitals and the senses](#), [Russian history and the senses](#), and [early modern soundscapes](#). The wider world of smell studies and smell culture is home to a number of networks or bodies that are bringing together those interested in smell and fragrance. This includes national networks such as [NOSE](#) (The Netherlands Olfactory Science Exchange) and bodies interested in spreading knowledge about fragrance production, consumption, and culture such as the [Institute for Art and Olfaction](#). Many of these networks and institutions have been using social media, especially Twitter and Instagram, to establish a sense of community around smell culture. In addition to Odeuropa, the last year has also seen the emergence of several other projects on smell and the past. This includes the [Odotheka project](#), which is archiving heritage smells in Poland and Slovenia, and the [Alchemies of Scent project](#) which is using archaeology and chemistry to recreate ancient Greco-Egyptian perfumery.

However, despite these other networks and new projects, we do not have an international academic forum that brings together the scholarship on smell. Too often this research is separated by language, geography, time-period, or discipline. This has negative impacts on scholarship. Historians of the nineteenth century have argued that this was the first period when odorophobia around disease-causing smells was developed [Corbin, 1986], an argument subsequently corrected first by early modernists [Jenner, 2000] and then by medievalists [Jørgensen, 2013]. Similarly, historians have critiqued the use of the contemporary nose to understand the sensory past [Smith, 2021], but have failed to engage with scholars in science studies [Ahnfelt et al., 2020], museums [Verbeek, 2016], and heritage [Bembibre and Strlič, 2017] that have employed the nose in useful ways. Whilst in France [Corbin, 1986] or America [Kiechle, 2019] the nineteenth century saw an increased concern about the health impacts of foul odours, in England there was a more complex distinction between foul smells and dangerous airs or gases [Tullett, 2019a, Tullett, 2019b]. PastScent therefore aims to bring together academics who are working on smell and the past across these temporal, disciplinary, and geographical barriers and thereby encourage more innovative, engaged, and constructive scholarship.

PastScent is a scholarly community that is separate from the broader, more open, [Odeuropa Network](#). Since it was first announced in November 2020 the Odeuropa project has received extensive press attention and coverage in a multitude of media formats. This has led to a large number of individuals, groups, institutions, and companies contacting the project. To capitalise on these opportunities, the Odeuropa network was created. This network establishes Odeuropa at the centre of a series of wider radiating networks interested in smell and the past that are not restricted to academic or university scholarship. The Odeuropa network brings together perfumers, museums, technology companies, artists and others who have an interest in olfactory heritage. By contrast, the PastScent aims to create a space for academic news, discussion, and collaboration. Through a mailing list that promotes discussion and sharing of academic resources, a constantly evolving multidisciplinary and multilingual bibliography of scholarly work on smell history and heritage, and a membership list with details of scholars engaged with these area of research, the project hopes to encourage more work across the disciplinary, geographical, linguistic, and temporal boundaries that restrict the evolution of innovation in the field.

Some of the disciplines represented in the group include history, art history, literature, languages, archaeology, heritage, chemistry, and science and technology studies. However, the network welcomes all disciplinary, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary approaches. At the core of its vision is a desire to promote intellectual generosity, openness, and collaboration. What all of the scholars in the network share is an interest in understanding smell in the past, smell and

the past, or the smell of the past. PastScent currently comprises three key elements, which are discussed in the ensuing three sections. These are the:

1. **PastScent Membership directory**: a list of the advisory board and members of PastScent. This can currently be found on the Odeuropa website;
2. **PastScent Mailing List**: a mailing list set up using the JISC mailing list platform. The public archive of the list [can be found here](#);
3. **PastScent Bibliography**: a continuously updated multilingual, multidisciplinary, bibliography of academic work on smell and the past. This is publicly accessible online as a [Zotero Library](#) which is also embedded on the Odeuropa website.

Whilst PastScent has initially been set up by Odeuropa, it will continue to function after the end of the Odeuropa project. The name is deliberately unrestrictive, so that its functions are open to change as the membership grows. Its membership list and bibliography will be moved to the website that hosts the Encyclopedia of Smell History and Heritage produced by Odeuropa (Deliverable D5.3, due in October 2023), which will be hosted by ARU.

2 PastScent: Membership and Structure

The initial **membership** of PastScent has been at the invitation of Dr William Tullett, the WP5 lead on Odeuropa who is in charge of the deliverable. The membership has no discipline restrictions, there is no numerical limit to the number of members, and there is no geographical restriction on those invited. The key criteria for membership is that members are academics who have published on or are currently researching the relationship between smell and the past. Those invited to be members submit their name, current affiliation, a short biography describing their interest in smell and the past, a set of keywords related to their work, and a web-link where those viewing the membership list can find out more about their work. To give one example, for the Network Lead Dr Tullett this includes the following:

- **William Tullett**
- Associate Professor in Sensory History, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge.
- *I am an interdisciplinary sensory historian whose work focuses on smell (with a little bit of work on sound) in the west from 1600 to the present day. My first book was *Smell in Eighteenth-Century England: A Social Sense* (Oxford University Press, 2019) and I am currently writing a mini-book on smell history and heritage methodology titled *Smell and the Past: Archives, Narratives, and Heritage for the Cambridge University Press 'Histories of Emotions and the Senses' series of Elements*. I am a work package lead on the EU-Horizon-2020-funded project Odeuropa, which has funded the creation of PastScent.*
- Keywords: 1600-present; everyday life; gender; material culture; urban; science, medicine, and technology; environment; perfume.
- <https://aru.ac.uk/people/william-tullett>

The list of members that were initially invited to be part of PastScent was formed through a process of networking and research informed by a number of resources:

- Utilising the pre-existing networks of Odeuropa project members and the expressions of interest listed in the wider Odeuropa Network;
- Bibliographical research using the citation networks of published work on smell and the past. This included close-reading of footnotes alongside the use of citation databases such as Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science;

- Utilising past and present conference, seminar, and symposium proceedings to identify scholars currently working on smell and the past who have yet to publish work in the area;
- A request in initial invitations for those who were invited to add the names of scholars, especially PhD students or Early Career academics who may not have published their work yet, to our list of invitees.

Members were advised that the core elements of membership in the PastScent network:

- Included a listing in the membership directory;
- Included membership of the PastScent mailing list;
- May include opportunities to participate in an annual PastScent conference, the first of which will be linked to an Odeuropa deliverable (Deliverable D5.2, due in August 2022);
- May include opportunities to participate in future Odeuropa events;
- May include the possibility to contribute to or review entries for the Encyclopedia of Smell History and Heritage being produced by Odeuropa (D5.3).

At the time of PastScent's launch and the writing of this deliverable document, the membership stands at a total of 50 members. However, as the group's membership details and bibliography are shared this number will begin to increase. The membership will expand over the next two years of the Odeuropa project as the networks of the Odeuropa project itself and the PastScent members and advisory board grow. In particular, we are keen to ensure that the membership of PastScent is as global and diverse in composition as possible. This is important as the membership may contribute or review entries to the Encyclopedia being produced by Odeuropa and here it will be important to ensure a diversity of perspectives.

The commitment to a diversity of disciplines, geographies, and temporalities is mirrored in the make-up of PastScent's **Advisory Board**. The advisory board's chief roles include attendance at monthly meetings to discuss PastScent and the responsibilities undertaken by the board, which are:

- The suggestion of new members based on their own extensive disciplinary contacts and evolving networks;
- The maintenance of the PastScent mailing list. This includes gathering material to appear in the monthly mail-outs such as new publications, calls for papers, notices of events, and requests for collaborators;
- The maintenance of the PastScent bibliography. All members of the advisory board have been given administrative rights to edit the bibliography. They will therefore add new publications on smell and the past as they come across them and ensure that the bibliography reflects the development of the interdisciplinary field of olfactory history and heritage;
- The planning of the annual conference for PastScent. This will involve the planning of the Odeuropa deliverable D5.2, a conference centred on the interdisciplinary re-use of the data produced by the Odeuropa project that will be staged at KNAW in M20 of the project (August 2022). Each member of the Advisory board will be involved in chairing and organising a panel for this event.

The initial selection of the six members of the Advisory Board was dictated by a desire to reflect the chronological, geographical, and disciplinary reach of the Odeuropa project's members, data, and the conference being delivered by Odeuropa in M20. It therefore includes scholars working on British, Atlantic, Dutch, and French topics; with backgrounds that include art history, history, literature, archaeology, creative practice, digital humanities, and heritage chemistry; and whose work covers the period from the seventeenth century to the present. A full list of the Advisory

Board and the members can be found on the [Odeuropa Website](#). As PastScent continues after the Odeuropa project ends, the advisory board may expand or incorporate new members as others leave where appropriate and where agreed by a majority of votes of the existing Advisory Board.

3 PastScent: Mailing List

Each member of PastScent is included in the PastScent mailing list. The mailing list fulfills two primary roles:

- It is a space for monthly mail-outs from PastScent's advisory board which will list new publications, calls for papers, upcoming events, and other opportunities relevant to those working on smell and the past including news about Odeuropa research and dissemination activities. These mail-outs will be curated by Dr William Tullett as the leader of PastScent with help from the advisory board;
- In-between the monthly mail-outs the list will also offer a space for all members to notify the rest of the list of relevant news of calls for papers, publications and events. It will also offer a space for members to ask for advice on questions relevant to their research that might include requests for collaborators, advice on particular sources or methods, or questions about publications in areas relevant to their work.

This mailing list was set up using the UK academic community's JISCMail service. JISCMail is a mailing list service run by JISC, a not-for-profit company that provides a number of digital resources for UK higher-education and research institutions. The mailing list can be found at the [JISCMail website](#), where the terms and conditions, GDPR terms, and privacy policy for the mailing list can also be found. The same web page also contains a public archive of the mailing list. The list is a 'restricted discussion' list. This means that the owners receive and approve all subscription requests; only subscribers can send messages to the list; subscribers can reply to messages which will go the list; and messages are publicly archived on the website page above.

The mailing list is also moderated, meaning all messages must be approved by the list's two moderators before they are distributed to list members. Both subscriptions and the moderation of mailing list posts are controlled by the two administrators for the mailing list. These are Dr William Tullett - as the leader of the network - and Dr Cecilia Bembibre - who is both a member of the Odeuropa project and the PastScent advisory board. We believe that the mailing list will be a valuable tool for encouraging engagement with the Odeuropa project, its deliverables, and its findings.

The PastScent mailing list will also be central to the network's mission to encourage greater collaboration and intellectual generosity with the community of scholars who work on smell and the past. Many scholars, projects, and networks relevant to smell are active on twitter and the hashtags for 'smellstudies' and 'sensorystudies' have been used to help spread news about publications, events, and other relevant material. However, not all scholars are on Twitter and not all forms of collaboration or sharing are best promoted by social media. The recent COVID19 pandemic has minimized the opportunities for networking between panels at conferences, where many useful discussions take place and connections are made, and the shift to online events seems likely to continue in the future as worries about climate change lead to attempts to minimize physical travel across the world. In this context, the mailing list will provide an important space for networking and the discussion of research that is often disappearing in other areas of the scholarly world.

The first of the monthly mail-outs to the list was sent on 9 December 2021 and can be viewed on the [public archive](#) of the mailing list. Monthly mail-outs will follow at the end of each calendar month. The mailing list will continue after the end of the Odeuropa project and will continue to be managed by the advisory board and PastScent lead.

4 The PastScent Bibliography

The third and final element of PastScent is the bibliography produced by Dr William Tullett to accompany the member's directory. As suggested in the introduction, work on smell and the past is often artificially siloed by disciplinary, linguistic, geographical, or chronological boundaries. However, one of the great potential rewards from thinking with smell - as a sense that has been so long ignored in academic scholarship - is that it might allow us to create completely new ways of working with the past.

Rather than separating ourselves off into medieval, early modern, modern, and contemporary chronologies, or keeping within nation-states, empires, or continents, smells encourage us to think across different time spans and spaces. For example, the smell of garlic has associations with cultural otherness that can be found in ancient Rome [Potter, 2015], seventeenth-century England [Jenner, 2000], nineteenth-century Cuba [Berti, 2021], and early-twentieth-century Poland [Weismann, 2021]. By offering up a bibliography that covers the period from the ancient to the contemporary and that spans as much of the globe as possible, it is hoped that scholars will be inspired to seek out new connections and think in geographically and temporally innovative ways.

This also applies to the artificial separations induced by linguistic competence or national academic cultures. There is fantastic work being written in English [Kettler, 2020], Spanish [Dupey García and Ríos, 2020], French [Perras and Érika Wicky, 2014], German [Krause, 2016], Dutch [Verbeek, 2020], Russian [Pirogovskaja, 2018], and many other languages. One aim of the bibliography is therefore to encourage further engagement with work across linguistic and national divides. This will be crucial to Odeuropa's own project of tracing forms of olfactory heritage that are not just regional or national but that might also cut across whole swathes of the European continent.

Finally, it is hoped that the bibliography will encourage the more interdisciplinary ways of working with smell that are at the heart of the Odeuropa project. Different disciplines offer very different methods for understanding smell history and heritage. Archaeology offers tools for understanding what the materiality of past objects can tell us about smell [Newstead and Casimiro, 2020]; art historians offer ways of understanding iconographies of scent [Suchtelen, 2021]; cultural historians give us forms of close reading for olfactory meaning [Dugan, 2011]; heritage scientists can help us understand molecular histories [Bembibre Jacobo, 2020]; and museums and heritage studies scholars can help us think through how to present smells in the present [Davis and Thys-Şenocak, 2017]. This bibliography hopes to offer scholars in olfactory heritage and history an interdisciplinary toolkit for expanding the ways in which they work.

The bibliography was composed in Zotero, a free, non-profit, open-source, bibliography management tool produced by digital humanities researchers. The settings are such that anybody can [view the bibliography publicly](#) and use it in their work. However, editing rights are restricted to select members of the Odeuropa project and the PastScent Advisory Board. The bibliography is also viewable via an embedded plugin in on the [Odeuropa website](#). When the Encyclopedia of Smell History and Heritage is launched later on in the Odeuropa project, the embedded version of the bibliography will be moved to this Encyclopedia site along with the other PastScent material. At its launch the bibliography contained a total of **709 scholarly publications** including journal articles, chapters, edited collections, monographs, exhibition catalogues, and conference papers. Those who use the bibliography are encouraged to cite it using the Zotero link, as this will provide a stable and unchanging location for the bibliography, despite it being embedded on different websites.

The bibliography was composed using close reading of footnotes from scholarly literature; citation databases such as Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science; and searching a combination of academic event programs and university websites for lists of publications by relevant scholars working in the area. The bibliography will be maintained through similar means. The embedded bibliography on the Odeuropa website furthermore contains a call for anybody who has publications they feel should be added to send them to Dr William Tullett via email. The

PastScent mailing list will also be used as a way of staying on top of emerging publications. Automated alerts using key words and phrases such as 'smell history', 'smell heritage', and 'olfactory heritage' have also been set up for citation databases such as Google Scholar.

5 Immediate Impacts and Future Steps

PastScent has already proved useful in advancing the overall mission of the Odeuropa project and the dissemination of its work. This will continue to be the case as the project moves forward. For example:

- The network's members were drawn upon for feedback on the proposed content, organization, and user-interface for the Encyclopedia of Smell History and Heritage being developed by WP5 (D5.3). Members of the network filled out a JISC Online Survey which has provided - and will continue to provide - an invaluable resource for the design and development of content for the Encyclopedia;
- The network's members were part of the first two of a series of 'Smellinars' organised by PastScent and linked to the Odeuropa project. These online seminars offer the opportunity for panels of scholars working on different aspects of smell and the past to share their work in a constructive, cross-disciplinary, forum with international reach. The Odeuropa website contains [details of the first two sessions](#). PastScent will organise more of these Smellinars in 2022 and 2023, some of which will help to disseminate aspects of Odeuropa's research;
- The network provided the project with a ready source of potential authors and reviewers for the 'Entries' and 'Storylines' that will be contained in the Encyclopedia of Smell History and Heritage. The network will be drawn on in the second year of the project from January 2022 onwards as WP5 begins to assemble the component parts of the Encyclopedia from the data selected, processed, and organised by WP2, WP3, and WP4;
- The membership of the network has provided a resource from which many of the participants in the 'Malodours Workshop' (T7.4) organised by WP7 were selected. It is hoped that the network will provide useful contacts and participants for later Odeuropa impact and dissemination events;
- The bibliography has provided the basis for ongoing work by WP5, WP6 and WP7 on the state-of-the-art in olfactory history and heritage research. It is hoped that the network will assist the further gathering of new publications and scholarly research for this core project task.

In addition, the PastScent network also provided contacts on which to draw in helping to put together some of the publications being developed by the Odeuropa project. A good example here is the project's ongoing collaboration with the *American Historical Review* - the leading historical journal in the English-speaking world. This collaboration involves the publication of a series of special articles in the middle of each of the 2022 issues of the journal (4 issues in total). The first of these issues, to be published in March 2022, contains a 'Conversation' article put together by leading scholars in the field of olfactory history and heritage and lead by Odeuropa's Dr William Tullett. A total of 7 of the PastScent network's members formed the core of this discussion and the diverse membership of the network has allowed us to bring together scholars whose work covers multiple disciplines, countries, and time periods. The project is also developing podcast recordings, an online educational module, and will be presenting a panel at the American Historical Association's annual conference in 2023. The collaboration with the *American Historical Review* will allow us to disseminate awareness of the PastScent network further and encourage the use of its resources.

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