Congressi Stefano Franscini
Workshop
The Senses: Present Issues, Past Perspectives
Sunday 23 April 2023 – Wednesday 26 April 2023

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Conference Organizers:
Prof. Annette Kern-Stähler (University of Bern)
Dr. William Brockbank (University of Bern)
Dr. Hannah Piercy (University of Bern)

Co-Organizer:
Prof. Elizabeth Robertson (University of Glasgow)

This workshop is generously funded by:
Sunday 23 April

from 10:00

Guests arrive at Monte Verità
Registration opens

10:30 – 12:00
Registration, Welcome, and Opening Discussion:
The Senses: Past and Present

12:00 – 13:30
Welcome from the Organizing Team and Lunch at Monte Verità

14:00 – 15:30
Introductory Panel. Understanding Sense Perception: A Dual Perspective

0.1. Opening Address
Annette Kern-Stähler (Medieval Literature)
University of Bern

0.2. The Senses in Contemporary Philosophy
Fiona Macpherson (Contemporary Philosophy)
University of Glasgow

0.3. Medieval Understandings of the Senses
Annette Kern-Stähler and Elizabeth Robertson (Medieval Literature)
University of Bern and University of Glasgow

15:30 – 16:00
Coffee Break

16:00 – 18:00
Panel 1. Multimodal Perception

1.1. Space, Time, and Correspondences: Factors Affecting Multisensory Integration
Charles Spence (Psychology)
University of Oxford

1.2. Multimodal Perception, Affect, and the Middle English Pearl
Sarah Stanbury (Medieval Literature)
College of the Holy Cross

Lightning shots:

1.3. Sensory Plants in Medieval Herbals
Theresa Holler (Art History)
University of Basel

1.4. Un-bounding the Senses: The Early Middle Ages and Today
John Merrington (Medieval History)
University of Oxford

18:00 – 19:00
Hotel check-in

19:00 – 21:00
Dinner at Monte Verità
Monday 24 April, Morning

7:30 – 8:45  Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30  
**Panel 2. Sensory Engineering**

2.1.  Teaching Machines to See: Computer Vision, AI, and Augmented Reality  
*Andrew Fitzgibbon (Engineering/Computer Vision)*  
Graphcore, Cambridge, UK

2.2.  Medieval Sensory Prostheses  
*Katie Walter (Medieval Literature)*  
University of Sussex

2.3.  Second Skins, Touch, and Text  
*Nicole Nyffenegger (Medieval Literature)*  
University of Bern

10:30 – 11:00  Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30  
**Panel 3. Virtual Reality and Digital Sensoriality**

3.1.  Virtual Reality Experience and the Senses  
*Fiona Macpherson (Contemporary Philosophy)*  
University of Glasgow

3.2.  Embodying Martial Narratives through Virtual Reality  
*Michael Ovens (Medieval History and Literature)*  
University of Western Australia

Lightning shots:

3.3.  Medieval Objects and Sensory Experience in the Museum  
*Elizabeth Dospel Williams (Medieval Art History)*  
Dunbarton Oaks Museum

3.4.  Touch, Animation, and the Virtual: The Interplay of Sensory and Aesthetic Experience in Medieval French Manuscripts  
*Henry Ravenhall (Medieval Literature)*  
University of Cambridge

12:30 – 14:00  Lunch at Monte Verità
Monday 24 April, Afternoon

14:00 – 15:30  Panel 4. Hallucination and Illusion

4.1. The Problems of Illusion  
Craig French (Contemporary Philosophy)  
University of Nottingham

4.2. Materialization of the (Un-)Known? Illusions of Transcendence  
Barbara Schellewald (Medieval Art History)  
University of Basel

4.3. Phantom Sensing  
Richard Newhauser (Medieval Literature)  
Arizona State University

15:30 – 16:00  Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:45  Panel 4. Hallucination and Illusion (cont.)

Lightning shots:

4.4. Esoteric Sensorium: Olfactory Sense and Jewish Demonology  
Anna Sierka (Religious Studies)  
Harvard University

4.5. Can Demons Deceive Our Senses? Witelo (fl. 1270s) on Illusory Visual Perception  
Genevieve E. Caulfield (Medieval History)  
University College London

17:00  Welcome by Congressi Stefano Franscini/ETH Zürich, Monte Verità

from 17:15  Opportunity to explore the grounds, Casa Selma, and Elisarion Pavilion

19:00 – 21:00  Dinner at Monte Verità

Tuesday 25 April, Morning

7:30 – 8:45  Breakfast

9:00 – 11:00  Panel 5. The Problem of Pain

5.1. Pains that Don’t Hurt  
David Bain (Contemporary Philosophy)  
University of Glasgow

5.2. My Pain, Your Quill: Analgesic Recipes for Treating Pains, Aches, and Sores in Old English Medical Texts  
William Brockbank (Medieval Literature)  
University of Bern

5.3. Sensing and Representing Pain in Medieval Romance  
Hannah Piercy (Medieval Literature)  
University of Bern

5.4. ‘Only touch me, for my hand is tender’: Touch, Pain, and the Ageing Body in Literature and Thought  
Elizabeth Barry (Modern Literature/Medical Humanities)
11:00 – 11:30  
Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:30  
Panel 6. Proprioception and Kinesthesia

6.1. Prediction and Illusions of Heaviness  
Gavin Buckingham (Psychology)  
University of Exeter

Lightning shot:

6.2. Kinesthesia in Middle English Literature  
Sarah Jane Brazil (Medieval Literature)  
University of Geneva

12:30 – 14:00  
Lunch at Monte Verità

Tuesday 25 April, Afternoon

14:00 – 15:00  
Panel 7. Proprioception and Kinesthesia (cont.)

Lightning shots:

7.1. Calls of Nature: The Kinesthetic Route to Fall or Redemption  
Elisabeth Dutton (Medieval Literature)  
University of Fribourg

7.2. Conceptualizing Kinesthesia as a Sense: Its Significance for Religious Experience in 12th-13th-Century Cloisters  
Micol Long (Medieval History)  
University of Padua

7.3. Wrestling with Pedagogy: A Kinesthetic Perspective on the Education of Princes  
Craig Hambling (Medieval Literature/History)  
Birkbeck, University of London

15:30 – 19:00  
Excursion: Walk to the Town Centre and Lungolago of Ascona

19:00 – 22:00  
Conference Dinner

Wednesday 26 April, Morning

7:30 – 8:45  
Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00  
Keynote Lecture: Sensorial Investigations  
David Howes (Cultural Anthropology)  
Concordia University

10:00 – 12:00  
Round Table – The Senses: Present Issues, Past Perspectives

12:00 – 14:00  
Lunch & Coffee

14:00 – 16:00  
Research Opportunities and Collaborations