

Haptic Trouble



TACT
(Touch, Arts, Affects)

10-11 October 2025
Maison de la recherche
Salle du Conseil
4 rue des Irlandais, Paris

Friday, 10 October 2025

9 am: Registration

9.30 am: Introduction

Rae Aumiller (Radboud) and Caroline Pollentier (Sorbonne Nouvelle): "Haptic Trouble"

10 am-11.30 am: Out of Touch

Chair: Rae Aumiller (Radboud) and Caroline Pollentier (Sorbonne Nouvelle)

Stephen Hughes (UCL): "The Lonely Dreams of Touch Without a Body"

Anna Ciaunica (UCL): "Losing Touch with Oneself: Depersonalisation Experiences Modulate Vicarious Affective Touch and Self Touch"

Vivienne Matthies-Boone (Radboud): "Out of Touch? A Critical Disability Perspective on Long Covid"

11.30 am-12 pm: Coffee Break

12pm-1pm: Technological Troubles

Chair: Carole Maigné (Lausanne)

Neda Zanetti (Lausanne): "Viscous and Vibrant World – Tactile and Metastable Knowledge with Gilbert Simondon"

Julien Dehut (University of Rouen Normandie): "Some Haptic Rhetorical Aspects with Touchscreen: Touch and Technological Trouble"

1 pm-2.30 pm: Lunch buffet

2 pm-3pm: Black Affects

Chair: Thomas Constantinesco (Sorbonne)

Erica Fretwell (Albany): "Black/out Power"

Omari Weekes (CUNY Queens College): "Touch My Body: The Haptics of Bodily Attunement in Toni Cade Bambara's *The Salt Eaters*"

3pm-3.30pm: Coffee Break

3.30 pm-5 pm: Vulnerability/Resistance

Chair: Alexandra Poulain (Sorbonne Nouvelle)

Sam Dolbear (London): "Distant Gestures, Moving Lives: On Healing and Proximity"

James Garrison (UMass Lowell): "Reconsidering the Life of Power: Touch and the Aesthetics of Vulnerability"

Alan Palacios (Rutgers-New Brunswick): "Carnal Disruptions in the Aesthesis of Abya Yala (Latin America): Tactical Strategies of 'Tantear'"

5pm-5.30pm: Coffee Break

5:30 pm-6.30 pm: Keynote

Amber Musser (CUNY): "Hapticity and the Sphinx: Simone Leigh's Fugitive Sphinxes"

Chair: Rae Aumiller (Radboud)

7pm: Conference dinner at Bouillon Racine, 3 rue Racine, Paris 6th, for speakers and chairs.

Saturday, 11 October 2025

10 am-11 am: Skin Ethics

Chair: Rae Aumiller (Radboud) and Caroline Pollentier (Sorbonne Nouvelle)

Rebekka Klein (Goethe University Frankfurt): "From Skin to Skin' – Jean-Luc Nancy's Post-deconstructive Materialist Understanding of Touch"

Gwendolyn Bolderink (Leiden): "'I Want Your Hands On Me': How to Be a Sex Object"

11am-11.30am: Coffee Break

11.30am-12.30pm: Haptic Fictions

Chair: Yasna Bozhkova (Paris Nanterre) and Jaine Chemmachery (Sorbonne)

Katja Haustein (Kent): "Alone with Others: Tact & Contact in Henry James"

Sreedevi D (Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur): "Memories of Untouchability: A Study of Senses, Memory and Writing"

12:30-2pm: Lunch buffet

2.30 pm-3.30 pm: Haptic Materials

Chair: Marie Laniel (Amiens)

Marit Grøtta (Oslo): "Light as a Haptic Medium: On the Atmospheric Turn in Art and Aesthetic Theory"

María José Vizcaino (Montclair State): "Raising Tactile Awareness in Henry Moore's Sculptures"

3.30 pm-4 pm: Coffee Break

4pm-5pm: Sensing Disability

Chair: Àger Pérez Casanovas (Barcelona)

Sarah Neelsen (Sorbonne Nouvelle): "Touching Disability? From Pity to Sensorial Diversity in Early German Disability Studies"

Kathleen Sitter (Calgary): "Crip Haptics and the Politics of Touch: Tactile Resistance in Disability Arts Installation"

Coffee Break: 5pm-5.30pm

5.30 pm-6.30 pm: Keynote

Georgina Kleege (Berkeley): "Dancing with Sculptures: A Touch Docent Makes Haptic Trouble"

Chair: Caroline Pollentier (Sorbonne Nouvelle)

6.30 pm: Closing Words

Organisers

Caroline Pollentier (Sorbonne Nouvelle)
Rachel Aumiller (Radboud)

Contact

caroline.pollentier@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr



institut
universitaire
de France

Sorbonne
Nouvelle

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A Fingerless Glove
Veronika Pausova

Photography by Laura Findlay
Courtesy of Bradley Ertaskiran