

Congressi Stefano Franscini
Workshop

The Senses: Present Issues, Past Perspectives

Sunday 23 April 2023 – Wednesday 26 April 2023



Trinity College, Cambridge, MS O.7.16, fol. 47r (CC BY-NC 4.0)

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)

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**UNIVERSITÄT
BERN**

ETH zürich



**Congressi
Stefano Franscini**



**Burgergemeinde
Bern**



**Swiss National
Science Foundation**

Programme

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 Francini/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