

Sensing the Sacred: Religion and the Senses, 1300-1800

University of York, 21-22 June

Conference Programme

THURSDAY 20 JUNE

Venue: York Medical Society, 23 Stonegate, York YO1 8AW

Directions to York Medical Society: <http://yorkmedsoc.org/how-to-find-us.html>

1600 EARLY REGISTRATION; COFFEE & CAKE

1630 POSTGRADUATE WORKSHOP LED BY DR MATTHEW MILNER (booking required)

1630 SENSORY WALKING TOUR OF YORK'S CHURCHES LED BY DR ANTHONY MASINTON

1800 WINE RECEPTION SPONSORED BY THE *JOURNAL OF EARLY MODERN HISTORY*

1900 INFORMAL DINNER TBC

DAY 1: FRIDAY 21 JUNE

Venue: Berrick Saul Building, HRC, Heslington campus

Directions to campus: <https://www.york.ac.uk/hrc/contact/maps/>

0900 COFFEE & REGISTRATION

0945 WELCOME ADDRESS BY DR MARK JENNER

1000 KEYNOTE 1: Professor Christopher M. Woolgar (University of Southampton): Creating the Sacred: The Senses, Perception and Material Culture in the Later Middle Ages

1100 PARALLEL SESSION 1

Panel 1: Moral Instruction and the Domestication of the Senses CHAIR: Emilie Murphy (University of York)

Kate Ash (University of Manchester): Alienating the Soul from the Mind: Sensation, Memory, and Confession in *The Doctrine of the Hert*

Amanda Pullan (Lancaster University): Moral Instruction for Young Women: The Five Senses in English Seventeenth-Century Needlework

Joanna Wharton (University of York): Wonder and Delight: The Role of the Senses in Anna Letitia Barbauld's *Hymns in Prose*

Panel 2: Sense and Incense: Odours of Sin and Sanctity CHAIR: Dr Mark Jenner (University of York)

A. Katie Harris (University of California, Davis): "God help me! What smell is this?": The Senses and the Authentication of Relics in the Early Modern Mediterranean

William Tullett (King's College London): More than the 'foulness of the diabolical?': The Metaphorical Possibilities of Incense and the Odor of Sanctity 1680-1830

Jay Zysk (University of South Florida): Incense and "Incensuous" Ritual from Lollardy to Laud

Panel 3: Embodying Ritual: Drama and Death CHAIR:

Paula Barros (Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier III): Beholding Grief in Early Modern England: Sight, the Spiritual and the Experience of Humanity

Sarah Betts (University of York): 'ravish'd Senses': Mourning the Death and Celebrating the Apotheosis of Queen Mary II

Clare Wright (University of Nottingham): Affective Drama: Embodied Experience and Devotional Response in the Croxton *Play of the Sacrament*

1230 LUNCH

1330 PARALLEL SESSION 2

Panel 1: Taste and Knowledge: Pious Palates, Godly Gustation CHAIR: Kathryn Crowcroft (Cambridge)

Ruth Mullett (Cornell University): Knowing God: The Role of Olfaction and Gustation in Later Medieval Literature

Elizabeth Swann (University of York): Bitter Sin, Salvific Sweetness: Piety and Palate in Early Seventeenth-Century Devotional Literature

Sarah Townsend (University of Pennsylvania): The Forbidden Fruit and the Salvific Fruit: Tasting as a Way of Knowing in Clemence of Barking's *The Life of Saint Catherine* and the *Jeu d'Adam*

Panel 2: Gendering the Senses / Sensing Gender CHAIR: Dr Helen Smith (University of York)

Claire Canavan (University of York): 'If I may but touch the hem': The Haptic Spirituality of Early Modern Women's Needlework

Samantha Langsdale (SOAS, University of London): Invisible Ritual: Gendering Sensing Practices in Trecento Florence

Charlotte Poulton (Brigham Young University): Hearing the Divine: Images of St. Cecilia as a Musician

Panel 3: The Dynamics of Place: Pilgrimage and the Senses CHAIR: Professor John Arnold (Birkbeck)

Dee Dyas (University of York): Tactile piety and the dynamics of place in Christian pilgrimage through the centuries

Emma Wells (Durham University): From King to Commoner: Sensing the Pilgrimage Experience of the Medieval Cult Church

Sophia Wilson (King's College London): 'You're Entering a World of Pain!': Manipulation of Pilgrims' Senses and the Painful Power of Saints

1500 COFFEE & CAKE

1530 PARALLEL SESSION 3

Panel 1: Propaganda and Pain: Sensing (Pseudo)Martyrdom and Persecution CHAIR:

David K. Anderson (University of Oklahoma): Edgar the Pseudo-Martyr: Pain as Leverage in Shakespeare's *King Lear*

Rafael-Dorian Chelaru ("Al. I Cuza" Academy): Instrumentalizing the senses in the Catholic confessional discourse against the Orthodox in 17th and 18th c. Moldavia

Lucy Wooding (King's College London): Experiencing the Crucifixion in Early Modern England

Panel 2: Sense and Sensuality: Tactile Piety and Erotic Exegesis CHAIR: Dr Piers Brown (West Virginia University)

Lara Farina (West Virginia University): Sticking with It: Practicing Uncanny Tactility with *Handlyng Synne*

Laurence Lux-Sterritt (Aix-Marseille Université): When Spirit Speaks through Flesh: Religious Experience and the Senses in the English Benedictine Convents in Exile

Bronwyn V. Wallace (University of Pennsylvania): *Desideria Dilata*: Robert Southwell's Erotic Exegesis

Panel 3: Visions of the Sacred CHAIR:

Justin Byron-Davies (University of Surrey): Visions of the Passion in Julian of Norwich's *Revelations of Divine Love* and Margery Kempe's *The Book of Margery Kempe*.

David Manning (University of Stirling): Seeing the Light: Spiritual Discernment in Seventeenth-Century England

Alicia Spencer-Hall (University College London): A Touching Sight: Medieval Spiritual Visions and Cinematic Somatism

1700 PITSTOP

1715 KEYNOTE 2: Dr Matthew Milner (McGill University): Vernacular Knowledge of the Senses in Reformation Europe

1815 WINE RECEPTION

1930 CONFERENCE DINNER - £25 per head for 3 courses and wine

DAY 2: SATURDAY 22 JUNE

Venue: Berrick Saul Building, HRC, Heslington campus

Directions to campus: <https://www.york.ac.uk/hrc/contact/maps/>

0900 COFFEE

0915 PARALLEL SESSION 4

Panel 1: Natural and Occult Philosophies: Number Symbolism, Colour Spectrums, and Pyramidic Symmetry CHAIR:

Rachel Davies (Newcastle University): 'Thou hast ordered All Things': Sacred Number and Marian Piety in Medieval Motets'.

Ros Powell (Liverpool Hope University): 'Musical in Ocular Harmony': Colour in Eighteenth-Century Poetry

Laura Seymour (Birkbeck, University of London): Pyramids and Mannikins: the Communicative Function of Symmetry

Panel 2: Soundscapes of Exile and Resistance CHAIR:

Susan Brown (Fullerton College): Sounding the Inner Landscape: Singing in English Devotional Thought and Culture.

Erin Lambert (University of Virginia): "Beside Still Waters:" Hearing Exile and Homecoming in the Dutch Stranger Church

Emilie K M Murphy (University of York): A Sense of Place: Soundscapes of English Catholic Exile

Panel 3: Sensing Scripture: Experiencing Devotional Texts CHAIR: Elizabeth Swann (University of York)

Eyal Poleg (University of Oxford): Experiencing Scriptures

Lucy Razzal (University of Cambridge): 'One Rich Handfull': Sensuality and the Material Culture of the Book in Post-Reformation England

Aisling Reid (Queen's University Belfast): The Synthetic Reading Practices of Northern Italian Confraternities

1045 COFFEE & BISCUITS

1130 PARALLEL SESSION 5

Panel 1: Pathological Bodies, Sacred Souls: Perception, Anatomy, and Medicine CHAIR: Dr Sophie Weekes (University of York)

Naomi Billingsley (University of Manchester): Healing the Doors of Perception: Embodying Imagination in Blake's Representations of the Healing Miracles

Sophie Mann (King's College London): Diagnosing Sanctity in Seventeenth-Century England

Jennie M. Votava (New York University): Donne's Neuroanatomy: Soul, Sense, and the Mind-Body Problem

Panel 2: Sensing Medieval Parish Churches CHAIR: Dr Kate Giles (University of York)

Anthony Masinton (University of York): Perceiving the Presence of God in the Late Medieval Parish Church

Welleda Muller (Université Paris-Sorbonne): Sensing the Sacred in Medieval Choir Stalls

Ellie Pridgeon (University of Leicester): Audience and Imagery: Sensory Experience and Gesture in the Medieval Parish Church

Panel 3: Sensory Overload from the Middle Ages to the Metaphysicals

Anne Baden-Daintree (University of Bristol): Sensory Overload and Spiritual Affect in Middle English Devotional Lyrics

Jenny Ferrando (University of York): John Donne and the Redness of Adam: Colours and the Sacred in Early Modern England

Rob Lutton (University of Nottingham): 'Honey in the mouth, music in the ear, a song in the heart': The Sensuality of the Name of Jesus in Late Medieval England

1300 LUNCH

1400 PARALLEL SESSION 6

Panel 1: Sensory Experiences in Seventeenth-Century New France CHAIR:

Donald L. Boisvert (Concordia University): Of Snow and God: The Sensory Mystical Experiences of Blessed Marie de l'Incarnation

Andrew Kettler (University of South Carolina): "Ravishing Odors of Paradise;" Jesuit Retention of an Increased Olfactory Sense in Seventeenth Century North America

Robin Macdonald (University of York): "To Go to the Heaven Where the French Went": Indigenous Peoples and Embodied Spiritual Experiences in Seventeenth-Century New France

Panel 2: Sense and Reformed Sensibility: Spiritual Perception, Conversion and Religious Identity CHAIR: Professor Brian Cummings (University of York)

Joe Moshenska (University of Cambridge): 'Double Conversion: The Spiritual Senses in the Devotional Works of Sir Kenelm Digby, 1630-40

Sophie Read (University of Cambridge): The Odour of Sacramentality: George Herbert's Poetics of Smell

Abigail Shinn (University of York): Corporeal Rhetoric: Testimony, Proof and the Senses in the English Conversion Narrative

Panel 3: Heavenly Harmonies: Devotional Music, Mathematics, and Neo-Platonism CHAIR:

Ross Lerner (Princeton University): Leibniz's Charmed Perception, Harmony and Unconscious Arithmetic

Hyun-Ah Kim (University of Toronto): Body, Music, and Spirit: the Revival of *Musica Humana* in Renaissance Neo-Platonism

Andrew Cheetham (University of Huddersfield): *Maria Triumphans*: Henrietta Maria and Richard Dering's Few-Voice Motets

1530 COFFEE & CAKE

1600 PARALLEL SESSION 7

**Panel 1: Prayer Beads and Proof: Tactile Piety, Sanctification and the Phenomenology of Faith
CHAIR: Robin Macdonald (University of York)**

Emmanuelle Friant (Université de Montréal): To Touch in Order to See. A Multisensory Affective Experience: Prayer Beads in Early Modern France (1450-1650)

Adam Morton (University of Warwick): Sanctifying Sight: Images and Faith in Elizabethan Emblem Books

Subha Mukherji (University of Cambridge): 'O she's warm': Sense and Assent in Face-to-face Art-Forms

Panel 2: Representing Martyrdom in Visual Art CHAIR: Dr Cordula van Wyhe (University of York)

Bogdan Cornea (University of York): Touching the Sublime Body: The Depiction of Sanctity and Flesh in Jusepe de Ribera's Martyrdoms of St. Bartholomew

Agnes Fazakas (University of York): Sensing Sacrament and Sacrifice: The Dead Body of Christ in the Art of Rosso Fiorentino

Edward Payne (The Morgan Library and Museum): Sensory Extremes: Pain and Punishment in the Art of Jusepe de Ribera

Panel 3: A Sense of Doctrine: Metaphors of Sensing the Divine CHAIR: Dr Abigail Shinn (University of York)

Victoria Blud (University of York): "Drowned in the Ocean of Divine Love" – Sensations of Surroundings in the Writings of Gertrude More

Michele Campopiano (University of York, Universiteit van Amsterdam): Music of the Universe, Harmony of the Soul. Francesco Zorzi's *De harmonia mundi*

Austin Powell (University of York): Crying for God: Pious Responses to Visual Stimuli in Late Medieval England

1730 PITSTOP

1745 KEYNOTE 3: Dr Nicky Hallett (University of Sheffield): Sensate Certainty: Cognitive Care in a Convent Community

1845 CLOSING NOTES FROM ROBIN MACDONALD, EMILIE MURPHY, AND ELIZABETH SWANN

1900 INFORMAL DINNER TBC