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


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 Pyramidal 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


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


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)


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 Triumphants: 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