

Early Modern Sensory Experiences (Oxford, 9–10 Jun 22)

Kellogg College, University of Oxford, Jun 9–10, 2022

Registration deadline: May 30, 2022

Leah Clark

We are delighted to announce that registration is now open for our annual conference on Early Modern Sensory Experiences (EMSE 2022) to be held at Kellogg College, University of Oxford, 9–10 June 2022.

Please register before 30 May 2022: shorturl.at/htM14

Online registration is free; in person registration covers catering costs.

Programme

9 JUNE 2022

9:00–9:45 – Registration and coffee

9:45–10:00 – Welcome (Leah Clark and Helen Coffey)

10:00–11:30 – Sensory Agents I: Materials

Chair: Helen Coffey

- Bettina Varwig, University of Cambridge: 'Early Modern Synaesthesia and the Sweetness of Song'
- Cheng He, University of Warwick: 'Multisensory Experience of Understanding Lacquer in Early Modern England'
- Amrita Chattopadhyay, Jawaharlal Nehru University: 'Illumination in Early Modern India: Material Practices and Sensory Experiences'

11:30–12:00 – Coffee

12:00–13:00 – Sensory Agents II: Objects

Chair: Helen Coffey

- Margit Thøfner, The Open University: 'Framing Music: an integrative meditation on the organ and the organ case in Kristkirken in Tønder/Tønder (present-day southern Denmark)'
- Nathalie Jeter, University of Oxford: 'Twelve Years a (Galley) Slave: a sensory and material reading of Jean Marteilhe's Mémoires d'un Galérien'

13:00–14:00 – Lunch

14:00–15:30 – Spirituality and the Senses

Chair: Leah R. Clark

- Katherine Powers, California State University, Fullerton: 'Sensory Experience in Devotions: Serafino Razzi's Laude for Nuns in Contemplation.'
- Laura Jayne Wright, University of Oxford: "I speak this with reverence": sounds of dissent in Anna Trapnel's visionary prose.'
- Hayley Bowman, University of Michigan: 'Sensing Sor María de Jesús: Women's Authority in the Seventeenth-Century Atlantic World'

15:30-16:00 – Coffee

16:00-17:30 – Senses of Place

Chair: Leah R. Clark

- Deborah Howard, University of Cambridge: 'The foundation ceremonies of the votive churches of the Redentore (1577) and Santa Maria della Salute (1631) in Venice: sensory impact and ritual purification'
- Helena Guzik, University of Oxford: 'Sensory Experiences in Elite Premodern Pilgrimage Networks: Luchino dal Campo's Viaggio a Gerusalemme'
- Neha Vermani, University of Sheffield: 'The Mughal Gentlemen's House: Sensory Explorations of the Material World in Early Modern South Asia (16th to 17th century)'

18:00 – Drinks followed by conference dinner (additional registration required)

10 JUNE 2022

9:30-11:00 – Recapturing Sensorial Experiences

Chair: Leah R. Clark

- Mary Katherine Newman, University of Oxford: 'Methodological considerations when reconstructing the early modern Reche-Mapuche sensory experience'
- Anuradha Gobin, University of Calgary: 'Sorrows for Sweetness: Tactility, Aurality and the Afterlife of Material Culture from Dutch Brazil'
- María Lumbreras, University of California, Santa Barbara: 'Sensorial Forensics: Antiquarianism in Granada c. 1595'

11:00-11:30 – Coffee

11:30-13:00 – Nature and the Body

Chair: Leah R. Clark

- Tassanie Alleau, University of Tours, CESR: 'Splendour and misery of a plant: cassava and its sensory qualities across the ocean in early modern times'
- Andrew Kettler, Kenyon College: 'The Miasmatic Theft of Modernity: Sulfuric Aromata and Early Modern Empires'
- Giacomo Savani, University of St Andrews: 'Sensing the Spa: Medicine, Bathing, and the Female Body in Renaissance Italy'

13:00-14:00 – Lunch

14:00-15:30 – Experiences of Performance

Chair: Helen Coffey

- Peter K. Andersson, Orebro University: 'Nips of New School: The Chastisement of Domestic

Fools in the Early Modern Period'

- Elizabeth Dieterich, Carnegie Mellon University: 'Touching Feeling in the Playhouse: Senses and Affect in Early Modern Drama'
- Simon Smith, University of Birmingham: 'Music and the senses at the early modern Inns of Court'

15:30-16:00 – Coffee

16:00-17:30 – Feasting

Chair: Helen Coffey

- David Rolf Strom-Olsen, IE University, Madrid: 'A Feast for the Senses: sensory aesthetic as political power at the Voie du Faisan (1454)'
- Meike Wiedemann, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich and Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten Baden-Württemberg: 'With all the senses – dining at the 16th century Jagiellonian court'
- Amy Orrock and Clara Baudet, Compton Verney Art Gallery & Park/University of Oxford: 'Tasting Naples: Wine, figs, and feasting at the Cuccagna'

17:30 – Closing remarks followed by drinks

<https://www.open.ac.uk/arts/research/medieval-and-early-modern-research/sensory-experiences>

Reference:

CONF: Early Modern Sensory Experiences (Oxford, 9-10 Jun 22). In: ArtHist.net, May 4, 2022 (accessed Sep 14, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/36600>>.