

## Victorian Tactile Imagination (London, 19–20 Jul 13)

Birkbeck, University of London, Jul 19–20, 2013

Birkbeck Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies, Birkbeck, University of London

### PROGRAMME

19 JULY 2013

9:00-9:30am

Registration - MAL 415

9:30-9:45am

Welcome - MAL 421

9:45-10:45am

PLENARY 1 - MAL 421

Professor William Cohen (University of Maryland), "Arborealities: The Tactile Ecology of Hardy's Woodlanders"

Chair: Professor Hilary Fraser (Birkbeck, University of London)

10:45-11:00am

Coffee - MAL 415

11:00am-12:30pm

SESSION 1

A. Psycho-Physiological Touch - Chair: James Emmott (Birkbeck, University of London) - MAL 421

Dr Marie Banfield (Independent Researcher), "Mid-Victorian Psychology and the Aesthetics of Touch: Alexander Bain and the Experimentalism of George Meredith"

Professor Pamela K. Gilbert (University of Florida), "The Human Touch: the Hand as Instrument of the Human"

Dr Roger Smith (Lancaster University / Institute of Philosophy and the Institute of Psychology of the Russian Academy of Sciences), "Touch, Movement and Causal Relations"

B. Gender, Sexuality and Ghostly Touches - Chair: Dr Dewi Evans (Cardiff University) - MAL 416

Ji Won Chung (University of Warwick), "Touching Bodies, Touched Bodies: Carnal Interactions in Victorian Spiritualism"

Dr Ann Gagné (Seneca College), "'The Sense that Feels': Narrating the Gender Politics of Touch"

Dr Royce Mahawatte (Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts, London), "'Sometimes I felt myself touched': the Supernatural Male Body"

C. Pedagogy and Play - Chair: TBC - MAL 251

Mark Blacklock (Birkbeck, University of London), "Tactile Geometry: Gifts, Cards and Cubes"

Dr Vanessa Smith (University of Sydney), "The Memory of Touch: the Brontes and Stevenson in the Land of Counterpane"

Dr Rachel Snow (University of South Carolina Upstate), "Touching Illusions: the Language of Tactility and Nineteenth-Century Stereo Photography"

12:30-1:45pm

Lunch - Keynes Library, School of Arts

There will be an opportunity to view the exhibition Touching the Book: Embossed Literature for Blind People in the Nineteenth Century in the Peltz Room, School of Arts

1:45-3:15pm

## SESSION 2

A. (In)animate Bodies - Chair: Dr Nicola Bown (Birkbeck, University of London) - MAL 421

Dr Anna Henchman (Boston University), "Soaked, Shorn, and Punctured: Making Sheep Sheepy in Far from the Madding Crowd"

Dr Jenny Pyke (Mount Holyoke College), "Sensation of the Touchable in Victorian Taxidermy"

Dr Claire Wood (University of York), "Handling Mortality: Feeling the Death of Little Nell"

B. Sculpture - Chair: Dr Victoria Mills (University of Cambridge) - MAL 416

Dr Vicky Greenaway (Royal Holloway, University of London), "Robert Browning, Sculptor"

Rebecca Kummerfield (University of Sydney) and James Lesh (University of Sydney), "Tokens of Taste or Stony Seduction? Sculptures in an Antipodean Pleasure Garden"

Dr Patricia Pulham (University of Portsmouth), "Eyes that Trace like Fingers: Vision and Tactility in Victorian Statue-Love"

C. The Medical Touch - Chair: TBC - MAL 251

Sarah L. Berry (Hobart and William Smith Colleges, New York), "Touchless Treatment: Harriet Martineau's Gynecological Revolution"

Dr Holly Furneaux (University of Leicester), "Battlefield Care: Gender, Tactility and the Restorative Touch in the Crimean War"

Dr Louise Hide (Birkbeck, University of London), "Delusion, Illusion, Confusion: Perceptions of Pain in Men with tabes dorsalis, London c. 1900"

3:15-3:30pm

Coffee - MAL 415

3:30-5:00

## SESSION 3

A. Touching Text and Image: the Rossetti Circle - Chair: TBC - MAL 421

Beatrice Bazell (Birkbeck, University of London), "Touched by the Text: Goblin Market and the 'Palpitating' Consumer"

Professor Susan Jaret McKinstry (Carleton College, Minnesota), "Tempting Touch: Dante Gabriel Rossetti's Fleshly Metaphors"

Professor Wendy Parkins (University of Kent), "Hand in Glove: The Art of Touch in the Relationship

of Marie Spartali Stillman and Wilfrid Scawen Blunt"

B. The Dickensian Tactile Imagination - Chair: Dr Holly Furneaux (University of Leicester) - MAL 415

Professor Karen Chase (University of Virginia), "A Touch of the Fidgets"

Emma Curry (Birkbeck, University of London), "Table Legs and Walking Sticks: The Handy Object in Great Expectations"

Dr Stephanie Polsky (Goldsmith's College, University of London), "Hand in Glove: the Perversion of the Domestic Economy in Hard Times"

C. Haptic Screens and Surfaces - Chair: TBC - MAL 416

Nicole Bush (Durham University), "Feeling Vision: Making the Motion Image with Mid-Century Technology"

Dr Duc Dau (University of Western Australia) and Dr Caitlin McGuinness (University of Western Australia), "The Skin of Jane Campion's The Piano"

Anthony Brand (University of Auckland), "To Live without Leaving Traces: Haptic Geography through the Looking Glass of Victorian Society"

D. Dirty and Dangerous Literary Touches - Chair: TBC - MAL 251

Kimberley Cox (Stony Brook University), "Manual Intercourse: the Dangerous Intimacy of Handshakes in Victorian Novels"

Dr Abbie Garrington (Newcastle University), "Beasts with Five Fingers: A Genealogy of the Severed Hand Story, Victorian to Modern"

Dr Sarah Ross (Durham University), "The Politics of Touch in Gaskell's North and South"

5:00-6:00pm

PLENARY 2 - MAL 421

Professor Gillian Beer (University of Cambridge), "Dream Touch"

Chair: Dr Santanu Das (King's College, University of London)

6:00-7:30pm

Drinks Reception and Exhibition - Keynes Library, School of Arts

There will be an opportunity to view the exhibition Touching the Book: Embossed Literature for Blind People in the Nineteenth Century in the Peltz Room, School of Arts

7:45-10:00pm

Conference Dinner

Tas Restaurant, 22 Bloomsbury Street

Please note that pre-booking is required for this event, for which there are limited spaces.

20 JULY 2013

9:15-9:45am

Registration - MAL 417

9:45-10:45am

PLENARY 3 - MAL 421

Dr Constance Classen (author of The Deepest Sense: A Cultural History of Touch), "Victorian Inti-

macies: Love, Death, and the British Museum"

Chair: Professor David Howes (Concordia University, Montreal; Concordia Centre for Sensory Studies)

10:45-11:00am

Coffee - MAL 417

11:00am-12:30pm

SESSION 4

A. Empire and Race in the Multisensory Museum/Collection - Chair: Professor Elizabeth Edwards (De Montfort University) - MAL 421

Mary Addyman (University of Warwick), "Collecting in the Nineteenth Century: A Tactile Alternative to Museum Display"

Dr Kathleen Davidson (Independent Researcher / Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas, Austin), "Connecting the Senses: Natural History and the British Museum in the Stereoscopic Magazine"

David Howes (Concordia University, Montreal), "The Skin of the Savage: the Primitive Body in Victorian Anthropology and Society"

B. Female Touches - Chair: Dr Patricia Pulham (University of Portsmouth) - MAL 415

Molly Livingston (Georgia State University), "'The caresses and kisses of friendship': Affectionate Touch and Femininity"

Dr Gabrielle Malcolm (Canterbury Christ Church University), "'A quarter of an hour's run - very sharp': Tactility and Titillation in the 'Tally-ho!' Letter, from the Private Correspondence of Mary Bradon"

Dr Tara Puri (Warwick University), "Tactile Pleasures: Needlework in Victorian Women's Magazines"

C. Touching the Natural World - Chair: Dr Abbie Garrington (Newcastle University) - MAL 416

Alan McNee (Birkbeck, University of London), "The Haptic Sublime and the 'cold stony reality' of Mountaineering"

Dr Kara Tennant (University of South Wales), "Growing Desires: Ferns and Femininity in the Nineteenth Century"

D. Blindness and Touch - Chair: Dr Heather Tilley (Newcastle University) - MAL 414

Professor Lillian Nayder (Bates College), "Blindness, Prick Writing, and Canonical Waste Paper: Reimagining Dickens in Harriet and Letitia"

Dr Jan-Eric Olsen (Medical Museion, Copenhagen), "Vision and Blindness in Objects"

Dr Vanessa Warne (Manitoba University), "Dirty Books: Blindness, Finger-Reading and Contagious Disease"

12:30-1:30pm

Lunch - MAL 417

1:30-3:00pm

SESSION 5

A. Textured Visions: Writing, Painting, Photographing Fashion - Chair: Dr Kara Tennant (University of South Wales) - MAL 421

Clare Mullaney (University of Pennsylvania), "Weaving Queer Narratives: Employing Clothing to Refashion Temporalities"

Professor Lynda Nead (Birkbeck, University of London), "Dressing the Surface: Fashion and Aesthetics in Franz Winterhalter's Portrait of the Empress Eugénie Surrounded by Her Ladies of Honour, 1855"

Dr Sarah Parsons (York University, Toronto), "In Praise of the Overwrought: Reconsidering William Notman's Montreal Studio Portraits"

B. Tactile Aesthetics: Shaping Class, Gender and Sexuality in Art Education - Chair: Dr Anna Henchman (Boston University) - MAL 415

Dr Peter Bailey (The College of the Bahamas), "Walter Pater and the Tactile Poverty of the Professional Touch"

Professor Lucy Hartley (University of Michigan), "Cultivating Hand and Mind: Edward Poynter and the Slade Aesthetic"

Dr Kate Hext (University of Exeter), "Walter Pater's Imaginative Sense of Erotic Touch"

C. Tactile Authenticity - Chair: Dr Kate Nichols (University of Cambridge) - MAL 416

Dr Angie Dunstan (University of Kent), "Please Do Not Touch: Victorian Sculpture and the Imprint of Authenticity"

Laura Wood (Warwick University), "'His heart had beat inside that coat, and his brain had worked under that hat': Affirming Identity through Touch in Hardy's 'An Imaginative Woman'"

Dr Carolyn W. de la L. Oulton (Canterbury Christ Church University), "Cruel Cities in 'Geoffrey's Wife' and 'The Fawn Gloves'"

D. From the Gaze to the Finger: Sensation and Detection Fiction - Chair: Kimberley Cox (Stony Brook University) - MAL 414

Dr Nadine Böhm-Schnitker (Friedrich-Alexander Universität, Erlangen-Nürnberg), "Senses and Sensations: an Aesthetics of Touch in Wilkie Collins's The Woman in White"

Dr Dewi Evans (Cardiff University), "Fifty Shades of Godfrey: Man Handling in Wilkie Collins's The Moonstone"

Erin Piotrowski (University of Toronto), "Touching Thinking; Or, the Case of Inspector Bucket's Whispering Forefinger"

3:30-3:45pm

Coffee - MAL 417

3:45-4:45pm

PLENARY 4 - MAL 421

Professor Hilary Fraser (Birkbeck, University of London), "The Language of Touch in Victorian Art Criticism"

Chair: Dr Heather Tilley (Newcastle University)

4:45-6:00pm

ROUNDTABLE - MAL 421

Professor Elizabeth Edwards (De Montfort University), "Photographs, Mounts and the Tactile

Archive"

Sonia Solicari (Principal Curator, Guildhall Art Gallery), "'The Postman's Knock': Door Contact in Nineteenth-Century Art and Culture"

Dr Nicola Bown (Birkbeck, University of London), "Love Objects"

Chair: Dr Fiona Candlin (Birkbeck, University of London)

6:00-6:15pm

Conference Close

For more information or to register for the conference (spaces are limited), please visit the website at:  
[http://www.bbk.ac.uk/english/our-research/research\\_cnrcs/our-events/the-victorian-tactile-imagination](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/english/our-research/research_cnrcs/our-events/the-victorian-tactile-imagination)

Sincerely,

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Reference:

CONF: Victorian Tactile Imagination (London, 19-20 Jul 13). In: ArtHist.net, Jun 22, 2013 (accessed Dec 17, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/5637>>.