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 RECESSION SPONSORED BY THE JOURNAL OF EARLY MODERN HISTORY

1900 INFORMAL DINNER TBA

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
    The Berrick Saul Building Foyer

0945 WELCOME ADDRESS BY DR MARK JENNER
    The Bowland Auditorium

1000 KEYNOTE 1: Professor Chris Woolgar (University of Southampton): Creating the Sacred: The Senses, Perception and Material Culture in the Later Middle Ages
    The Bowland Auditorium
1100 PARALLEL SESSION 1

Panel 1: Moral and Religious Instruction: Dynamic Worship and Domestication of the Senses CHAIR: Gaby Leddy (University of York)  
BS/008

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

Paul Murphy (Queen’s University, Belfast): John Mirk, Reginald Pecock and the Gestures of Late Medieval Prayer

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

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

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: Emma Kennedy (University of York)  
The Treehouse

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  
The Berrick Saul Building Foyer
1330 PARALLEL SESSION 2

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

Ruth Mullett (Cornell University): Spicing the Soul: Internalizing Olfactory and Gustatory Sensation Within the Anchorhold

Elizabeth Swann (University of York): ‘A taste of spirituall things’: Spirituality and Sweetness in Early Modern 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: A Sense of Doctrine: Metaphors of Sensing the Divine CHAIR: Dr Abigail Shinn (University of York)
BS/008

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

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

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
The Berrick Saul Building Foyer
1530 PARALLEL SESSION 3

Panel 1: Propaganda and Pain: Sensing (Pseudo)Martyrdom and Persecution CHAIR: Dr Helen Smith (University of York)
The Bowland Auditorium

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): Confessional Discourse and Sensibility in Missionary Sources Regarding Early Modern 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)
BS/008

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: Dr Amritesh Singh (University of York)
The Treehouse

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
The Bowland Auditorium
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
The Berrick Saul Building Foyer

0930 PARALLEL SESSION 4

Panel 1: Natural and Occult Philosophies: Number Symbolism, Colour Spectrums, and Pyramidal Symmetry CHAIR: Andrew Cheetham (University of Huddersfield)
BS/008

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: Dr Nicky Hallett (University of Sheffield)
The Bowland Auditorium

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, 1599-1625
Panel 3: Pathological Bodies, Sacred Souls: Perception, Anatomy, and Medicine  
CHAIR: Dr Sophie Weeks (University of York)  
*The Treehouse*

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


**1100 COFFEE & BISCUITS**  
*The Berrick Saul Building Foyer*

**1130 PARALLEL SESSION 5**

Panel 1: Sensing Scripture: Experiencing Devotional Texts  
CHAIR: Elizabeth Swann (University of York)  
*The Bowland Auditorium*

Eyal Poleg (University of Oxford): Experiencing Scriptures

Lucy Razzall (University of Cambridge): ‘One Rich Handfull’: Sensing the Book in Post-Reformation England

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

Panel 2: Sensing Medieval Parish Churches  
CHAIR: Dr Kate Giles (University of York)  
*BS/008*

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 CHAIR: Emilie Murphy (University of York)
The Treehouse

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
The Berrick Saul Building Foyer

1400 PARALLEL SESSION 6

Panel 1: Sensory Experiences in Seventeenth-Century New France CHAIR: Professor Chris Woolgar (University of Southampton)
The Treehouse

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”: Re-reading ‘Sacred Boundaries’ in Seventeenth-Century New France

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


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: Dr Michele Campopiano (University of York)

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

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
The Berrick Saul Building Foyer

1600 PARALLEL SESSION 7

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

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)
The Bowland Auditorium

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: Touching the Sacred: Women, Needlework and Conversion CHAIR: Dr Laura Crombie

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

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

Helen Smith (University of York): Touching Faith: Feeling Conversion in the Late Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries

1730 PITSTOP

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

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

1900 INFORMAL DINNER TBA