

# **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 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*

**1815 WINE RECEPTION**

*The Treehouse*

**1930 CONFERENCE DINNER**

**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 Pyramidical 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

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

**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)**

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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*

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: 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**