Victorian Tactile Imagination, Birkbeck, 19-20 July 2013

Programme

Day 1, Friday 19 July
9.00-9.30  Registration. MAL 415
9.30-9.45  Welcome. MAL 421
9.45-10.45 Plenary 1. MAL 421
10.45-11.00 Coffee. MAL 415
11.00-12.30 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: Dr Melanie Keene (University of Cambridge). 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”
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*

**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: Dr Carolyn Burdett (Birkbeck). MAL 251
- 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”

**SESSION 3**


3.30-5.00 a. Touching text and image: The Rossetti circle. Chair: Dr Tara Puri (Warwick University). 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 & 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: Dr Rachel Snow (University of South Carolina Upstate). 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: Dr David McAllister (Birkbeck). 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”
   - Sarah Ross (Durham University), “The Politics of Touch in Gaskell’s *North and South*”

5.00-6.00  **Plenary 2. MAL 421**
   - Professor Gillian Beer (University of Cambridge), “Dream Touch”
   *Chair: Dr Santanu Das (King’s College, University of London)*

6.00-7.30  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*

7.45-10.00  Conference Dinner
   *Tas Restaurant, 22 Bloomsbury Street*
   *Please note that pre-booking is required for this event, for which there are limited spaces.*

Day 2, Saturday 20 July

9.15-9.45  **Registration. MAL 417**

9.45-10.45  **Plenary 3. MAL 421**
   - Dr Constance Classen (author of *The Deepest Sense: A Cultural History of Touch*), “Victorian Intimacies: Love, Death, and the British Museum”
   *Chair: Professor David Howes (Concordia University, Montreal; Concordia Centre for Sensory Studies)*

10.45-11.00  **Coffee. MAL 417**

11.00-12.30  **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), “Connecting the Senses: Natural History and the British Museum in the Stereoscopic Magazine”
   • Professor 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 Braddon”
   • 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”

12.30-1.30 LUNCH. MAL 417

1.30-3.00 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”
• Dr Carolyn W. de la L. Oulton (Canterbury Christ Church University), “Cruel Cities in ‘Geoffrey’s Wife’ and ‘The Fawn Gloves’”
• 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’”

3.30- Coffee. MAL 417
3.45

3.45- Plenary 4. MAL 421
4.45  Professor Hilary Fraser (Birkbeck, University of London), “The Language of Touch in Victorian Art Criticism”  
Chair: Dr Heather Tilley (Newcastle University)

4.45- Roundtable. MAL 421
6.00  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: Professor Lynda Nead (Birkbeck, University of London).

6.00- Conference close
6.15