

The Centre for Sensory Studies is pleased to present

THE FALL SEMESTER SENSORY STUDIES RESEARCH SEMINAR

‘BORN TO INCARNATE MY WOUND’: (Dis)abilities and Haptics in a Modern World (1880-1950)

Speaker: Piet Devos, Postdoctoral fellow, Centre for Sensory Studies, Concordia University

The Frenchman Joe Bousquet was wounded in battle in 1918. He considered this event, which left him paraplegic, as the moment of his ‘second birth’. It was the beginning of his career as an avant-garde writer and critical observer of modern life. Bousquet’s case will serve to introduce the central claim of my research project: sensory disabilities often entail a creative reorganization of the senses, opening up unexpected aesthetic and ethical horizons. In addition to this central claim, I will discuss the selection of suitable case studies and the particular focus on haptics in the period 1880-1950.

Dr. Piet Devos has a PhD in Modern Romance Literature from the University of Groningen (The Netherlands). He himself went blind at the age of five, an experience which triggered his interest in sensory perception. In his PhD thesis, Piet developed a cultural-historical method for analyzing literary texts through the lens of contemporaneous sensory practices and discourses. From November 2015 on, he will be conducting research for his project on haptics in the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century while in residence as a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for Sensory Studies. Piet also works as a translator, particularly of French and Latin American avant-garde texts.

When: Friday, December 11, 1:00-2:30 pm

Where: Room H-1154, Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve W.
(Metro Guy-Concordia)

Open to the public. Bring your lunch!

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