The Centre for Sensory Studies is pleased to present

THE FALL SEMESTER SENSORY STUDIES RESEARCH SEMINAR

Defining and Subverting the Secular: Latter-day Saint Temples, Undergarments, and the Perforated Borders of the Sacred

Speaker: Dr. David Holland, Harvard Divinity School

Latter-day Saint temples draw particularly stark lines between the secular and the sacred. They form a boundary around the highest expressions of Mormon faith, sequestering them from a profane world. This border is reinforced by the landscaping, architecture, and admission processes of the temple. However, even as the temples reify the idea of a secular-sacred dualism, the underclothing that Latter-day Saints refer to as the “temple garment” is worn daily outside the temple. These vestments cross the barrier that the temple otherwise works to establish, but they do so invisibly, thus cultivating a particular kind of link between the holy and the profane, one defined by quiet incursion rather than explicit confrontation. This talk will analyze the ways in which Mormon temple worship works both to reinforce and transgress the sacred-secular dualism of modernity and considers what that means for the Latter-day Saint.

Dr. David Holland serves as Associate Professor of North American Religious History at Harvard Divinity School. His first book, Sacred Borders: Continuing Revelation and Canonical Restraint in Early America, was published by Oxford University Press in 2011. He is now completing a comparative study of Mary Baker Eddy and Ellen White, the founders of Christian Science and Seventh-day Adventism, to appear from Yale University Press.

**When:** Wednesday, 11 November 1:00-2:30 pm  
**Where:** Room LB-1019, Library Building, 1400 de Maisonneuve W.  (Metro Guy-Concordia)

Open to the public. Bring your lunch!

www.centreforsensorystudies.org