

CENTRE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN SOCIETY AND CULTURE

UNCOMMON SENSES III: BACK TO THE FUTURE OF THE SENSES –
KEYNOTE II

THE FUTURE OF TOUCH

Thursday May 7, 2021

1:30 – 3 p.m.

Exclusively via ZOOM video conference

What makes touch a crucial area of investigation today? This talk will explore how touch has gone from being a background sense, little studied and little regarded, to being the breakthrough sense of the future. The subject matter will be divided into a broad triptych covering the themes of *borders, fields, and forces*. Topics to be probed include our preoccupation with tactile regulation, the rise of haptic and sensory technologies, and our manipulation of the natural world. Cross-cultural perspectives will bring out global impacts and local responses generated by the tangible ways in which our world is being reshaped. As we come to grips with our new life on the edge, a touch-minded approach is essential for understanding the concrete consequences of our attitudes and actions, and for delving into future realms of embodied experience.

Constance Classen

Constance Classen is one of the founders of the field of sensory studies. She is the author of *The Museum of the Senses: Experiencing Art and Collections* (Bloomsbury 2017), *The Deepest Sense: A Cultural History of Touch* (University of Illinois Press 2012), and the co-author of *Ways of Sensing: Understanding the Senses in Society* (Routledge 2014), among other works. She is also the editor of *The Book of Touch* (Routledge 2020) and the six-volume *Cultural History of the Senses* (Bloomsbury 2014). Her award-winning work has been translated into multiple languages. Recently, Dr. Classen has been contributing to an SSHRC-funded research project exploring sensory design from critical and cross-cultural perspectives.

This international, interdisciplinary, multi- and intersensory conference is co-sponsored by the Concordia Centre for Sensory Studies.

For further information please contact us at senses@concordia.ca

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