

# Emotion, Sense, Experience in British Art and Architecture

22-24 June 2023  
Online

Organizers: Cigdem Talu  
(McGill University) and  
Sara Honarmand Ebrahimi  
(Goethe Universität Frankfurt  
am Main)

Sponsored by the North  
American Chapter on the  
History of Emotion  
(NACHE).



**NACHE**

# Emotion, Sense, Experience in British Art and Architecture

How can we revise the history of British art and architecture through the lens of the histories of emotions and senses? What can the history of British art and architecture add to our understanding of the histories of emotions and senses? The *Emotion, Sense, Experience* conference takes these questions as provocations and points of departure, specifically focusing on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It will showcase existing and ongoing research on the history of emotions, senses, and experiences in British art and architecture and assist cross-disciplinary correspondences while opening new and innovative possibilities for future scholarship.

Many historians of British art and architecture have embraced the promises of the history of emotions and senses in intersections with histories of childhood, medicine and health, religion, empire, race, and gender, while others have discussed how the histories of emotions and senses are like a continuation/development/sophistication of their work on experience. They agree that focusing on senses and emotions offers more nuanced discussions of why historical actors did what they did. It also provides a bridge between understanding structures and intentions and the individual (and collective) agency and experience of historical actors. It thus helps capture some complex - multivalent, changing, and unexpected - experiences of buildings that otherwise remain impossible to attend to. Nevertheless, their work rarely comes up in discussions on revising British art and architectural history. Thus, facilitating a platform for scholarly exchange and dialogue is long overdue.

# Day one – 22/06/2023

**14:00-14:30 CET (13:00-13:30 BST / 8-8:30 AM EDT)**

**Cigdem Talu and Sara Honarmand Ebrahimi**

Welcome and Introduction

**14:30-16:00 CET (13:30-15:00 BST / 8:30-10 AM EDT)**

Panel 1: Gendered Experiences of Architecture

Chair: Cigdem Talu (McGill University)

**Sigrid de Jong (ETH Zurich)**

Enchantment and eloquence: Helen Maria Williams' Parisian experiences

**Rosamund Lily West (University College London)**

'Planning as panacea': the Housing and sculpture of the post-war London County Council

**Anne Hultzsch (ETH Zurich)**

What I think of it as a woman': Sophie von La Roche Writing on Architecture in the 1780s

**Discussion**

**16:00-16:15 CET (15:00-15:15 BST / 10-10:15 AM EDT)**

**Break**

**16:15-17:45 CET (15:15-16:45 BST / 10:15-11:45 EDT)**

Panel 2: Childhood Experiences and Spaces

Chair: Stephanie Olsen (Tampere University)

**Jane Hamlett (Royal Holloway, University of London)**

'The Modern Scrapbook': children's album making and emotions in early twentieth-century England

**Roy Kozlovsky (Tel Aviv University)**

Surveying interiority: postwar architecture and children's emotions

**Harriet Atkinson (University of Brighton)**

"Losing happy dreamland" - children as the focus of World War two propaganda in Britain

**Discussion**

# Day two – 23/06/2023

**14:45-16:15 CET (13:45-15:15 BST / 8:45-10:15 AM EDT)**

Panel 1: Experiencing Health(care) Spaces

Chair: Sara Honarmand Ebrahimi (Goethe University Frankfurt am Main)

**Agnes Arnold-Forster (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)**

The emotional landscape of the contemporary English hospitals

**Melis Sulos (City University of New York)**

Where Pain meets Pride: Children's Palace as a Space of Encounters in the first decade of the Turkish Republic

**Christine Slobogin (Johns Hopkins University)**

On the margins: Dickie Orpen's (1914-2008) surgical ward humour and marginalia

**Discussion**

**16:15-16:30 CET (15:15-15:30 BST / 10:15-10:30 AM EDT)**

**Break**

**16:30-18:00 CET (15:30-17:00 BST / 10:30 AM-12 PM EDT)**

Panel 2: Feeling and Sensing Imperial Spaces

Chair: Keith Bresnahan (OCAD University)

**Mobeen Hossain (Trinity College Dublin)**

Space, smell and self-fashioning: Urban planning and modern living in British India

**Sneha Krishnan (University of Oxford)**

English Gardens for Modern Girls: Experiments with Hostels in early 20th Century India

**Padma Maitland (Cal Poly University)**

Emotional fragments: Sensing the past through the material remnants of the Buddha in India

**Discussion**

# Day three – 24/06/2023

**13:00-14:30 CET (12:00-13:30 BST / 7-8:30 AM EDT)**

Panel 1: Experiencing Religious Architecture

Chair: Sara Honarmand Ebrahimi (Goethe University Frankfurt am Main)

**Lisa Godson (National College of Art and Design, Dublin)**

'How the Crowd Felt' - Designing Mass Religious Events in the Irish Free State

**Catherine-Rose Hailstone (Durham University)**

The Terror of God and A Dazzling Brightness: Experiencing the Religious Architecture of Clermont Cathedral Through the Eyes of Gregory of Tours

**Donna Rose (University College Dublin)**

Documenting, Managing and Interpreting the Sensitive Heritage of Ireland's Magdalene laundries

**Discussion**

**14:30-15:00 CET (13:30-14:00 BST / 8:30-9 AM EDT)**

**Break**

**15:00-16:30 CET (14:00-15:30 BST / 9-10:30 AM EDT)**

Panel 2: Comparative Experience of Architecture

Chair: Anna Jacqueline Pravdica (University of Warwick)

**Keith Bresnahan (OCAD University)**

Curious, and not angry: British and French ruin-tourism in the wake of the Paris Commune

**Semra Horuz (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)**

Eye of the Beholder: European Cities in the Nineteenth-Century Ottoman and Japanese Travelogues

**Kavita Kulkarni (Princeton University)**

Leave the people live their own lives": White emotions as data in the architecture of integration

**17:00-18:30 CET (16:00-17:30 BST / 11 AM-12:30 PM EDT)**

Roundtable

Moderator: Cigdem Talu (McGill University)

**Rob Boddice (Tampere University)**

**Sigrid de Jong (ETH Zurich)**

**Mobeen Hussein (Trinity College Dublin)**

**Carsten Ruhl (Goethe University Frankfurt am Main)**

**Xine Yao (University College London)**