

## TRACK 5

### ENGLISH VERSION

# Disentangling technoscience and sensory experience

#### Convenors:

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The last decades have witnessed a growing interest in multi-sensorial and multimodal aspects of science and technology: the STS focus on materiality, embodiment and expertise calls for an increase of attention on scientists', engineers', doctors', patients', designers', users' sensory engagement: what kind of sensory experience is deployed in knowledge making practice? And in turn, what are the possibilities, challenges, vulnerabilities and responsibilities offered by new sensory technologies? And how are these two levels entangled in everyday practice? The body and the senses play a key role in coordinating activities, and scientific practice makes no exception. "Seeing", for example, has been often described as a social and cultural activity oriented by pre-existing professional frames (for example Vertesi 2014). Indeed, "professional vision" means to communally construct the way to see the world and find in it the relevant properties of objects in complex perceptual fields (1994, 1996). In this sense, vision is a discursive and gestural practice, historically structured, relationally organized and mediated by different artefacts. With the exception of the visual, nevertheless, senses are still understudied in STS and in social sciences in general. The so called "sensory turn" in anthropology has led not to consider smell, touch and taste as individual sensations (i.e. neurophysiological inputs to be located in someone's head), but as interactionally and intersubjectively organized (Alac 2009, Shapin 2016, Mondada 2019). In this track, we invite contributions that explicitly move beyond the analysis of the visual and draw attention to the multisensory aspects of science and technology in order to place the embodied engagement with technoscientific practices back into a cultural environment that is both socially and materially organised.

Drawing on previous work in STS, anthropology, history, ethnomethodology, multimodal conversation analysis, philosophy, semiotic and cultural studies, this panel offers an opportunity for scholars to explore themes such as:

- Sensory studies in STS
- Mutual shaping of sensory experience, scientific knowledge and technology
- Interfaces between touch, smell, taste, hearing and sight
- Sensory experience in digital technologies
- (De)standardization of sensory practices
- Remote sensing practices
- Sensitivity, sensibility and vulnerability
- Perceptions of the environment
- Decolonization of sensory experience
- Anthropology of science and the body
- Food, social justice and technological fixes between taste, tradition and science
- Disability, prosthetic and the senses – vulnerabilities and potentialities