

# CULTURES OF SKIN

## SKIN IN LITERATURE AND CULTURE: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> July 2023

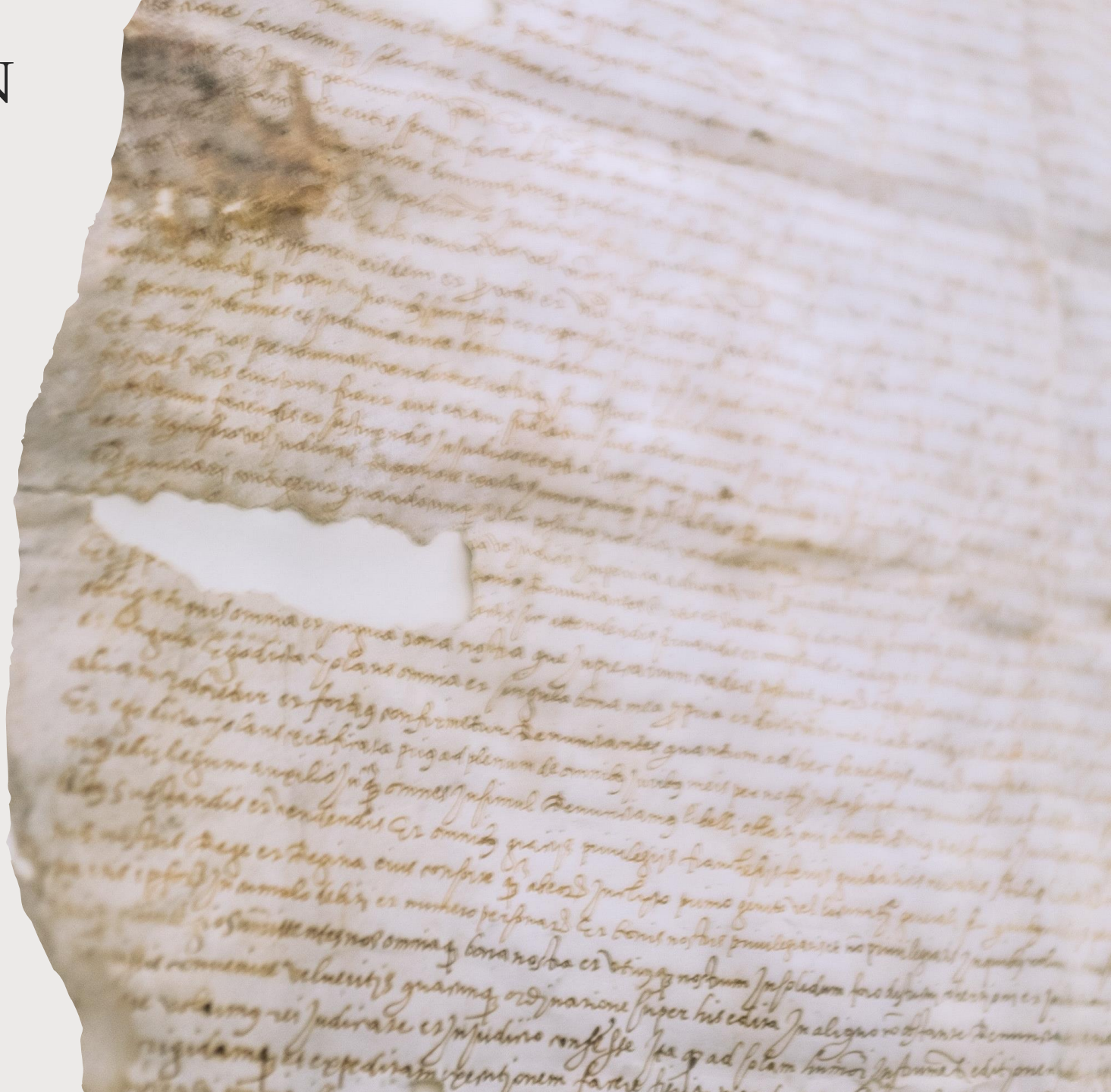
*A 2-day hybrid conference*

*University of Surrey, UK*

Organised by Dr Charlotte Mathieson (Surrey) and Dr Nicole Nyffenegger (Bern),  
co-convenors of the Cultural Skin Studies network

<https://www.culturalskinstudies.com>

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**Cultures of Skin: Skin in Literature and Culture, Past, Present, Future**

**7-8 July 2023, University of Surrey, UK**

Stag Hill Campus

All sessions take place in LTB (Lecture Theatre Block, Room B)

**Zoom links are provided via email to all registered attendees**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

6:30 PM: meet on campus to walk to optional informal welcome dinner at 7 PM at The Weyside, Guildford

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

8.45	<i>Arrival and welcome</i>	<i>Tea and coffee</i>
09.30-11.00	<b>1: Skin Practices</b>	<b>Chair: Lena Mattheis</b> (University of Surrey) <b>Germaine Stockbridge</b> (University of Portsmouth): Glass skin is classed skin - A discursive exploration of “expensive” skin as a barrier to social mobility <b>Amit Kestenbaum</b> (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Scrubbing or wiping? Practices of bathing and skin cleaning in nineteenth century French Art ( <i>virtual</i> ) <b>Jack Moss</b> (University of Nottingham): “You Don’t Want To Be Older Than 17; You Start Decaying After That”: Boots the Chemist, Teenage Sociability and the Sale of Youth Cosmetics, 1968-72
11.00-11.15	<i>Short break</i>	

11.15-12.45	<b>2: Writing Skin</b>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Chair: Lucy Ella Rose</b> (University of Surrey)</p> <p><b>Stephanie Weber</b> (University of Vienna): “Use my body like the pages of a book.” (Sk)inscriptions and Somatexts in Peter Greenaway’s <i>The Pillowbook</i> and Anne Leinonen’s <i>The Skinner</i></p> <p><b>Silvia Gerlsbeck and Carmen Dextl</b> (RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau / University of Regensburg): Epistemologies of Skin: Negotiating Racial Capitalism and Neocolonial Ecologies in Caribbean Literature (<i>virtual</i>)</p> <p><b>Waldemar Isak</b> (Humboldt University of Berlin): “A reminder of our un-oneness”: Anne Boyer’s <i>The Undying</i> and the skin of autofiction</p> <p><b>Yangjung Lee</b> (University of California, Los Angeles): The Creole Skin in Anthony Trollope’s <i>Jamaica</i> (<i>virtual</i>)</p>
12.45- 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch provided</i>
14.00-15.30	<b>3: Disrupted Skin</b>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Chair: Liz Bahs</b> (University of Surrey)</p> <p><b>Frauke Harms</b> (Bielefeld University): “A solid unbreachable surface”: Unruly Skins and the (Dis)integrated Immigrant Body in T.C. Boyle’s <i>Tortilla Curtain</i></p> <p><b>Christine Schwanecke</b> (University of Graz): Revealing wounds and scars: Broken skin in Shakespeare’s tragedy (<i>virtual</i>)</p> <p><b>Charlotte Mathieson</b> (University of Surrey): “Bitten by the Sunshine”: Reading skin through sunburn in D.H. Lawrence’s <i>The Trespasser</i></p> <p><b>Riya Chawla</b> (Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur): A Gendered and Affective Response to Burning Skin (<i>virtual</i>)</p>

15.30-15.45	<i>Short break</i>	<i>Tea and coffee</i>
15.45-17.15	<b>4: (Mis)Reading Skin</b>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Chair: Judith Kaup</b> (University of Surrey)</p> <p><b>Reju Mathew</b> (National Institute of Technology Calicut): Untouchable Dark Skins and the Myths of Casteism: Colourism in Indian Films and Advertisements</p> <p><b>Hannah Piercy</b> (University of Bern): (Mis-)Reading Skin in Middle English Romance: Race, Passing, Power (<i>virtual</i>)</p> <p><b>Deirdre Osborne</b> (Goldsmiths, University of London): “Getting Under Our Skin” – The Pellicular Poetics of SuAndi’s <i>The Story of M</i> and Leah Purcell’s <i>The Drover’s Wife</i></p> <p><b>Katherine Dauge-Roth</b> (Bowdoin College): Indigenous Skin: Reading Native American Skin Colour in Seventeenth-Century France (<i>virtual</i>)</p>
17.15-18.15	<b>Cultural Skin-tervention</b>	<b>Freya Verlander</b> (University of Warwick) and <b>Dr Simon Tso</b> (South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust)
19.00	<i>Dinner at Wates house*</i>	<i>Online networking option for virtual participants</i>

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

09.00-10.30	<b>5: Presenting Skin</b>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Chair: Nicole Nyffenegger</b> (University of Bern)</p> <p><b>Josephine Spelsberg</b> (King’s College London): The Art of Empathy: Skin Flaying and Abject Character in Medieval Literature</p> <p><b>Sachini Seneviratne</b> (University College London/Open University of Sri Lanka): The Mimesis of Alterity in <i>The White Devil</i> (virtual)</p> <p><b>Sara Fernandes Crouch</b> (University of Melbourne): “She Paints Very High”: Grotesquely Fashioned Skin in Frances Burney’s <i>Evelina</i> (1778)</p> <p><b>Kelly Richman-Abdou</b> (University of Birmingham): Immaculate Conceptions: The ‘Black Madonna’ and the Modernisation of Sacred Maternity by African American Artists (1925–1945) (virtual)</p>
10.30-10.45	<i>Short break</i>	<i>Tea and coffee</i>
10.45-12.15	<b>6: Skin as Thing</b>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Chair: Charlotte Mathieson</b> (University of Surrey)</p> <p><b>Lily Freeman-Jones</b> (Queen Mary University of London): Epidermal ecologies in early modern drama (virtual)</p> <p><b>Liza Foley</b> (National College of Art and Design): Scrutinising Skin: Tracing the Animal in Early Modern Leather Gloves (virtual)</p> <p><b>Mae Losasso</b> (University of York): Sounding Silent Skin: Sensuous surfaces in the poetry of Barbara Guest</p> <p><b>Nadine Böhm-Schnitker</b> (Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg): Skin-Deep Still Lives: Taxidermy, Trauma and Gendered Ecologies in Kate Mosse’s <i>The Taxidermist’s Daughter</i> (2014) and Other Stories (virtual)</p>

<i>12.15-13.30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch provided</i>
<b>13.30-15.00</b>	<b>7: Sensing Skin</b>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Chair:</b> Nicole Nyffenegger (University of Bern)</p> <p><b>Caroline Pollentier</b> (University of Sorbonne Nouvelle): Haptic Minds: Fictions of Excarnation in the Long Twentieth Century</p> <p><b>Theresa Flanigan</b> (Texas Tech University): Art and the Science of Skin: Late Medieval Medical Science and the Visual Representation of Skin in Giotto's Arena Chapel Frescoes (<i>virtual</i>)</p> <p><b>Sarah Licht</b> (Georgetown University): Affective Transmission and Haptic Contact in <i>Middlemarch</i></p> <p><b>Freya Verlander</b> (University of Warwick): Eating Skin in Live Artworks (<i>virtual</i>)</p>
<i>15.00-15.15</i>	<i>Short break</i>	<i>Tea and coffee</i>
15.15-16.15	<b>Roundtable</b>	<p><i>Reflections on the conference, the growth of the field and where next for skin studies</i></p> <p>Panellists:  Craig Koslofsky (University of Illinois), Caroline Pollentier (University of Sorbonne Nouvelle), Charlotte Mathieson (University of Surrey), Nicole Nyffenegger (University of Bern)</p>

16.15-16.45	<b>Closing thoughts</b>	<p><i>Reflections on outcomes from the conference and future plans for publication, funding opportunities, and the Cultural skin studies network</i></p> <p>Charlotte Mathieson, Nicole Nyffenegger</p>
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The Cultural Skin Studies network can be found online at <https://culturalskinstudies.com/>– if you would like to join our mailing list, and receive more news about the quarterly reading group, please email [culturalskinstudies@gmail.com](mailto:culturalskinstudies@gmail.com)

We can be found on Twitter at @culturalskin and the conference hashtag is #culturalskin23

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