



## Call for Papers

### Terra Haptica #4

#### **Visually impairment: cognition, culture & mediation**

Issue edited by Philippe Claudet & Danyelle Valente

The World Health Organization estimates that 285 million people in the world are visually impaired. Among them, 39 million are totally blind<sup>1</sup>. This amount will increase in coming decades due to ageing of the population.

What are the main barriers, environmental and material, impeding access to culture, knowledge, and education for children and adults with visual impairments in our societies? How can recent findings in the fields of perception, language, brain research, and in production and recognition of tactile pictures by blind people, improve practices of intervention and conception of new devices of mediation in museums, schools, libraries, etc.? How can new inclusive horizons and methods of caring be developed, replacing notions of lack, sickness and impairment with perspectives encompassing difference, citizenship, social participation and accessibility? What are the new theoretical and methodological bases of research in the field of visual impairment?

The journal *Terra Haptica*, created by Les Doigts Qui Rêvent (Dreaming Fingers) in 2010, associated since 2012 with the ACTE Institute (UMR 8218 – Paris1, Panthéon-Sorbonne University) within the framework of the research program “Haptic communication”, focuses on the socio-cultural, communicational and cognitive aspects of the visual impairment. Supported by a scientific committee, each issue is composed of two sections: a section devoted to Research, in which articles are submitted to a review committee; and a section devoted to “Reports of experience”, providing a voice for practitioners and users.

This call for papers is intended for researchers or practitioners whose work contributes to the enlargement and enrichment of knowledge in the field of visual impairment and improvement in the development of practices which are inclusive and accessible in cultural, social, and educational settings. The papers shall, in priority, concern the following topics:

#### **1) Visual impairment, cognition and learning**

- Research on touch perception and exploratory strategies.
- Studies on language, categorisation, and information processing when sight is lacking.
- Research and development of new devices and new technologies and innovative practices improving learning and access to knowledge for persons with visual impairments.

## **2) Visual impairment, artistic and cultural mediation**

- Studies on creation of tactile drawings and pictures by blind people and how these are received by other individuals who are blind.
- Research on use and conception of innovative tactile devices and new technologies improving access to visual content at school, in libraries, museums and cultural centres.
- Studies on cultural and artistic events valuing visual impairment and alternative forms of creation.
- Studies related to hegemony of sight in the field of art and highlighting of an aesthetic peculiar to touch (haptic and multisensorial aesthetic).

## **3) Visual impairment, culture, history and society**

- Landmark events in the history of blindness.
- Political and legislative aspects of inclusion and social participation of persons with visual impairments.
- The representation of blindness in the media, deconstruction of the negative view about visual impairment.
- Studies belonging to the field of Disability Studies, centred on the change of the norms to taking to account the specific experience of blindness.
- Research valuing the voice of blind people, their testimonies and their experience.

## **Scientific Committee**

Bernard Darras, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne /France  
Charles Gardou, Université Lumière-Lyon 2/France  
Édouard Gentaz, Université de Genève/ Switzerland  
Yvette Hatwell, Université de Grenoble/France  
Virgínia Kastrup, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro/Brazil  
Bertrand Verine, Université de Montpellier/France  
Annie Vinter, Université de Bourgogne/France  
Suzette Wright, American Printing House for the Blind/USA

## **Schedule:**

**July 1st, 2013:** deadline to 400 words abstracts proposals (in French or English) to the to the following email address : [terrahaptica@gmail.com](mailto:terrahaptica@gmail.com)

Abstract proposals should be sent in **two** files:

- 1-an anonymous abstract with a provisional title
- 2-the same abstract with the author's name, University/Institution, Main research subjects or relevant publications, and the public e-mail address.

**Important:** report if your paper is intended for section "Research" OR "Reports of experience"

**August, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013:** notification about selected proposals.

**September 15, 2012:** deadline for full paper (in French or English).

**November 15, 2013:** papers accepted/revised (peer review method).

**December 15, 2013:** deadline for final version.  
**January 15, 2014:** Terra Haptica #4 to be released.

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<sup>1</sup> Facts and figures, blindness and visual impairment. Available at :  
[http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/blindness/blindness\\_facts/fr/index8.html](http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/blindness/blindness_facts/fr/index8.html) , access December 4, 2012.