

ADAPTATIONS IN SENSORY & MATERIAL METHODS IN COVID-19 TIMES

IN-TOUCH-DIGITAL.COM

 **@IN_TOUCH_UCL**



IN-TOUCH IN COVID-19 TIMES

- Introducing In-Touch
- Reframing our methods and re-orientating our analysis
- Taking a 'long view' of change and continuity of touch
- Five new case studies on social experiences and narratives of touch in Covid-19 times
- Amplification of interdisciplinarity

PROFESSOR CAREY JEWITT





ADAPTING DESIGN- LED METHODS FOR RESEARCHING LONELINESS, TOUCH & DIGITAL TOUCH IN COVID

LILI GOLMOHAMMADI



EXPLORING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN TOUCH, LONELINESS & DIGITAL TOUCH:

WEEK 1

WORKSHOP 1
TOUCH & LONELINESS
(1.5 HRS)

WEEK 2

WORKSHOP 2
DIGITAL TOUCH &
LONELINESS, PART I
(1.5 HRS)

WEEK 3

WORKSHOP 3
DIGITAL TOUCH &
LONELINESS, PART II
(1.5 HRS)

DIGITAL PROBES
WEEK 1
(SELECT 1-2 TASKS)

DIGITAL PROBES
WEEK 2
(SELECT 1-2 TASKS)

PRE-PANDEMIC
2019

Open Platform:
Mapping Loneliness

Does touch matter in experiences of loneliness?

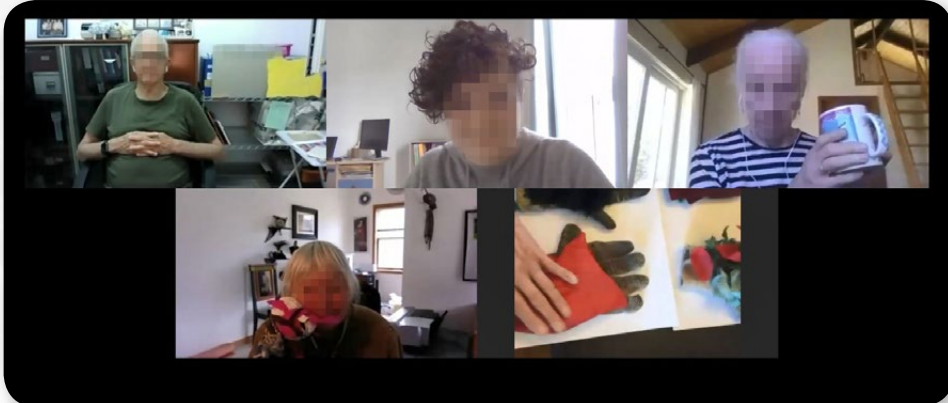
Reading Room (Level 2)
Drop in 15:00-16:00
27th November

Loneliness & Digital Touch

[Home](#)[About](#)[Digital Probes Tasks](#)[Digital Probes Introduction](#)[Workshops](#)

Investigating connections between touch, loneliness and emerging digital touch technologies.





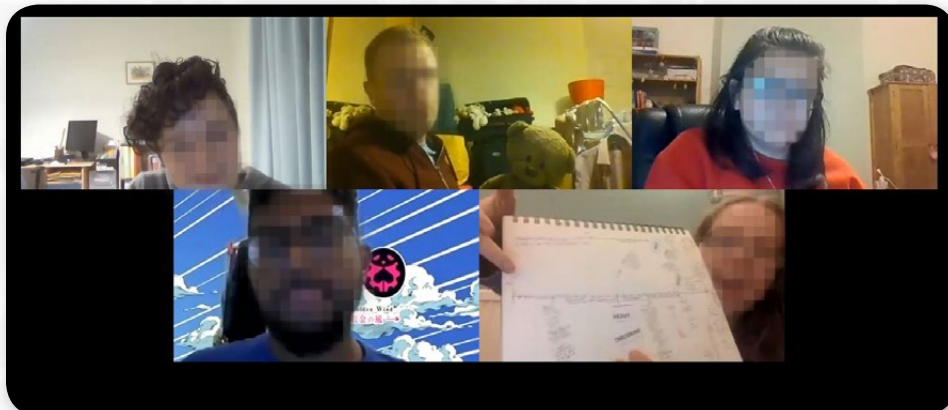
OVER-70S

X 2 GROUPS



WFH AGED 25-55

X 2 GROUPS



YPS AGED 18-24

X 2 GROUPS

RECRUITMENT



CULTURAL PROBES

IMAGE CREDIT: WILLIAM GAVER, 2001, WWW.HCI.COM

News

Opinion

Sport

Culture

Lifestyle

More ▾

World ► Europe US Americas Asia Australia Middle East Africa Inequality Global development

**Life in the time of
corona**
Coronavirus

● This article is more than 9 months old

How long does coronavirus live on different surfaces?

Coronavirus RNA was found on a cruise ship 17 days after passengers left. What are the risks of handling packages and groceries?

- [Coronavirus - latest US updates](#)
- [Live global updates](#)
- [See all our coronavirus coverage](#)

Danielle Renwick

Sat 4 Apr 2020 16.25 BST



1,255

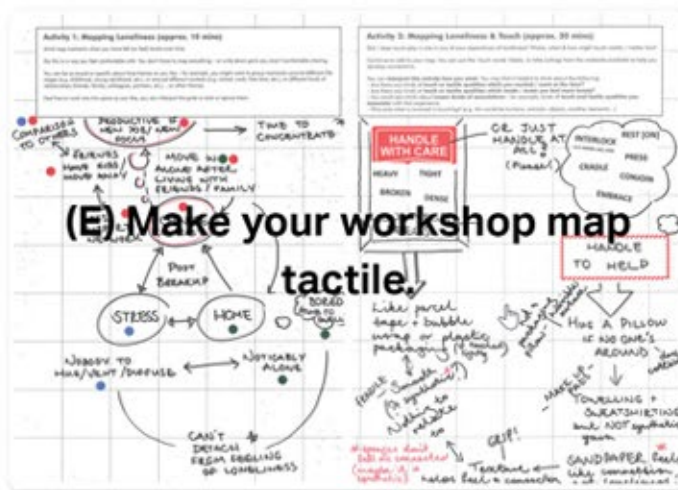
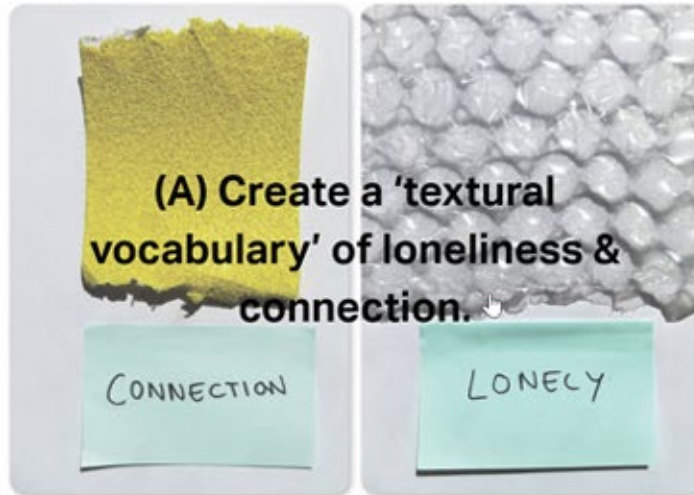
▲ [How do I know if I have coronavirus and what happens next? - video explainer](#)

Advertisement



Loneliness & Digital Touch

[Home](#) [About](#) [Digital Probes Tasks](#) [Digital Probes Introduction](#) [Workshops](#) [Contact](#)





WHEN I'VE FELT LONELY

- when in big unwieldy groups
↳ seeing others' tactics and feeling alone

- when I've felt out of my depth academically eg. at work and lots of very smart, confident people.

- when I've been doing the same thing for a long time I don't feel I'm progressing.

- when I've been in a small friendship group but have felt excluded from conversations or social occasions



- in relationships where I don't feel loyalty / commitment from the other person that matched mine.

WHEN I'VE NOT FELT LONELY

↳ "proper" hugs. feeling embraced. sleeping in small spaces is kind of similar

- when I've been able to form deep connections with 1 person or a small group of people.



Headphones listening to Spotify

- when I've been taking part in an activity like sport or music.

- when I've known I've been alone because I've actively put myself in that position eg. when travelling I ~~feel~~ rarely felt lonely - when I did I reminded myself that I'd put myself in that position.

↳ I had few possessions with me + so those I had became more meaningful



STYLING

COLLEGE DAYS
LOVELY... CINCUMSTAR
and study feathers
in comfort

PLEASURE

INSECURITY of
early teenage years
Petticoats of today
HOT. FUR. FUR.

TIGHT
AND BAY
VED
ADITS
PRIDE
WISDOM



89 pressed
flowercards
made...
dug drainer
laid paths
GARDENING



LOVELY CHILDHOOD
WOODS - NATURE
MY PASSION.

PET
JACKSON
comfort
with
Feathers



BOUGHT
MYSELF
A GIANT
TEDDY!
(my 3rd
Baby!
never
had)
X LONELY



BRED
GUINEA
PIGS...
GREAT
COMFORT
IN
CUDDLIS
FOR



MY COMFORT FUR
TEDDY... passed him
onto my daughter!



FAVOURITE DRESS
Smooth shiny red
felt contented in it
moral: BOOSTER

LONELY
EVER WITH
HUSBAND
THERE



HUSBAND VAPOR
John gave me VD
didn't tell me. Yogh
children kept me going



LOVE PULL OF
VELVET... used fabric
drapes to make lovely
curtains to live home

LONELY PRESS

ITCHY SUIT &
BONNET. wartime
and texture



LIVED IN
SATURD
LYRS
UNHAPPY.
HUSBAND
unhappy



OWNING THE
"MISS HAVESHAM"
house... rats human
hair in paper bags
LONELY DEFEAT

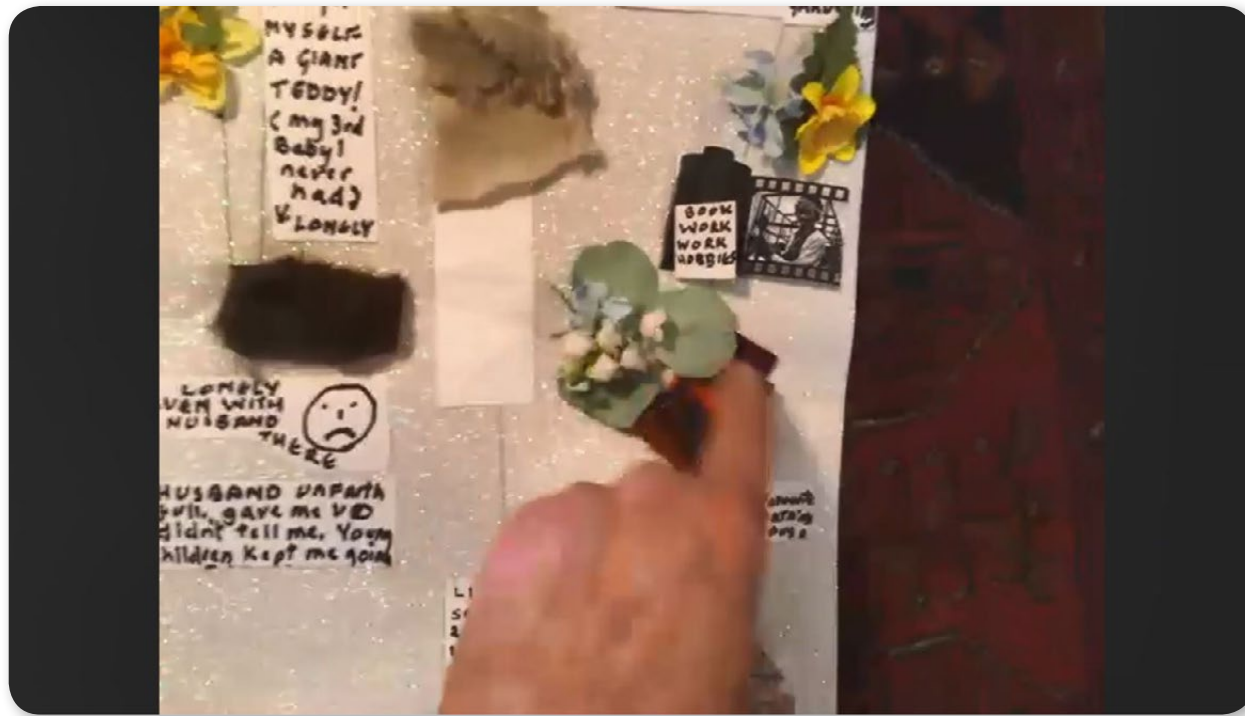
Comforting Textures That have helped me in life

HUSBAND LEFT
ME AFTER 40 YRS...
ON MY OWN...
COMFORTING TEXTURES

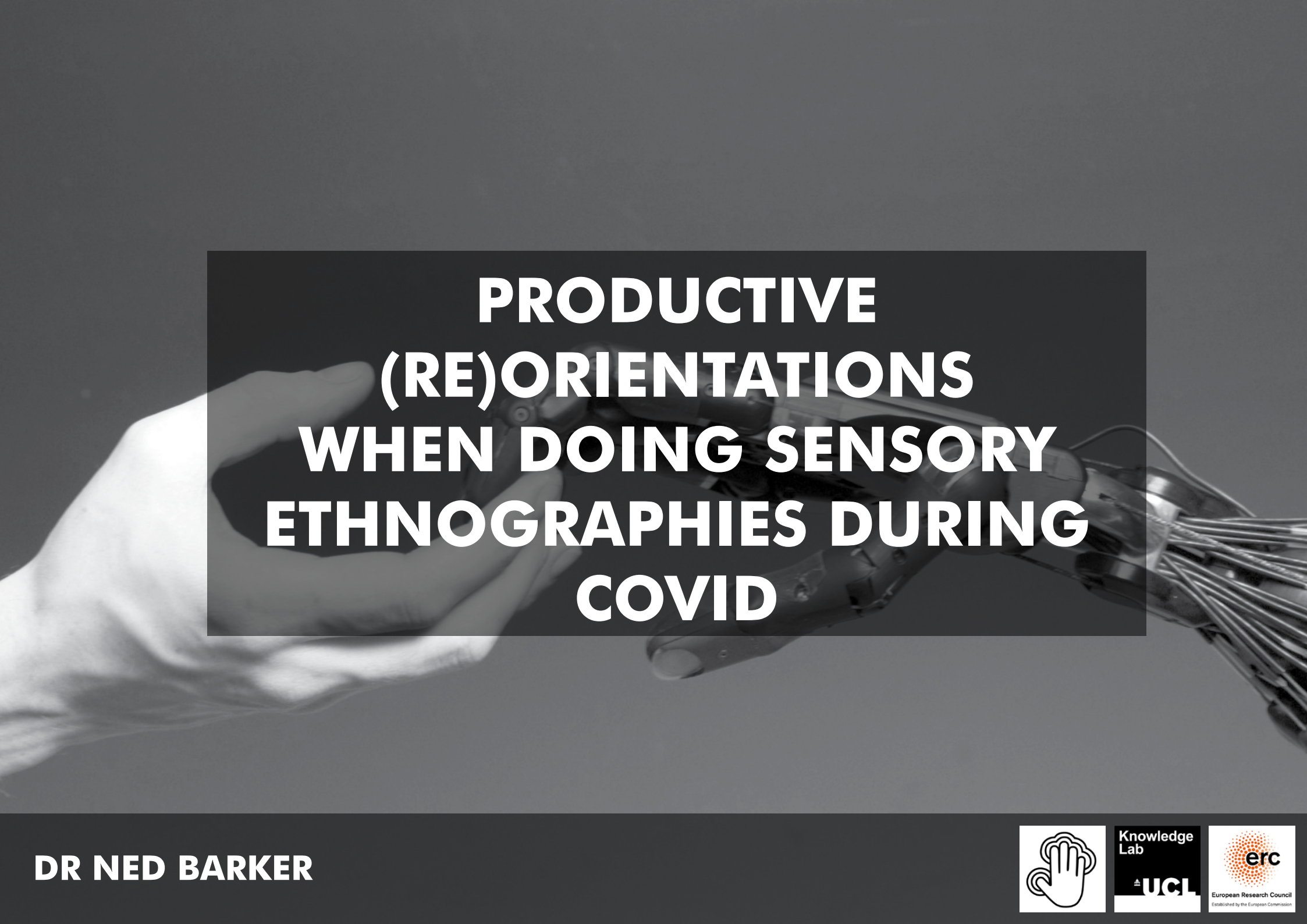
Went Hall House

LEFT A LITTLE
HOUSE... FULL OF
HUMAN HAIR ON 3 floors
MY OWN

LONELY... num 11

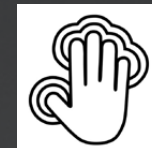




A grayscale background image showing a human hand on the left holding a black, articulated robotic hand on the right. The robotic hand has numerous thin wires extending from its wrist area. The text is overlaid on a dark rectangular area in the center.

PRODUCTIVE (RE)ORIENTATIONS WHEN DOING SENSORY ETHNOGRAPHIES DURING COVID

DR NED BARKER



PRE-LOCKDOWN DESIGN & METHODS

SITE 1: TACTILE TELEROBOTS



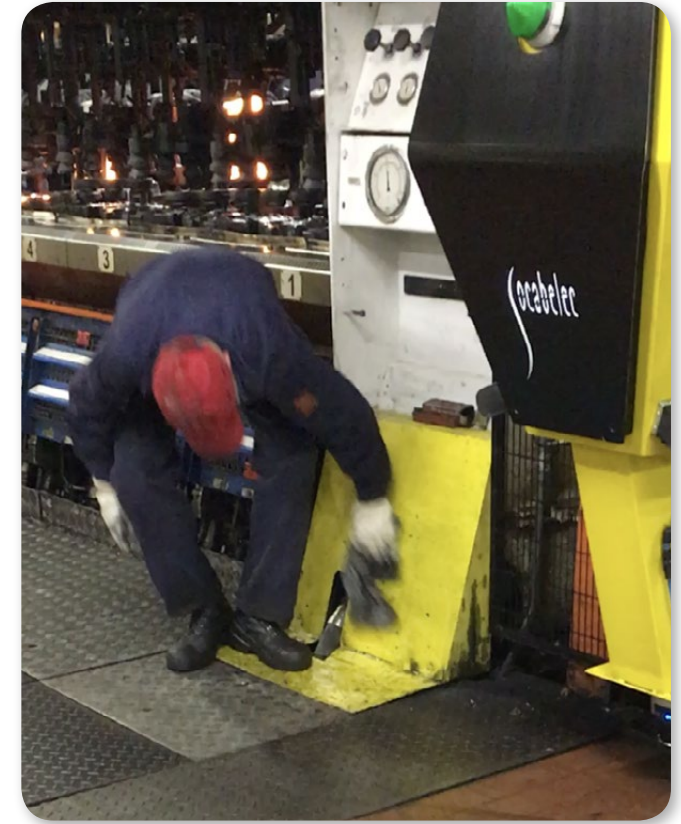
CLOSE OBSERVATIONS OF TOUCH

SITE 2: AI SORTING ROBOT



PARTICIPATE IN TOUCH

SITE 3: COLLABORATIVE ROBOT



SENSORY INTERVIEWS (IN-ACTION, WHERE POSSIBLE)

For more details see Barker, N., Jewitt, C., & Price, S. (2020). Becoming in touch with industrial robots through ethnography. *ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction*, 128–130.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3371382.3378246>

INTERRUPTION & (RE)ORIENTATION

**SITE 4: EXOSKELETON
(ANTICIPATED)**



TACTILE APPRENTICESHIP CTD...

**A SENSITIVITY TO CHANGING
CONTEXT & RETURN TO ANALYSIS**



ELEVATING THEMES TO FRAME A NEW SITE

**SITE 4: FUTURE TOUCH
(ACTUAL)**



EMBRACING THE AGILE CHARACTER OF
ETHNOGRAPHY

For more details see Barker, N., Jewitt, C., & Price, S. (2020). Becoming in touch with industrial robots through ethnography. *ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction*, 128–130.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3371382.3378246>

ONLINE SENSORY INTERVIEWS: KEEPING THE ESSENCE ALIVE



Demonstrations of intended use

Get them to illustrate some tasks they have to hand & copy where possible:

- Describe your sensation?
- How does it feel in relation to expectation?
- Does it change what you imagine you could grip?
- Do you feel that your dexterity is different?
- Manipulate duration and force of touch, describe that?
- Do you have anything heavy to lift?
- What is different between performing task assisted and not?
- Where are you feeling touch?
- Do you feel that the glove has any control over the movement/touch?
- Feeling through the body?
- Vibrations
- Relaxation and tension

Disruptions

- Can you do, or think of, anything that disrupts the smoothness of your experience?
- Turn the app up – what happens, what does it feel like?
- Can you resist against actuation?
- Any material or magnetic forces that could interfere with function or experience?
- If you are screwing something in an it threads
- Get in an awkward position
- If it is a hot day, working outside in the rain?
- Length/variability of task

ADAPTATIONS IN SENSORY MATERIAL METHODS IN COVID-19 TIMES

- Productive re-orientation – working with disruption where possible
- Re-considering the ethics of touch in Covid-19 times
- Experimenting with keeping the essence of our methods alive
- Developing 'Proxy Feelers' to access sensory
- Long view & looking back
- Exploring new ways of 'being present'
- Flexing, stretching, adapting our methods

Image credit www.unsplash.com/@imattsmart

IN-TOUCH-DIGITAL.COM

 **@IN_TOUCH_UCL**

PROFESSOR CAREY JEWITT
c.jewitt@ucl.ac.uk

DR NED BARKER
edmund.barker@ucl.ac.uk

LILI GOLMOHAMMADI
lili.golmohammadi.18@ucl.ac.uk