

## Carey Jewitt

### *IN-TOUCH: Digital Touch Communication*

I will explore multimodal digital communication and interaction as embodied and felt through a series of three case studies from the IN-TOUCH project, a five-year ERC Award on Digital touch communication.

First, 'Tactile Emoticon' which investigates how touch may be brought into the arena of remote digital communication through the design and use of a prototype digital touch device for sending and receiving touch. Second, 'Imagining Remote Personal Touch' which uses exploratory, multidisciplinary workshops and rapid prototyping to explore the past, present and socio-technological imaginations of remote digital touch communication. Third, 'The Art of Remote Contact', a case study in which we worked with artist to produce interactive artefacts presented during an exhibition that provoke digital touch experiences and reflects on the role of artists in helping shaping technology and society.

These three interconnected case studies illustrate how we are working across multimodal and sensory ethnographic perspectives, arts, design, and HCI methods. I will discuss how this interdisciplinary lens has stretched the boundaries of multimodality in productive and challenging ways, that are useful for our exploration of digital touch communication, including the education of touch sensitivities and values, capacities, and practices, and for multimodality both theoretically and methodologically.