

Dutch Touch meeting 2023, final report

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Program:

- 9:30 Walk-in with coffee and tea
- 10:00 Opening talk
- 10:30 Open Space* discussion about ideas that inspire us today
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 Demos + Posters
- 15:00 Coffee and tea
- 15:15 Next year's meeting
- 17:00 Drinks
- 18:00 End

Summary:

The 7th Dutch Touch meeting took place on the 6th of November 2023. Utrecht University hosted the meeting. Twenty participants from various fields related to touch, such as art, HCI, neuropsychology and haptonomy joined the meeting. The first activity was an open spaces discussion with the following topics: active social touch, therapeutic vs non-human CT optimal touch and funding for research. The first topic was a discussion on the relevance of active social touch existing research and how to set -up new research to explore the benefits of active social touch., the second topic was a knowledge sharing discussion between haptonomists and neuropsychologist on the effect of static and dynamic CT-optimal touches and whether the latter could be incorporated into haptotherapy. The third topic turned into a discussion on how to be more efficient with gained funding. After lunch there was time for poster presentations and live demos. Poster topic ranged from the normality and abnormality of touch scenarios explored in the lab to touch deprivation during COVID-19 . The live demos included a VR environment for touch and a wearable to help patients with arthrosis rehabilitate with haptic feedback. We ended the activities with a discussion on Dutch Touch 2024. The discussion topics were activities for the next meeting, guests and dissemination. The community also decided on a date for next year, the 8th Dutch Touch meeting will be on November 8th of 2024. The members from the University of Utrecht brought up that they want to organize the IASAT 2027 conference (International Association for the Study of Affective Touch). The Dutch Touch community will help with the organization of the conference. This will mean a number of new network and dissemination opportunities for the Dutch Touch community.