

Dutch Touch Society 6th Meeting – November 2022

On the 11th of November 2022, the 6th Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social and Affective Touch, also known as “The Dutch Touch”, was held in the Netherlands. Hosted by the University of Utrecht, this year’s meeting, as it happens every year, brought together a diverse group of researchers from the Dutch universities, designers, artist, haptic therapists and other practitioners working with touch.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to gather the entire Dutch Touch group in one physical place after several years of online and hybrid meetings. We also welcomed several new members this year. Participants had ample room to share updates on their recent work, leading to engaging discussions. Notably, Anouk Keizer from the University of Utrecht presented the findings of her longitudinal survey study on people’s touch needs, sparking thought-provoking conversations among attendees.

Following a delightful lunch, participants had an opportunity to explore the Dijkerman through a lab tour. The lab showcased various demos brought by the Dutch Touch participants and featured projects developed within the lab itself.

Moreover, this year’s meeting focus was placed on fostering collaborations withing the Dutch Touch community. As a result of a fruitful discussion, two specific areas were identified as a priority for the coming years: writing joint grant proposals for larger-scale projects within EU funding schemes, and organizing a summer school on touch in the Netherlands. The Dutch Touch community holds a unique and valuable combination of expertise, making these initiatives highly promising.

In addition, the meeting provided an opportunity to discuss and subsequently implement the new Dutch Touch Society website. We are proud to present the website, which can be accessed at <https://dutchtouchsociety.org/>.

Furthermore, we have formed a dedicated core team of organizers this year to ensure the continuity of the project, even as individuals transition to new positions.

In conclusion, the 2022 meeting of The Dutch Touch was a resounding success, and we are looking forward to the ones to come!

The Dutch Touch Organizing Team,

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