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# THE ANNUAL HARTNACK LECTURE

## HELEN STEWARD: Touch and Sensation

**Time and place:** Thursday, November 17, 12:15 – 15:00.  
Building 1324/025 (Twin Auditorium).  
The lecture is followed by a reception.

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### About the Hartnack Lecture

On the occasion of his 90th birthday, the Annual Justus Hartnack Lecture was inaugurated in gratitude to his service, and to help preserve the international outlook that Hartnack gave to the Aarhus Philosophy Department from its beginning. The honour of giving the Annual Hartnack Lecture is given to an internationally recognized and distinguished researcher, who has made outstanding contributions in philosophy.

### Abstract

In his paper, 'The Sense of Touch', Brian O'Shaughnessy argues for the striking thesis that tactile sensation is inessential to tactile perception. According to O'Shaughnessy, the tight connections between touch perception and bodily awareness render the touch sensation inessential to tactile perception of the world. In this paper, I shall try to argue both against O'Shaughnessy's argument for the thesis, and against the thesis itself, by invoking (i) some empirical findings concerning the phenomenon of 'numb touch'; (ii) considerations derived (ironically) from some of O'Shaughnessy's own arguments against the idea that blindsight is a form of perception; and (iii) John Campbell's reflections on the importance of the phenomenon of perceptual acquaintance in supplying objects for thought and knowledge. I argue that if touch is to put us in a position to think about the world beyond our own bodies, it must put us in conscious contact with that world – and in the case of touch, that means that it must involve tactile sensation.



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