The workshop explores the possibility of perceiving God through the senses, investigates sensory imagery in the experience of God in the philosophical and theological writings of Antiquity and Late Antiquity, revisits the “spiritual senses”, and questions the epistemological claims of a “sensory anthropology” in approaching Divinity.
The Sense of Divinity

“You called and cried out loud and shattered my deafness. You were radiant and resplendent, you put to flight my blindness. You were fragrant, and I drew in my breath and now pant after you. I tasted you, and I feel but hunger and thirst for you. You touched me, and I am set on fire to attain the peace which is yours.” Augustine, Confessions 10.27.38, translated by Henry Chadwick, Oxford, 2008, 201.

Saturday May 12th

9.00–9.45 Georgiana Huian (Bukarest/Bern)
The inner senses in Augustine’s Commentary on the Gospel of John

9.45–10.30 Pascal Mueller-Jourdan (Angers)
De l’unicité du sensus (μία αἴσθησις). A la racine de l’activité perceptive-une de l’âme, de Syméon le Nouveau Théologien (Xe-XIe s.) à Proclus (Ve s.)

10.30–11.00 Coffee Break

11.00–11.45 Marilena Vlad (Bukarest)
Senses in Dionysius the Areopagite

Friday May 11th

10.00–10.15 Rainer Hirsch-Luipold and Georgiana Huian
Welcome and Introduction
Sinne im Neuen Testament, in der hellenis-tisch-jüdischen Literatur und bei den Kirchen-vätern

10.15–11.00 Ilaria Ramelli (Angelicum - Erfurt MWK - Oxford)
The Five Senses in Origen in the Context of Imperial Platonism and Reception

11.00–11.30 Coffee Break

11.30–12.15 Therese Fuhrer (München)
Metaphern des Unsagbaren. Augustin zur menschlichen Wahrnehmung der imago dei

12.15–13.00 Lunch Break

14.30–16.00 Reading Seminar: Origen
Discussion moderated by I. Ramelli/R. Hirsch-Luipold

16.00–16.30 Coffee Break

16.30–18.00 Reading Seminar: Augustine
Discussion moderated by Th. Fuhrer/G. Huian

19.00 Dinner

Registration for the workshop is now open and expected until May 1st 2018. The number of participants is limited to 20, so early registration is encouraged. Registered participants should attend all sessions of the workshop. Please contact georgiana.huian@theol.unibe.ch for registration and with questions.