

Scientific Reappraisal of Rudolf Steiner's Theory of the Senses (SLAH and Others)

Status: ongoing

Research Question and Background

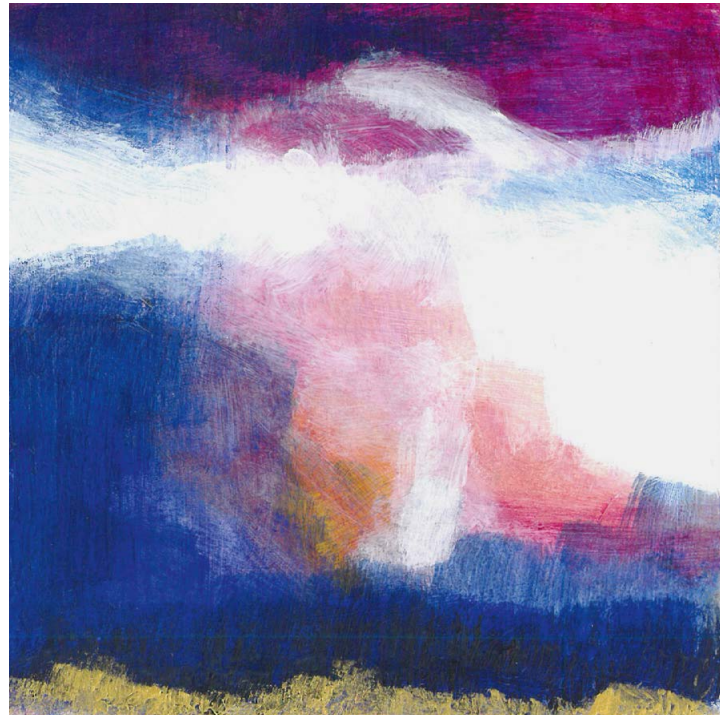
Increasing digitalisation and mechanisation are endangering healthy sensory activity. Rudolf Steiner's presentation of the twelve senses of the human being offers an expanded understanding of human sensory activity and its connection to the human 'I'. Steiner goes beyond the eight to nine senses recognised in science. Thus far, there have been individual presentations, especially of the twelve senses, by anthroposophical authors. It is important to follow on from this. Rudolf Steiner's writing *Anthroposophy, A Fragment* forms the starting point. The other, partly incomplete and scattered remarks, such as remarks in lectures and texts, are to be added and processed and presented in such a way that they can be made fruitful in education, curative education, medicine, agriculture and art.

The aim is to produce an overall presentation of Rudolf Steiner's science of the senses, which takes account of the state of scientific research and makes the subject accessible to a wider public.

Relevance and Perspective

At present, the circumstances of life lead people more and more into mechanical processes and the automation their activities. This is accompanied by a dwindling ability to encounter nature and other human beings in a sensitive way and to recognise the deeper layers of their being.

Rudolf Steiner's approaches are highly relevant in their originality for medical research in neurology, psychology, cognitive philosophy, phenomenology, pedagogy and anthropology and



The senses and 'I'. (Photo: Christiane Haid)

can open up new perspectives for understanding the relationship between body, soul and spirit.

Approach, Cooperation and Time Frame

In the project, a longer-term collaboration of participants from different disciplines (media education, medicine, art, literary studies, philosophy) has been ongoing. Since 2018, three conferences on *Anthroposophy, A Fragment* have taken place and since 2020, an interdisciplinary 'Colloquium on Sensory Science' has been established within the Section for the Literary Arts and Humanities, which meets twice a year. The results of the work are communicated in public conferences and publications (*STIL*, Easter 2022).

There is a close interweaving within the Section with the research project on transhumanism and on the questions arising from the significance of art for human beings (Visual Arts Section). The Collaboration with the General Anthroposophical, Medical, Curative Education and Pedagogical Sections, as well as the Visual Arts Section derives its results from this interdisciplinary way of working.

Literature

R. Steiner: *Anthroposophy, A Fragment*, GA 45; H.J. Scheuerle, *Die Gesamt-Sinnes-Organisation*. Stuttgart 21984 (in German) [*Overcoming the subject-object split in sense teaching]; F. Edelhäuser: *Wahrnehmen und Bewegen. Grundlage einer allgemeinen Bewegungslehre*, Stuttgart 2022 (in German) [*Perceiving and Moving. Basis for a General Theory of Movement]