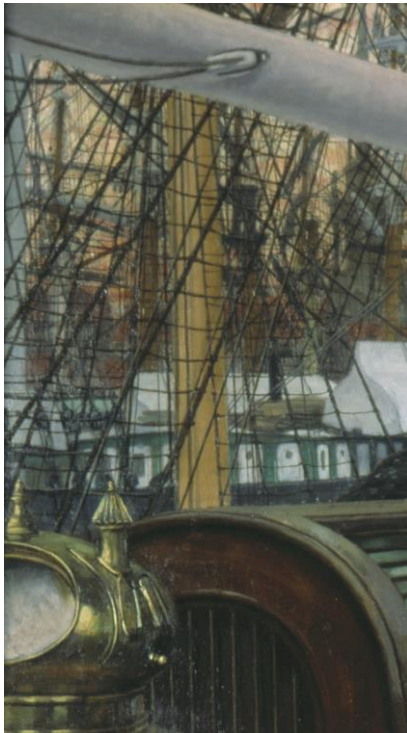


# Coding and Representation

**18.20 – 21.00, Friday 20 January 2017, Guildhall Art Gallery**  
Guildhall Yard, London EC2V 5AE (with registration from 18.00)

**10.45 – 18.40, Saturday 21 January 2017 (with registration from 10.00)**  
Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre, The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand,  
London WC2R 0RN



J. Tissot, *The Last Evening*, 1873 Guildhall Art Gallery (detail)

This interdisciplinary conference examines the way that coding and representation are enmeshed. Cultural instances will be examined from the nineteenth century to the present. Fine art, graphic imagery, film and photography, literature, scientific concepts and political form will be considered. In an era of electrical, and eventually digital, communication, the use of codes and machine code in transmission became ubiquitous. The conference considers representation in this broad range of categories in the light of the constraints and possibilities of code. This conference coincides with the last few days of the exhibition currently on at the Guildhall Art Gallery, London 'Victorians Decoded: Art and Telegraphy' <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/visit-the-city/attractions/guildhall-galleries/Pages/victorians-decoded.aspx> Those attending the conference will have the chance to view the exhibition on Friday evening, after the opening keynote paper to be given at the Guildhall Art Gallery by Mary Ann Doane (author of *The Emergence of Cinematic Time: Modernity, Contingency and the Archive*, 2002). The second day of the conference is held at The Courtauld Institute for Art with a concluding keynote paper by Gail Day (author of *Dialectical Passions: Negation and Postwar Art Theory*, 2010) and Steve Edwards (author of *Martha Rosler, The Bowery in two inadequate descriptive systems*, 2012).

The exhibition and conference emerge from the 2013-17 research project, 'Scrambled Messages: the Telegraphic Imaginary 1857-1900'. We acknowledge the generosity of the AHRC in funding this research.

This conference is organised by Caroline Arscott (The Courtauld Institute of Art) and Clare Pettitt (King's College London).

We are grateful for financial assistance for this conference from the AHRC; the McDougall Fund; King's College London, Faculty Research Committee; and *Media History*

**Ticket: £26, general admission / £16, students, Courtauld staff and concessions (over 60)**

Online booking: [coding-and-representation.eventbrite.co.uk](http://coding-and-representation.eventbrite.co.uk)

**Ticket holders will be entitled 50% discount to The Courtauld Gallery's permanent collection and temporary exhibition: *Rodin and Dance: The Essence of Movement*, on Saturday 21 January.**

## PROGRAMME

### Friday 20 January 2017 (DAY 1)

**Guildhall Art Gallery, Guildhall Yard, London EC2V 5AE**

18.00 – 18.20 REGISTRATION

18.20 – 19.30 **Keynote lecture**

Mary Ann Doane (Department of Film and Media Studies, University of California, Berkeley): *Title TBA*

Session chaired by Clare Pettitt (Department of English, King's College London)

19.30 – 21.00 Drinks reception

**Saturday 21 January 2017 (DAY 2)     The Courtauld Institute of Art, Strand London WC2R 0RN**

10.00 – 10.45     REGISTRATION

10.45 – 11.00     Welcome and Introduction: Cassie Newland (Scrambled Messages Research Team, King's College, London)

11.00 – 12.15     **Session 1: Distance**

Kate Flint (Art History, University of Southern California): *Space, scale, and imagination: Robert Dudley's paintings of the Atlantic Cable*

Duncan Bell (Political Thought, Cambridge University): *Cyborg Imperium, c.1900*

Session chaired by David Edgerton (History of Science, King's College London)

Discussion

12.15 – 14.00     BREAK FOR LUNCH (lunch provided for the speakers and chairs only. Seminar Room 1)

14.00 – 15.15     **Session 2: Transmission**

Grace Brockington (History of Art, University of Bristol): *Art and Esperanto: universal visual languages in the age of the telegraph*

Mark Miodownik (Engineering, University College London): *Materials as transmission media*

Session chaired by Elizabeth Edwards (History of Photography, Emerita, De Montfort University)

Discussion

15.15 – 16.00     TEA/COFFEE BREAK (provided in Seminar Room 1)

16.00 – 17.15     **Session 3: Impedance**

Richard Taws (Art History, University College London): *Paris in Code: Information and Impedance in Nineteenth-Century France*

Matthew Kerr (English Literature, Southampton University): *Seas, Signals, Novels, and Noise in the Nineteenth Century*

Session chaired by Tilly Blyth (Head of Collections, Science Museum, London)

Discussion

17.15 – 17.30     Comfort break

17.30 – 18.40     **Keynote lecture**

Gail Day (Cultural Studies, Leeds University) and Steve Edwards (History and Theory of Photography, Birkbeck, University of London): *Differential time and aesthetic form: uneven and combined capitalism in the work of Allan Sekula*

Session chaired by Caroline Arscott (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

Discussion

18.40     END

