Professor Gregory Sporton

‘Digital Body: is resistance futile?’

This keynote lecture discusses the Ayurveda system of perceiving, diagnosing and treating bodies.

Plenty of techno-fantasists, sci-fi writers and futurologists dream of a time when we can upload our consciousness or preserve our thoughts and somehow take humanity to a different plane of existence, mainly into some sort of cosmic internet. These accounts focus solely on the mind as the locus of experience and knowledge and seem to entirely neglect the sensual as if it is not as significant a factor in our notion of what it is to be human. In this talk, Professor Gregory Sporton will critique ideas of virtuality, with its emphasis on the visual or the cerebral, and challenge us to look for technologies that tell us more about the corporeal world we are so dependent on. For Sporton, we run risks when we fail to see how the development of the conceptual works from the visceral, and why we should be wary of being seduced into losing the connection to our bodies.