



Interface:

Transplants, Aesthetics, Technology

Fay Bound Alberti
Professor of Modern History

Director of the Centre for Technology and the Body
King's College London

About Us

Interface explores the relationship between identity, emotion, and communication, as revealed through our primary site of social interaction: the human face. Its core themes are transformation (surgical, digital, and aesthetic), representation, and the historical processes by which the face has become shorthand for authenticity and selfhood.

[find out more](#)

Research & Innovation

[Explore](#) | [Facilities](#) | [Partnerships](#) | [Research Environment](#) | [Funding](#) | [Impact](#) | [King's Innovation](#)

Centre for Technology and the Body

Technology has always intersected with the human body, from the food that we eat to the clothes we wear, the jobs we do, and the materials that make up our environment. The types of technology might vary - mechanical, industrial, electronic, and, increasingly, digital, but we have always responded to technology in embodied ways. We cannot think, or feel, outside of our own physical and cognitive processes. And technology affects the body in gendered and racialised ways that reinforce individual, social, global hierarchies. These processes demand in-depth ethical and critical reflection.

A graphic with a background of a human body map overlaid with a network of lines, representing technology and the body. The text "TECHNOLOGY AND THE BODY" is written in white, uppercase letters across the center.

TECHNOLOGY
AND THE BODY

UKRI-funded, 7 year project

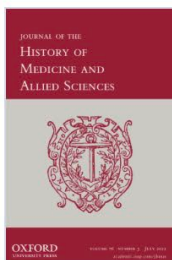
Historical and emotional histories of face transplants

Anthropological, sociological, literary approaches

International and comparative

Collaborative and Open Access

Academic, Policy and Public Engagement Outputs.



Volume 76, Issue 3
July 2021

Article Contents

Introduction

Definitions and Parameters

Methodology and Complexities

Research in Facial Transplantation,
1991-2005

The Ethics of Facial
Transplantation

The First Face Transplant: The Face
of Isabelle Dinoire

Research and Development, 2006-

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Face Transplants: An International History

Fay Bound Alberti , Victoria Hoyle

Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Volume 76, Issue 3, July 2021, Pages 319–345, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhmas/jrab019>

Published: 28 June 2021



PDF



Views ▼



Cite



Permissions



Share ▼

Face transplants have attracted global media and public attention since the 1990s. The first recipient, Isabelle Dinoire, found herself at the centre of a dramatic episode of surgical innovation after her transplant was announced in November 2005. Subsequently 47 transplants have been conducted worldwide (including two retransplants) up to August 2020, and these have been accompanied by extensive news coverage. Hundreds of papers on the medical, physical, psychological, and ethical implications of the procedure have been published in the scientific literature, disproportionate to the incidence of the procedure. Face transplants have also featured in films, television, and fiction, indicating an appetite for interrogating the social and interpersonal implications of facial difference. However, the history of facial transplantation has largely been unexplored.



Advertisement

CITATIONS



More metrics information

VIEWS



ALTMETRIC



Email alerts

AboutFace

*A blueprint for sustainable face transplant
policy & practice*



<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/policy-institute/assets/aboutface-may-2022.pdf>

Policy Lab recommendations

**Patient selection
& expectations**

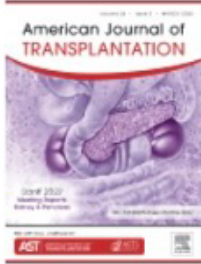
**Clinical
framework**

**Patient support
networks**

**Public image
& perception**

**Financial
sustainability**

**Data on patient
outcomes &
progress**



American Journal of Transplantation

Volume 24, Issue 1, January 2024, Pages 104-114



Original Article

International consensus recommendations on face transplantation: A 2-step Delphi study

Benedetto Longo¹  , Fay Bound Alberti², Bohdan Pomahac³, Julian Joseph Pribaz⁴,
Jean-Paul Meningaud⁵, Benoît Lengelé⁶, Ömer Özkan⁷, Özlenen Özkan⁷, Juan Pere Barret⁸,
Patrik Lassus⁹, Phillip Blondeel¹⁰, Nathalie Roche¹⁰, Raffi Gurunian¹¹, Pedro Infante-Cossio¹²,
Andrew Lindford⁹, Gerald Brandacher¹³, Pietro Giovanoli¹⁴, Jan Plock¹⁴, Vijay S. Gorantla¹⁵,



Volume 108, Issue 10
October 2021

Article Contents

Abstract

Introduction

Methods

Results

Discussion

Funding

Acknowledgements

References

Supplementary data

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Central importance of emotional and quality-of-life outcomes in the public's perception of face transplantation

D C Murphy, V Hoyle, D Saleh, J Rees, F Bound Alberti 

British Journal of Surgery, Volume 108, Issue 10, October 2021, Pages 1145–1148,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/bjs/znab120>

Published: 05 May 2021 **Article history** ▼

 PDF  Split View  Cite  Permissions  Share ▼

Abstract

Background

Face transplantation is a surgical innovation to manage people with severely interrupted facial function and form. How the public perceive face transplantation and its potential implications for the recipient, donor, and society is unclear. The aim of this study was to understand the public perception of face transplantation, including when it is appropriate, what information is required to feel adequately informed, and which factors influence a person's willingness to donate their face.



Advertisement intended for healthcare professionals

CITATIONS



More metrics information

VIEWS



ALTMETRIC



Email alerts

[Article activity alert](#)

The Quality-of-Life Question

We still know little about the actual “life-enhancing” impact(s) of face transplants on the patient or their families (or what counts - Laura and Sheila with different emotional and sensory experiences

Measurements of QoL are insufficient, inconsistent and mostly designed without reference to patient-reported outcomes, or the experiences of family and carers

Lack of longitudinal follow up or comparison to reconstruction or other forms of treatment

Language of surgery and medicine tends to be limited in recognising emotional impacts

How and why to create face/VCA-specific Quality-of-Life measures?

Recommendations for the field

Partnerships and collaborations to support equity and learning

A community of respect and openness (medicine having to look inwards the same as other professions: a moment of change)

Brokering international collaborations and comparisons

Transparency and data sharing

International mentoring and support networks for surgical teams

Peer support for patients that is not skewed by data collection (building on cross-institutional funding, but led by peers)

For more information, please see the project website:

www.interface.org.uk

And the website for the Centre for Technology and the Body at King's College London:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/centre-for-technology-and-the-body>

Or email me: fay.bound_alberti@kcl.ac.uk

Thank you!