

Atmosphere and Circumstance

Derek McCormack

Given the circumstances. Under the circumstances. In light of the circumstances. Despite the circumstances. If circumstances allow. Such familiar, unremarkable terms are used frequently (but not exclusively) to denote presents tensed by conditions of varying degrees of crisis and disruption. This presentation considers the relation between these senses of circumstance and the concept of atmosphere. It takes as its point of departure the fact that both terms gesture towards some form of influential 'surround'. It then speculates about a series of questions including the following: How are circumstances accounted for in atmospheric terms? What does it mean to offer a circumstantial account of atmospheres? How do concepts of circumstance and the circumstantial participate in the political atmospheres of the present?



Tobias Bjørkli from Pexels

**Friday, November 20
at 11h00**

**Write to allison.peacock@gmail.com
(with "ATMOSPHERES" in the subject
line) to register and you will be sent a
Zoom link.**

Derek McCormack is Professor of Cultural Geography in the School of Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford. He has written about non-representational theories, atmospheres, and, more recently, the elements. He is the author of *Refrains For Moving Bodies: Experience and Experiment in Affective Spaces* (2014) and *Atmospheric Things: On the Allure of Elemental Envelopment* (2018), both published by Duke University Press.

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