

Inaugural Conference of SOFAS

New Frontiers and Possibilities in Atmospheric Studies

KOIAS is pleased to announce the SOFAS Inaugural Conference, bringing together scholars, artists, and practitioners to explore the expanding horizons of Atmospheric Studies, supported by JSPS Core-to-Core Program. The conference is conceived as an open platform to test how far the concept of atmosphere can travel—across disciplines, media, historical periods, and cultural contexts—and what new analytical, critical, and creative possibilities emerge when we take atmospheres seriously.

We welcome proposals from across the humanities, social sciences, design and the arts, as well as from researchers and practitioners who move between these domains. Possible areas include philosophical and phenomenological investigations of atmosphere and *Stimmung*; studies of mood and ambiance in literature, film, theatre and performance; analyses of visual arts, music, sound and installation that foreground their atmospheric dimensions; examinations of architectural, urban and landscape atmospheres and the design strategies that shape them; inquiries into everyday atmospheres of home, work, mobility and leisure; sensory and multi-sensory approaches to place and environment; and studies of the atmospheres of technology, digital media, VR, interfaces and AI. We are equally interested in political, economic, institutional and religious atmospheres; atmospheres of crisis—such as pandemics, war, disaster and climate emergency; environmental and ecological atmospheres in relation to weather, climate and pollution; historical and cross-linguistic genealogies of the concept of atmosphere; and practice-based, artistic or curatorial projects that experiment with atmospheric creation, modulation or documentation. These examples are meant to be suggestive rather than exhaustive; any contribution that clearly articulates its own concept of atmosphere and demonstrates its analytical or creative potential will be considered.

The conference shares, as a working premise, the concept of atmosphere as developed in *New Phenomenology*; however, we explicitly welcome proposals that move beyond it—by extending, revising, or critically challenging its assumptions. We regard Respiratory Philosophy/Studies and Sensory Studies as especially promising connective fields.

To support genuinely exploratory exchange (rather than the repetition of familiar discussions), we ask presenters to be explicit and self-reflexive about their use of “atmosphere.” Please indicate, as relevant: (1) which concept/definition of atmosphere (and/or cognate terms such as mood, ambiance, *Stimmung*, 氣氛, 雰囲気, etc.) you are adopting, (2) what theoretical, historical, philosophical, or methodological lineage this choice draws upon, and (3) what specific analytical, critical, or creative “added value” an atmospheric approach brings to your object of study or practice.

The main language of the conference will be English, though some sessions may include presentations in other languages depending on the range of submissions. The precise format and length of individual presentations and panels will be finalized at a later stage.

We look forward to exploring together the new frontiers and possibilities of atmospheric studies / 秀囲気学.

The SOFAS inaugural conference, “New Frontiers and Possibilities in Atmospheric Studies,” will be held in Kobe from **Wednesday, 23 September to Saturday, 26 September**.

The planned venue is the ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel in Kobe (<https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/gb/en/hyogo/osakb/hoteldetail>).

For a detailed explanation of the theme, please see the above Call for Papers.

We are planning to provide online streaming, but it will not be a fully hybrid event; research presentations will, in principle, be given on-site only. Online participation is still welcome. KOIAS will cover your accommodation and meals for the conference days, as well as the conference fees. Unfortunately, due to our budget rules, we are not able to cover your flights.

We have prepared a questionnaire in both English and Japanese. Please select the version you prefer.

(English version)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmeNJYIp7u6XVdt_LvJffAP06keh9ZnsK_8NmAdhBt2gkvKg/viewform?usp=header

(Japanese version)

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5vbT7ByHjejhhOMIKXaDXq-S8XMwsLO6P-b6guXS9pL466A/viewform?usp=header>

Please respond via the form by the end of January. We will confirm arrangements as quickly as possible, so please wait for a confirmation email. Please note that if we do not receive your response, we cannot guarantee that a room will be reserved for you.