

VENTI JOURNAL

Air — Experience — Aesthetics

Cross-Cultural Atmospheres: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Atmospheric Studies

A Collaborative Issue with the Kobe Institute for Atmospheric Studies (KOIAS)

Call for Submissions

Deadline: May 1, 2025

Venti Journal and KOIAS are pleased to announce a Call for Submissions for our upcoming special issue entitled “Cross-Cultural Atmospheres: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Atmospheric Studies.” This collaborative, online and print issue will celebrate the growing research and creative energy dedicated to the continuously emerging field of atmospheric studies. Particularly, as esteemed platforms for various atmospheric discourses, this collaboration invites contributions from cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspectives to showcase the importance and reach of the field. We invite both academic and non-academic contributions, including short-form essays (ca. 3500 words), long-form articles (5000-8000 words), interviews, book reviews, digital projects, poetry and creative writing, visual essays, artworks, architecture, and sonic environments. Contributions may be written either in English or in Japanese.

This interdisciplinary issue seeks to explore the ways in which cultural encounters and exchanges shape, mediate, and transform atmospheres—understood broadly as the felt and perceptible milieus that surround, influence, and are influenced by human and non-human actors. Atmospheres are often described as ephemeral and intangible, yet they hold profound power to influence experiences, emotions, and actions. In the context of cross-cultural interactions, atmospheres emerge from the interplay of diverse traditions, languages, values, and sensory worlds. Different cultures bring unique conceptualizations of atmosphere, shaped by their linguistic, philosophical, and artistic traditions. These differences can lead to varied understandings of what constitutes an atmosphere, how it is perceived, and its significance in human and non-human interactions. Furthermore, it is well known that atmospheres are difficult to verbalize, leading us to ask how can something felt yet indescribable cross cultural boundaries. How can we begin to describe atmosphere and translate these descriptions? How might an intermedial and interdisciplinary approach to cross-cultural atmospheres shape how we experience and think about atmosphere? This issue aims to interrogate the critical points of contact, tension, and exchange in relation to perceived notions and experiences of air and atmosphere and their impact on cross-cultural understanding.

Tied to the above questions/problematics, the issue methodologically asks what can the establishment of an academic field of atmospheric studies contribute to our understanding of cross-cultural atmospheres. What is the importance of going beyond cultural and regional frameworks in establishing the field? We welcome submissions that discuss the state of the field of atmospheric studies and its future goals within the context of interdisciplinary and transnational scholarship.

This issue will be published both as an online and print journal during the 2025-2026 academic year. Please send English or Japanese proposals (500 words), a bio, and your contact information as a Microsoft Word document by May 1, 2025, to

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You will be notified by early July, and drafts will be due at the beginning of September 2025.

We eagerly anticipate your thoughtful contributions.

Sincerely,

Jessie Alperin (Venti Journal), Rie Koderia (KOIAS), and Yuho Hisayama (KOIAS)