

December 4-5, 2025

## KOIAS Talk at the International Conference “Atmospheres of the Spiritual: Somaesthetic Explorations,” Florida Atlantic University

KOIAS member **Alberto Parisi** participated in the international conference *Atmospheres of the Spiritual: Somaesthetic Explorations*, held at **Florida Atlantic University (Boca Raton)** on December 4-5, 2025. The conference was organized by the **Center for Body, Mind, and Culture** and brought together scholars working at the intersection of philosophy, aesthetics, spirituality, and embodied experience.

Parisi presented a paper entitled **“Poetry, Breath, and Atmosphere: The Symbolist Atmospheric Legacy.”** In his talk, he examined the role of breath as a mediating concept between poetic form, bodily experience, and atmospheric sensibility, focusing on European Symbolist poetry and its reconfiguration of spiritual experience in material and sensorial terms. By situating Symbolist poetics within a broader history of atmosphere, Parisi showed how poetry articulates spiritual experience not as a purely interior or transcendental phenomenon, but as something that unfolds through breath, voice, and the shared atmospheric space between bodies and world.

The presentation contributed to the conference’s somaesthetic focus by highlighting poetry as a privileged site where spiritual atmospheres are produced, sensed, and negotiated through embodied practices of reading and listening.

Through participation in international conferences such as this, **KOIAS** continues to strengthen its engagement with global debates on atmosphere, embodiment, and spirituality, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue across philosophy, literature, and cultural studies.

### Atmospheres of the Spiritual: Somaesthetic Explorations

Location: CU Building 301, Boca Raton Campus

**December 4**

**9:15-9:30: Registration**

**9:30-10:00: Greetings and Introduction**

**RICHARD SHUSTERMAN**  
Center for Body, Mind, and Culture  
Florida Atlantic University

**10:00-Noon: Session 1: Spirituality, Embodiment, and the Arts**

**Chair: Ilaria Sera, FAU**

“Eliot and Woolf: How Poetry Sublimates Split and Dismembered Bodies”

**JEAN-MICHEL RABATÉ, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

“Spiritualization of Beauty, Love, and Suffering—Bostonian Art and Aesthetics at the End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century”

**NORA HORVATH, SZÉCHENYI ISTVÁN UNIVERSITY, GYŐR, HUNGARY**

“Poetry, Breath, and Atmosphere: The Symbolist Atmospheric Legacy”

**ALBERTO PARISI, KOBE UNIVERSITY, JAPAN**

**Noon-1:30: Lunch**

**1:30-3:30: Session 2: Spiritual Atmospheres in Music, Dance, and Noise**

**Chair: Katharina Rynkiewicz, FAU**

“Generative Noise: Somaesthetic and Atmospheres of the Spiritual”

**MARK TSCHAEPE, PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY**

“Atmospheric Dance Partnering”

**ERIC MULLIS, QUEENS UNIVERSITY OF CHARLOTTE**

“Discovery and Transcendence in Music Therapy (The Bonny Method of Guided Imagery and Music)”

**FRED MAUS, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA**

**3:30-4:00: Coffee Break**

**4:00-5:20: Session 3: Atmospheric Perspectives from East Asia and Science**

**Chair: T.J. Bonnet, FAU**

“Spiritual Atmosphere: Aesthetic Sensibility of ‘Envelopment’ and ‘Permeation’ in East Asia—The Intersection of Weather and Spirituality”

**AOKI TAKAO, HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY, JAPAN**

“The Relational Ontology of Spiritual Atmospheres”

**KEVIN SCHILBRACK, APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

“Zen-Based Practices for Anxiety and Mood Improvement in middle-Aged and Older Women with Hypertension”

**KENNETH HOLLOWAY, FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

**December 5**

**9:30-11:30: Session 4: Atmospheres of Hierarchy, Simplicity, and Healing**

**Chair: Mehrdad Baghbani, FAU**

“Ambedkar’s Navayana Pragmatism and the Atmospheres of Caste”

**SCOTT R. STROUD, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

“Edible gardens and Spirituality”

**ROSETTA CAPONETTO, AUBURN UNIVERSITY**

“Aesthetics of Quakerism”

**CRISPIN SARTWELL, AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR PHILOSOPHICAL AND CULTURAL THOUGHT**

**11:30-Noon: Closing Comments**



## ATMOSPHERES OF THE SPIRITUAL: SOMAESTHETIC EXPLORATIONS

**DECEMBER 4-5, 2025**

**FLORIDA ATLANTIC, BOCA RATON**

International Conference exploring spiritual atmospheres and their somatic dimensions. For more information, please visit [fau.edu/artsandletters/bodymindculture/uconferrn](http://fau.edu/artsandletters/bodymindculture/uconferrn)

CENTER FOR BODY, MIND,  
AND CULTURE



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY  
Dorothy F. Schmidt  
College of Arts and Letters