

January 28, 2026

### KOIAS Talk by Indrek Ojam at Kobe University

On January 28, 2026, KOIAS hosted a talk by KOIAS Fellow Indrek Ojam (University of Tartu, Estonia) titled *"Passion for the Impersonal: Affect Theory, Atmospheric Studies, and the Changing Object of Literary Studies."* The talk addressed current debates in affect theory and atmospheric studies, focusing on how changes in art and culture call for new approaches to literary theory and on the shared return to the impersonal in experience. Ojam also discussed the methodological challenges involved in studying this impersonal dimension. The second part of the talk examined novels by Jenny Offill (*Weather*) and Carolina Pihelgas (*Cut Line*), showing how their poetics respond to and reshape theories of affect and atmosphere. The event was followed by an engaged discussion and a dinner in the Rokko area.



