

February 18, 2026

KOIAS Talk by Hal Coase at Kobe University

On February 18, 2026, KOIAS hosted a talk by KOIAS Fellow Hal Coase at the Graduate School of Humanities, Kobe University. Titled “From Text to Atmosphere: Reading Lorine Niedecker’s ‘Wintergreen Ridge,’” the talk focused on the relationship between poetry and atmosphere, considering how poetics might be approached through its atmospheric potential and what connections can be drawn between atmospheric models and ecocritical perspectives.

Through a close reading of Lorine Niedecker’s *Wintergreen Ridge*, which was read and discussed in its entirety, Coase argued that the poem moves beyond representing ecological complexity or functioning as a self-contained lyrical event. Rather, he suggested that the poem offers language as an environment—mobile, sensuous, and unfolding without a single direction—within which readers must orient themselves. In this way, Niedecker’s well-known “condensation” of materials exceeds its intertextual sources, weaving a field of relations and resonances that calls for attunement to the poem’s sonic and affective atmosphere.

The talk was followed by an engaged discussion. The event also welcomed KOIAS’s new visiting professor, Ben Highmore, and participants continued their conversations over dinner afterwards.



