

March 16, 2026

KOIAS Lecture by Ben Highmore at Kobe University

On March 16, 2026, KOIAS hosted a lecture by Ben Highmore (KOIAS Visiting Professor, United Kingdom) in the Student Hall of the Graduate School of Humanities, Kobe University. Titled “The Matter of Atmospheres: Ambience and Vehemence,” the talk explored how atmospheres can be understood as entanglements of qualities (characteristics) and quantities (intensities). Drawing on examples of intentional “atmospherics,” including the painter Frank Bowling’s studio as a kind of atmospheric laboratory, the lecture examined how artistic practices provide a privileged site for understanding the broader, distributed atmospheres that shape social and cultural life.

The talk was followed by an engaged discussion among participants.



