

March 16, 2026

## KOIAS Talk and Workshop by Victoria dos Santos Bustamante at Kobe University

On March 26, 2026, KOIAS hosted a special combined talk and workshop led by Victoria Vanesa dos Santos Bustamante (KOIAS Fellow and MSCA Postdoctoral Researcher at the Blanquerna Observatory for Media, Religion and Culture, Ramon Llull University, Barcelona). Titled “On Religion and Digital Atmospheres: Affective Interactions in –and with– Immersive Virtual Environments,” the session explored digital atmospheres as a framework for understanding how digital environments shape—and inspire—religious experience and practice.

Approaching atmosphere as an integrative phenomenon linking individuals, spaces, and things, the talk argued that digital environments generate their own modes of embodiment, spatiality, and presence. Focusing on avatar-based virtual platforms, the presentation examined how such environments transmit what Gernot Böhme has described as “affective tones,” enabling users to interact with—and be affected by—immersive religious worlds. Rather than treating digital media as mere tools, the session proposed understanding them as inhabitable environments capable of producing sensuous and relational experiences. The workshop component invited participants to create their own avatars on Roblox and to join and explore together a series of digital “spiritual” worlds, experiencing firsthand the affective and immersive dynamics discussed in the talk.



