

March 30, 2026

### KOIAS Mini-Symposium “Atmospheres of Land, Sea, and Sound” with Profs. Otabe and Schulze at Kobe University

On March 30, 2026, KOIAS hosted the mini-symposium “Atmospheres of Land, Sea, and Sound: Rethinking Aesthetics and the Environment,” which featured two extended lectures by Tanehisa Otabe (University of Tokyo / Japan Academy) and Holger Schulze (University of Copenhagen, Sound Studies Lab), respectively titled: “Landscape as In-Between: A Contribution to Environmental Aesthetics from a Japanese Perspective” and “Affects in the Air: Thick Listening to This Very Situation. Or, Formants of a Sonic Critique.” Otabe’s talk examined the concept of landscape as an “in-between” relation between humans and the environment, drawing on notions such as *satoyama* and *satoumi* to rethink environmental aesthetics from a Japanese perspective. Schulze’s lecture introduced approaches from sound studies, focusing on “thick listening” and the situated, affective dimensions of sonic experience as a basis for a broader sonic critique.

The event concluded with a discussion among participants, addressing questions about atmosphere and sound, and the role of aesthetic and sensory practices in shaping environmental understanding.



