

April 6, 2026

KOIAS Talk by Dale Leorke at Kobe University

On April 6, 2026, KOIAS hosted a talk by Dale Leorke (KOIAS Fellow; Centre for the Sciences of Place & Memory, University of Stirling). Titled “*Player Pilgrimages: Atmospheric Encounters between Videogames and Heritage Sites*,” the talk explored how videogames shape encounters with real-world places through what Leorke terms “player pilgrimages.”

Drawing on player vlogs and fieldwork in China and Japan, the presentation examined how players visit heritage sites previously experienced in digital form, arriving with forms of spatial familiarity and affective attunement developed through gameplay. Through selected case studies, the talk showed how these encounters unfold as layered atmospheric relations between digital and physical environments, in which expectations are recalibrated and sites are reshaped by new forms of tourism and engagement.

The talk was followed by an engaged discussion among participants.

