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New KOIAS Special Issue of SOPHIA on “Atmosphere and Breath in Cultural Diversity”

The Kobe Institute for Atmospheric Studies (KOIAS) is pleased to announce the publication of the special issue “Atmosphere and Breath in Cultural Diversity” in the prestigious journal *Sophia: International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions*, edited by KOIAS Director, Yuho Hisayama.

Published by Springer Nature as Volume 65, Issue 2 of *Sophia*, the special issue brings together cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary perspectives on atmosphere and breath, exploring how vocabularies such as *pneuma*, *spiritus*, *qi*, *ki*, *prāṇa*, and other concepts of air, breath, and vitality may help rethink life, embodiment, coexistence, and the relation between self and world.

The initial idea for the issue emerged from the 2023 Symposium on Respiratory Philosophy in Slovenia, jointly organized by ZRS Koper and KOIAS. It has since developed through the growing international network of atmospheric and respiratory studies, including collaborations supported by the JSPS Core-to-Core Program “World Networking Project for the Establishment of Atmospheric Studies” (grant number JPJSCCA20250001).

Bringing together contributions from philosophy, political theory, anthropology, religious studies, literary studies, musicology, art history, and related fields, the special issue explores atmosphere and breath from cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary perspectives. It examines how concepts such as *pneuma*, *spiritus*, *qi*, *ki*, *prāṇa*, *nafas*, and other vocabularies of air, breath, and vitality may help rethink life, embodiment, coexistence, and the “between” across diverse cultural settings.

The issue also represents one of the first outcomes of KOIAS’s recent efforts to foster global collaboration in atmospheric and respiratory studies, ahead of the planned launch of the Society for Atmospheric Studies (SOFAS) in 2026.

The special issue may be accessed at the following link:

<https://link.springer.com/journal/11841/volumes-and-issues/65-2>

