June, 29, 2026

KOIAS Talk: Andrea Nicolini discussed memory, atmosphere, and Marcel Proust

On May 25 at 5:00 PM, KOIAS hosted a talk by KOIAS Fellow Andrea Nicolini at the Graduate School of Humanities, Kobe University. Titled *"Lacrimae rerum: Marcel Proust and the Objects of Memory,"* the lecture explored the role of objects in the constitution of memory, focusing on the atmospheric conditions through which they acquire emotional and cognitive significance.

Drawing on Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*, Nicolini focused on the episode of the "intermittences of the heart" to examine how memory is preserved and reactivated through atmospheric experience. Rather than functioning as simple triggers of recollection, objects were presented as sites where emotion, memory, and understanding converge, revealing forms of knowledge that exceed purely discursive thought. Particular attention was given to the ways in which atmosphere mediates the relationship between loss, presence, and remembrance.

The talk offered a model of memory in which objects, affects, and atmospheres remain deeply intertwined, suggesting that what persists through time does so not as a fixed content but as a fluctuating field of experience. The lecture was followed by an engaged discussion with participants.

