

## The Atmospheric Turn

Call for Papers: *philoSOPHIA* 16, pub date est. Jan/Feb 2026

Guest editors: Lauren Guilmette and Ada S. Jaarsma

### *philoSOPHIA*: A Journal of *trans*Continental Feminism

This special issue invites contributions concerned with “feminist sensing” beyond the self-contained subject upheld by much of Western philosophy, with attention to the “atmospheric” qualities of affects and moods. Teresa Brennan (2004) once asked what it means to feel the mood in a room. Some approach this sense of atmospheric affectivity through ghosts, hauntings, and vibes. Others might attend to architecture, landscape, and matters of accessibility, asking, for instance: what kinds of beings are welcome here? Christina Sharpe (2016) reframes anti-Blackness as “the weather,” and Ashon T. Crawley (2020) solicits a “sense of a question”; such passages invite attention to the more-than-human, including to forces far afield from voluntarist forms of individual agency. How are feminist continental philosophies implicated, transformed, and already caught up in these kinds of projects and conceptual turns?

Kristen Simmons (2020) writes of “settler atmospheric” oppressing Indigenous communities, while Eric Stanley (2021) draws this thinking to conditions of livability for queer and trans people. Judith Butler (2022), in turn, describes the ambivalence of shared air in the pandemic. Similarly, Lauren Berlant (2022) and Mel Y. Chen (2023) explore the porous relations between bodyminds, infrastructural systems, and atmospheres, undercutting easy divisions between the ordinary and the exceptional, between selves and surroundings, and between symptoms (like moods) and causative forces (like toxins).

What sites of inquiry emerge for feminist continental philosophies when we engage with the Atmospheric Turn across critical Indigenous, critical disability, and critical race studies? Hsuan L. Hsu (2020), for example, points to air as significant, materially and methodologically, for critical theory. Jean-Thomas Tremblay (2022) and Margaret Price (2024) each take up the tangibly sensorial dimensions of spaces and milieus, raising the stakes for how we sense and attend to their designs and constraints. We might embrace these stakes in how we approach our classrooms and conference-planning, exploring concrete ways to shift the discipline’s often-intransigent emphasis on individual modes of presenting.

How does feminist continental philosophy itself transform, when practices and design choices shift towards the affective, collaborative, emergent, and transdisciplinary? What kinds of atmospheres give rise to thinking together? What might we discover, in our concepts, canons, thinkers, and methods, that speak directly to this turn towards atmospheres and atmospheric thinking?

We welcome projects that engage, explore, and query the Atmospheric Turn and its relevance for feminist continental philosophical work, including:

1. Affects, Vibes, and Moods
2. Critically Engaging with Climate
3. Crip Thinking/Feeling
4. Places & Spaces
5. Sensorial Methodologies
6. Pedagogies
7. Trans-Species Thinking/Feeling

**Deadline for submission:** 400-word proposals due **September 15, 2024**; papers (5–7k words, including a 200-word abstract, author bio, and references) due **January 31, 2025**

**Email submissions and inquiries to guest editors:** Lauren Guilmette, [lguilmette@elon.edu](mailto:lguilmette@elon.edu), and Ada Jaarsma, [ajaarsma@mtroyal.ca](mailto:ajaarsma@mtroyal.ca)

**Format:** Submissions should adhere to the following guidelines:

[https://sunypress.edu/content/download/467893/5617709/version/1/file/philoSOPHIA\\_SubmissionGuidelines.pdf](https://sunypress.edu/content/download/467893/5617709/version/1/file/philoSOPHIA_SubmissionGuidelines.pdf).