



LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

FAKULTÄT FÜR KULTURWISSENSCHAFTEN
INSTITUT FÜR ETHNOLOGIE



The Challenge of Atmospheres – A Workshop with Gernot Böhme und David MacDougall

04.10.2014 Internationales Begegnungszentrum der Wissenschaft
(Amalienstr. 38, München, 11:00-17:00 Uhr)

Atmospheres are omnipresent and powerful. Due to the multisensory dimensions of perception their description and interpretation poses a particular challenge for anthropological research and representation.

At the same time it becomes apparent that the role of the recipients of these representations and their perception is often treated as an unknown factor. Especially the field of Visual Anthropology lacks of empirical studies concerned with concrete atmospheric reception contexts. The workshops aims to problematize this paradoxical point of departure and therefor asks how complex multisensory experience can be translated and mediated in and through audiovisual and textual representations and how it is negotiated in discursive reception contexts.

As discussion basis we will lean on two concepts:

The concept of *social aesthetics*, as it is formulated by the anthropologist and filmmaker David MacDougall, is concerned with the aesthetics of everyday life. His films shine a light on relationships and experiences, they aim to mediate atmospheres and to provide a sensory experience for the viewer.

A fruitful concept for the study of reception contexts is the concept of *atmospheres*, as articulated by the philosopher Gernot Böhme. He explores it's role for a general theory of perception. In Böhmes „New Aesthetic“ *atmosphere* is the main term as well as the object of study and refers to the relationship between the shared reality of the perceiver and the perceived.

The following topics will be discussed:

- Based on what presumptions do we think that representations adress the perceiver in a sensory, participatory and corporal or bodily way?
- What are the methodological challenges of atmospheric research contexts and how can they be encountered in a constructive manner?
- (How) Can the call for doing research with all senses be fulfilled consequently?
- How can we develop sensory methods to train our perception and knowledge production? And what is it's potential for the study of atmospheres?

All interested are most welcome! The workshop is free of charge, with advance registration requested: [miriam.hornung\[at\]ethnologie.lmu.de](mailto:miriam.hornung@ethnologie.lmu.de)

For the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology
Prof. Dr. Frank Heidemann und Miriam Hornung, M.A.

Preliminary program

11.00 – Information and registration

11.30 – Welcome and Introduction – Frank Heidemann and Miriam Hornung

11.45 – Keynote: Gernot Böhme – New Aesthetics, Atmosphere and Leiblichkeit

12.30 – Lunch Break

13.15 – Keynote: David MacDougall – Social Aesthetics and Embodied Cinema

14.00 – Talk: Frank Heidemann – The Anthropological Study of Atmospheres

14.30 – Coffee Break

15.00 – Discussants

- Andreas Ackermann – Discussant on the concept of atmosphere
- Susanne Schmitt – Discussant on the senses

15.30 – Round Table with feedback on discussants and open discussion with all participants and the audience

16.45 – Closing Remarks – Frank Heidemann and Miriam Hornung

17.00 – End of Workshop

Prior film screening of „Awareness“ (2012, 67 min.) by Judith and David MacDougall on October 2nd at the HFF, Hochschule für Fernsehen und Film, Kino 1, 7 pm, with an introduction by Frank Heidemann, followed by a discussion with the filmmakers and Heiner Stadler from the department of film and television documentary.

Venues



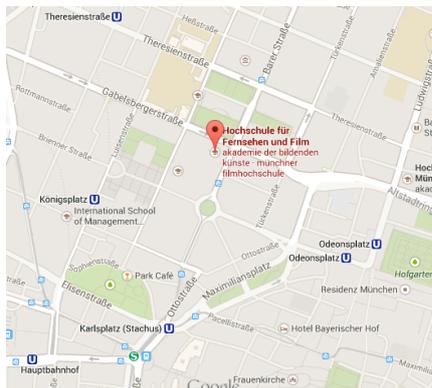
Internationales Begegnungszentrum der Wissenschaft
Amalienstr. 38, 80799 Munich



Location plan



HFF München, Bernd-Eichinger-Platz 1
(vormals Gabelsbergerstraße 33) 80333 Munich



Location plan