

# THERMAL OBJECTS

THEORIZING TEMPERATURES  
AND THE SOCIAL

U+H  
Universität Hamburg  
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

LOOSE  
CONNECTIONS  
COLLECTIVITY  
IN DIGITAL AND  
URBAN SPACE

FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/lose-verbindungen/thermalobjects](http://www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/lose-verbindungen/thermalobjects)

CONTACT

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In the humanities and social sciences, heat and cold are mostly treated as metaphors. For example, the formation of the modern, urbanized society is often described as a cooling process that freezes the warm, authentic community. Thermal metaphors turn out to be crucial devices organizing discourses of modernity. However, the materiality of temperature and its relation to social phenomena was mostly overlooked.

Highlighting temperature leads us to a range of questions about the materiality of the social, including the senses, the mediality and infrastructures of heat and cold, the conception of thermal objects and elements as fire, thermopolitics and thermal aesthetics.

## JUN 14, 2017 / 9:30-17h CENTRAL CONGRESS

Location: Steinstraße 5-7, 20095 Hamburg

9:30-10:00 INTRODUCTION

10:00-12:00 THERMAL CULTURES

*Chair: Elena Beregow*

Under the Spell of Coldness. Strong Images – Weak Analyses?

*Helmut Lethen*

Scorching Bombs and Freezer Desserts in a World of Cold and Hot Wars

*Esther Leslie*

12:00-13:30 LUNCH

13:30-15:30 ELEMENTAL SOCIOLOGY

*Chair: Urs Stäheli*

Cooked, Steamed or Fermented? Thermal Notions of Change between Metaphor and Materiality

*Elena Beregow*

Governing Heat as Natural and Human-made Hazard

*Leo Matteo Bachinger*

15:30-16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:00-17:00

From Metamorphosis to Motive Force: Pyropolitics and the Transformation of Fire Power

*Nigel Clark*

19:30 DINNER

## JUN 15, 2017 / 9:30-17:15h WARBURG-HAUS

Location: Heilwigstraße 116, 20249 Hamburg

9:30-11:30 THERMAL MEDIA AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE

*Chair: Steffen Krämer*

Time, Temperature, and its Informational Turn

*Wolfgang Ernst*

Cold infrastructures: an Environmental Historical Approach to Urban Cooling

*Paula Schönach*

11:30-12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00-13:00 SENSING TEMPERATURE

*Chair: Michael Liegl*

Running a Temperature. Sociological-Phenomenological Perspectives on Distance Running, Thermoreception and 'Temperature Work'

*John Hockey*

13:00-14:00 LUNCH

14:00-15:00

Embodied Relation. Understanding Processes of Embodiment and Interrelation with Metabolic Systems: an Experimental Study using Virtual Reality

*Desiree Förster*

15:00-15:15 COFFEE BREAK

15:15-17:15 THERMAL AESTHETICS

*Chair: Martin Jörg Schäfer*

Clayness: The Emancipation of Matter

*Agustina Andreoletti*

Thermal Envelopes. Heat and Warmth in Installation Art

*Gunnar Schmidt*