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PRESS RELEASE

Essen, 18.12.2024

Cultures of the Cryosphere

Charting Emergent Geographies and Historiographies of our Relations
with Cold

7 January 2025, 18:30 (CET)

Online (Zoom) & Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities Essen (KWI)

Goethestraße 31, 45128 Essen

The ability to artificially cool environments and living entities has driven a powerful set of human imaginaries, all informed by tropes of control: new found abilities to stop and start life at will, to secure and store foods that would otherwise be geographically unavailable, to occupy spaces normally unsympathetic to human life, and to generate forms of knowledge that can now be successfully archived in artificial brains that sit outside conventional bodily housings.

In her lecture, Professor Parry will chart the complex historiographies and geographies of artificial cooling, demonstrating both what these technological fantasies have made possible, but also the costs that we, as a human race, may pay for their realisation.

SPEAKER

Bronwyn Parry, Australian National University

MODERATOR

Stefan Höhne, KWI, University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE)

PARTICIPATION IN PERSON

Participation is free of charge. There is no registration necessary.

PARTICIPATION ON ZOOM

For participation on Zoom, please follow [this link](#).

ORGANISATION

The event is organized by the ERC Synergy Grant Project “The Cultures of the Cryosphere: Infrastructures, Politics and Futures of Artificial Cooling” and the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities Essen (KWI).

PRESS CONTACT

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FURTHER INFORMATION

[Event on the KWI website](#)

[Project “The Cultures of the Cryosphere” on the KWI website](#)

FUNDING

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

We would appreciate the circulation of this press release.

About the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI):

The Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen, Germany, is an interdisciplinary research centre following the tradition of international Institutes for Advanced Study. In its role as an inter-university institution connecting the Ruhr-University Bochum, the Technological University Dortmund and the University of Duisburg-Essen, the institute works together with researchers and scientists from its neighbouring universities as well as other partners from the federal state NRW and places in- and outside of Germany. Within the Ruhr area, the KWI is a place to share and discuss the questions and results of ambitious research with interested parties from the city and the greater region. Currently, work at the KWI focusses on the following areas: “cultural studies of science and science policy making”, “sociology of literature and culture”, “science communication”, “visual literacy” and a “teaching lab”. Projects in the established research field “culture of communication”, as well as individual projects, will be continued.

www.kulturwissenschaften.de

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