

# Environmental Aesthetics: History, Theory, Politics

**TIMO MÜLLER**

The term „environmental aesthetics“ is most often associated with the work of philosopher Gernot Böhme, who sought to replace the emphasis on aesthetic judgment and subject-object relations in traditional nature aesthetics with a more comprehensive understanding of environmental apperception. The talk contextualizes Böhme's approach with reference to historical predecessors and recent adaptations, for example in the New Materialism. Against this background it discusses the central assumptions of Böhme's approach and proposes some insights into the politics of aesthetic representations of the natural environment.

Timo Müller is Professor of American Studies at the University of Konstanz, and author of *The African American Sonnet: A Literary History* (2018), and *The Self as Object in Modernist Fiction: James, Joyce, Hemingway* (2010). He is currently principal investigator for the ERC funded project *Off the Road: The Environmental Aesthetics of Early Automobility* (2023-27), which explores the early history of automobility as an aesthetic experience based on new sensual perceptions, strategies of representation, and formations of environmental knowledge

SESSION 03

**Monday**

**February 27th**

9am Berlin / 8am London / 5pm Tokyo



Please register in advance at  
[www.ideologyandaesthetics.org](http://www.ideologyandaesthetics.org)

LECTURE

Co-organised with the WIAS seminar series *Humanities in the Anthropocene*,  
Global Japanese Studies Model Unit, Waseda University Top Global University Project