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FAU Presents ‘Atmospheres of the Spiritual: Somaesthetic Explorations’

BOCA RATON, Fla. (Nov. 18, 2025) – Florida Atlantic University’s Center for Body, Mind, and Culture in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters will present an in-person international conference, “Atmospheres of the Spiritual: Somaesthetic Explorations,” on Thursday, Dec. 4 and Friday, Dec. 5, at 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton campus.

This conference develops the center’s study of the somaesthetics of atmosphere that investigates atmosphere as an elusive but significant transformational force that works both outside and inside the individual’s body.

“Atmosphere is normally regarded as something outside and surrounding a person or group, whereas our somaesthetic perspective explores the somatic internalization of atmosphere and the experiential effects of its somaesthetic inner-outer transactions,” said Richard Shusterman, Ph.D., the Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar in the Humanities, FAU [Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters](#). “Our premise is that rather than being only on the outside, atmospheres feel like they touch us from the inside yet are experientially shared, just as subjective moods resonate and pervade the atmosphere of a place or situation. In this conference we examine the various atmospheres that contribute to spiritual phenomena and our sense of the sacred.”

The conference will include presentations from an international group of scholars from Europe, East Asia and America, and it builds on last year’s conference on atmosphere, which received a grant from the Burroughs Welcome Fund as well as generous funding from the Schmidt Family Foundation.

“We at the center are deeply grateful to the Schmidt Family Foundation for their continuing support of all the center’s activities,” Shusterman said.

The conference is open to the public and free of cost, but space is limited, and registration is required. This is the 21st international conference of the Center for Body, Mind, and Culture since its founding in 2007.

Program and access details for the conference can be found at www.fau.edu/artsandletters/bodymindculture/uconferrn/.

For more information about the center, visit www.fau.edu/artsandletters/bodymindculture/.

About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University serves more than 32,000 undergraduate and graduate students across six campuses located along the Southeast Florida coast. It is one of only 21 institutions in the country designated by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as an “R1: Very High Research Spending and Doctorate Production” university and an “Opportunity College and University” for providing greater access to higher education as well as higher earnings for students after graduation. In 2025, Florida Atlantic was nationally recognized as a Top 25 Best-In-Class College and as “one of the country’s most effective engines of upward mobility” by Washington Monthly magazine. Increasingly a first-choice university for students in both Florida and across the nation, Florida Atlantic welcomed its most academically competitive incoming class in the university’s history in Fall 2025. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.