

Special seminar of

## RESEARCH CENTRE FOR THEORY AND HISTORY OF SCIENCE

with

**Mădălina Diaconu:**

Meteorological aesthetics.

Does a beautiful weather have to be fine?

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INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

## **METEOROLOGICAL AESTHETICS.**

### **DOES A BEAUTIFUL WEATHER HAVE TO BE FINE?**

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After comparing recent attempts to outline a celestial, meteorological or aerial aesthetics (A. Berleant, H. Rolston III, D. Macauley), the lecture suggests eleven general criteria of an aesthetic evaluation of the weather conditions. These go beyond the everyday blue-sky thinking, that equates a beautiful with a fine weather, and imply perceptual, emotional and cognitive aspects. In particular an aesthetics of fine weather would be strictly speaking impossible, given that the fine weather usually allows humans to focus on other aspects than weather, contradicting by that the autotelic character of the aesthetic value. Also living in a paradisiac climate would end in monotony. Finally, whereas a fine weather is related in the modern realistic literature to a cosmic harmony and a universal natural order, contemporary literary examples show that in the age of the Anthropocene and of the climate change a fine weather may be deceitful and its passive contemplation, irresponsible.