WEATHER COMMONS

ON THE PRACTICE AND POLITICS OF ATMOSPHERIC MODIFICATION

TBA21–Academy UNI Fall term:
October 14–November 23, 2026

Curated by **FAST** (Eva Franch i Gilabert and Jose Luis de Vincente) and **TBA21–Academy** (Eduardo Castillo Vinuesa and Aleksandra Czerniak)

OPEN CALL

Weather Commons[1] examines the practices and politics of changing the weather. From rainmaking rituals, anti-hail infrastructures, and cloud seeding to weather militarization, atmospheric simulation, AI forecasting, and geoengineering, the semester explores how societies have imagined, manipulated, governed, and contested the weather not as an immutable force, but as a field of intervention, power, and possibility.

Located between myth and science, emergency and speculation, care and control, weather modification occupies an unstable territory in which the possible, the factual, and the conspiratorial often overlap.

At the center of the semester is a question of design and governance: if the atmosphere is a commons, who has the right to change the weather?

Across five Seminar Sessions and four design blocks developed through a collaborative Working Group, Weather Commons brings together artists, historians, scientists, designers and architects, policy experts, and community actors to explore the atmosphere as a shared but unevenly governed space. The semester moves from vernacular practices and histories of weather control to contemporary debates on Earth observation, climate intervention, atmospheric governance, and planetary-scale design.

Rather than asking only whether weather modification is real or effective or if it should be deployed or not, Weather Commons asks what worlds it produces: who benefits, who is exposed to risk, who gives consent, who controls the data, and what forms of accountability are needed when weather becomes a site of intervention.

Weather Commons will culminate in a publication bringing together selected contributions from the Seminar Series and research developed by the Working Group.

ABOUT UNI

UNI is TBA21–Academy's para-academic program for collective learning, knowledge production, and experimentation at the intersection of art, science, technology, and society. Conceived as a platform to explore the complexities of contemporary worlds and their ecologies, it creates space to investigate the blind spots, uncomfortable questions, and less visible territories that conventional academic and cultural frameworks often leave unaddressed. By bringing different forms of knowledge and practice into dialogue, UNI seeks to develop the pedagogies, shared languages, methods, and tools required to engage with some of these pressing yet overlooked topics.

UNI draws on the methodology developed within the OCEAN / UNI learning initiatives between 2020 and 2026.

[1] The concept of 'weather commons' has previously been developed in recent research by Tsuyoshi Hatori, Christoph Rupprecht, Chris Berthelsen, Manon Simon and colleagues. See, for example, Hatori et al. (2025).

TWO WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

Weather Commons offers two interconnected ways to take part, designed for different levels of engagement. Participants may register for the **Seminar Series** or register to join both the **Seminar Series** and the **Working Group.**

SEMINAR SERIES

Five online seminars
October 14–November 10, 2026
Wednesday, October 14;
Wednesday, October 21;
Monday, October 26;
Tuesday, November 3;
Tuesday, November 10;
18:00–19:30 CET / 12:00–13:30 ET
ENROLMENT FEE: €150
Between five and ten full scholarships available
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 4, 2026

→ **REGISTER HERE**

WORKING GROUP SERIES

Four online collaborative sessions
November 2–November 23, 2026
Mondays,
18:00–20:30 CET / 12:00-2:30pm ET
ENROLMENT FEE: Fully funded;
Seminar Series attendance included and required
APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 4, 2026

→ **APPLY HERE**

SEMINAR SERIES

The **Weather Commons Seminar Series** is an open, international learning program bringing together students, emerging practitioners, artists, researchers, and thinkers from around the world.

Across five weekly online sessions, invited artists, historians, scientists, designers, researchers, and policy experts will explore how humans have sought to understand, predict, modify, and govern the weather—from vernacular practices, rainmaking rituals, and early experiments in weather control to satellite observation, climate modeling, geoengineering, and other forms of planetary intervention.

Each seminar combines presentations by invited guests with conversation and collective discussion, creating a space in which different disciplines, geographies, forms of knowledge, and lived experiences can meet. No single disciplinary background is required: participants are invited to approach weather through architecture, art, science, technology, politics, history, ecology, or other fields of inquiry.

Each 90-minute session combines presentations and conversations with guest speakers, followed by collective discussion with the group, allowing diverse forms of expertise and experience to enter into dialogue.

Together, these five sessions establish the shared conceptual foundation of the Weather Commons module. They also provide the critical and theoretical basis for the collaborative research subsequently developed by the Working Group and collective publication.

SEMINAR SERIES

PROGRAM

Session 1
October 14, 2026

Genealogies and Mythologies of Weather Modification
With Sarah Strauss
Moderated by Eva Franch i Gilabert

Session 2
October 21, 2026

Warm Wars and Weather Imperialism
With Karolina Sobecka, Ala Roushan and Charles Stankievech
Moderated by Aleksandra Czerniak

Session 3
October 26, 2026

Scopic Regimes of Weather
With Luiza Crosman, Lucia Rebolino
Moderated by Eduardo Castillo Vinuesa

Session 4
November 3, 2026

Remaking the Sky
With Design Earth, Elise Hunchuck and Marco Ferrari
Moderated by Jose Luis de Vincente

Session 5
November 10, 2026

Atmospheric Governance
With Manon Simon, Tsuyoshi Hatori, and Christoph Rupprecht,
followed by discussion with the curatorial team

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Seminar Series is open to participants from all backgrounds and disciplinary fields. It is intended for anyone interested in planetary thinking, weather, climate, art, design, science, technology, politics, history, or environmental governance. No previous expertise is required—only curiosity, a willingness to engage with different perspectives, and an interest in collective knowledge exchange.

REGISTRATION

→ REGISTER TO ATTEND HERE

Places in the Seminar Series will be allocated through an open registration process and will remain available until capacity is reached. Applicants will be asked to provide basic information about their background and a brief statement explaining their motivation for joining the program.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

DATES: October 14—November 10, 2026
SCHEDULE:
Wednesday, October 14;
Wednesday, October 21;
Monday, October 26;
Tuesday, November 3;
Tuesday, November 10;
18:00–19:30 CET / 12:00–13:30 ET
FORMAT: Five online sessions
PLATFORM: Zoom and a dedicated online community space
ENROLMENT FEE: €150
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 4, 2026

WORKING GROUP

Working Group is the **collaborative research and experimental practice strand of Weather Commons**. Led by researchers and architects **Farzin Lotfi-Jam** and **Boone Mercado**, it brings together a small interdisciplinary group of approximately twelve practitioners selected through this international open call.

Conceived less as a conventional workshop than as a temporary research laboratory, the Working Group offers participants the opportunity to exchange tools, methodologies, and forms of expertise while developing a shared investigation into the technologies, contested claims, and political imaginaries surrounding weather modification.

The central inquiry and working method will be shaped collectively by Farzin Lotfi-Jam, Boone Mercado, and the selected participants. The outcome is deliberately open-ended: it may take the form of a final presentation, a digital tool or interface, a shared research resource, an experimental prototype, or another format emerging from the process. Elements of the research may subsequently contribute to the Weather Commons publication or to a future public event.

→ FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE WHITE PAPER

HOW WILL THE GROUP WORK?

1. Establishing shared research protocols, sources, and datasets.

2. Identifying specific problems, controversies, or contested claims within weather modification that require new investigative or representational approaches.

3. Developing rapid, AI-assisted prototypes, tools, interfaces, or research experiments.

4. Testing and critically examining the methods, assumptions, and potential consequences of the proposed tools.

5. Presenting the resulting work and considering how elements of the research might be developed further.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The Working Group is intended for interdisciplinary practitioners already working at the intersection of atmospheric research, critical technology studies, and aesthetic investigation. We welcome applicants whose work relates to environmental science, geoengineering, Earth observation, critical theory, or artistic/design research, and particularly encourage applications from practitioners who can contribute experience from—or across—the following profiles:

THE ARTISTIC & DESIGN INVESTIGATOR:
Artists, designers, filmmakers, and architects working with speculative practice, spatial media, visualization, or simulation, and interested in how weather and atmosphere can be represented, modeled, or reimagined.

THE SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL SPECIALIST:
Climate scientists, meteorologists, atmospheric researchers, data practitioners, and Earth observation specialists working with weather modeling, sensing infrastructures, or forecasting technologies.

THE CRITICAL & INVESTIGATIVE RESEARCHER:
Historians, political theorists, legal scholars, journalists, and investigative researchers examining planetary governance, the politics of the commons, and the geopolitical implications of weather and climate intervention.

WORKING GROUP

COMMITMENT AND PARTICIPATION

The Working Group requires proactive participation from all selected participants, who are expected to contribute consistently to discussions, shared research, and collaborative work both during and between sessions.

The overall estimated commitment is approximately 20 hours:
- 10 hours of Working Group sessions.
- Approximately 10 hours of independent and collaborative work.

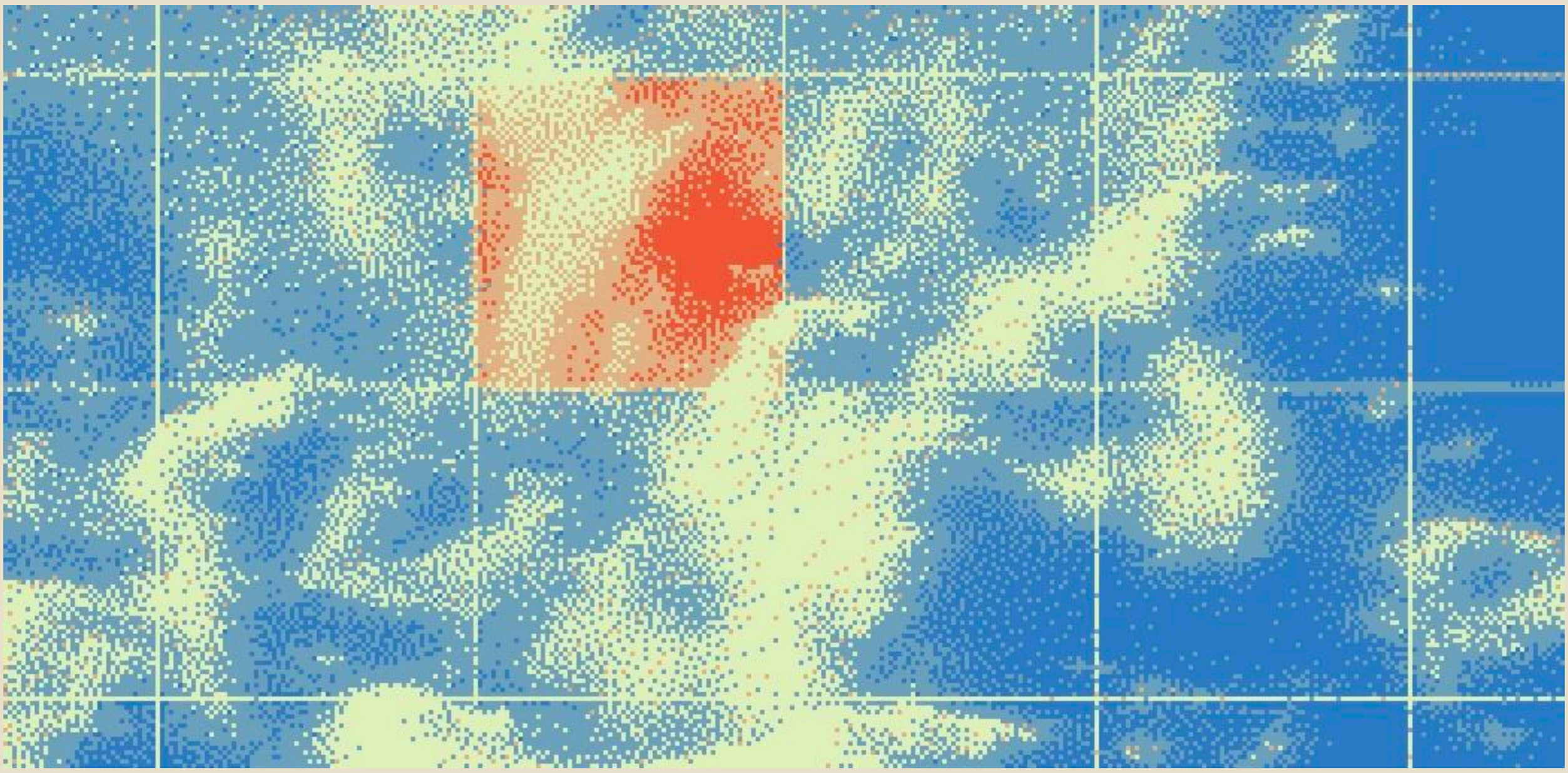
Selected candidates for the Working Group are also expected to attend the Weather Commons Seminar Series (free of charge), which provides the shared conceptual and critical foundation for the program.

Attendance at all sessions and active participation in the group process are required. Upon completion, participants will receive official accreditation from TBA21–Academy.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

DATES: November 2–November 23, 2026
SCHEDULE: Mondays, 18:00–20:30 CET / 12:00–2:30pm ET
FORMAT: Four online sessions
INDEPENDENT WORK: Approximately 10 hours
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 12
PLATFORM: Zoom
PARTICIPATION FEE: None—all places are fully funded
APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 4, 2026
NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE: October 19,2026

→ APPLY HERE



For further information about the program framework, sessions, contributors, and methodology, please consult the Weather Commons White Paper.

→ READ THE WHITE PAPER HERE

UNI is a non-profit initiative. TBA21–Academy derives no profit from participation fees; all income is reinvested directly into the program to support its delivery, accessibility, and economic viability.

QUESTIONS: HELLO@TBA21-ACADEMY.ORG

MORE INFO: WWW.TBA21.ORG/UNI-WC