iMonsoon: An Introduction to Experiential Climate Modeling

We are intimately familiar with the weather and climate of the regions in which we live – the heavy feeling in the air that suggests rain, or the dry electric heat of summer. Yet we also rely on a complex scientific infrastructure to produce weather forecasts and long-range predictions of climate change that are crucial for planning our futures. With generous support from the Institute for Humanities Research, the Experiential Climate Modeling project – a Synthesis project of The School of Arts, Media + Engineering – explores how we might begin to connect our everyday bodily experiences of the weather with what we learn about climate through scientific models and simulations.

How would it feel if you could walk inside a climate model and manipulate the atmosphere through your bodily movements and gestures?

What if you could become the wind, move a heat island, or control the rate of rainfall?

Our explorations center around the use of a responsive media environment to facilitate embodied learning about atmospheric processes and the methods of scientific modeling by connecting processes of human movement and perception to abstract climate models in three-dimensional space. At this event, we will introduce the artistic, scientific and philosophical motivations for this enquiry and invite audience members to experiment with our prototype project: a responsive media installation called *iMonsoon,* a human-scale simulation of late-summer monsoon storms over the state of Arizona. A critical assessment of the project will be offered by visiting atmospheric scientists, and visitors will be invited to interact with the responsive media environment as well as participate in a discussion of its potential for transforming our scientific and cultural understanding of the atmosphere.

What: iMonsoon Public Interactive Experience
When: Friday, April 17, 2015 from 3pm-7pm
Where: Matthews Center iStage, 2nd Floor, ASU main (Tempe) campus

NOTE: Street shoes cannot be worn while operating iMonsoon. We suggest you wear easily removable footwear.