THERMAL OBJECTS
THEORIZING TEMPERATURES AND THE SOCIAL

FURTHER INFORMATION
www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/lose-verbindungen/thermalobjects

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In the humanities and social sciences, heat and cold are mostly treated as metaphors. For example, the formation of the modern, urbanized society is often described as a cooling process that freezes the warm, authentic community. Thermal metaphors turn out to be crucial devices organizing discourses of modernity. However, the materiality of temperature and its relation to social phenomena was mostly overlooked.

Highlighting temperature leads us to a range of questions about the materiality of the social, including the senses, the mediality and infrastructures of heat and cold, the conception of thermal objects and elements as fire, thermopolitics and thermal aesthetics.