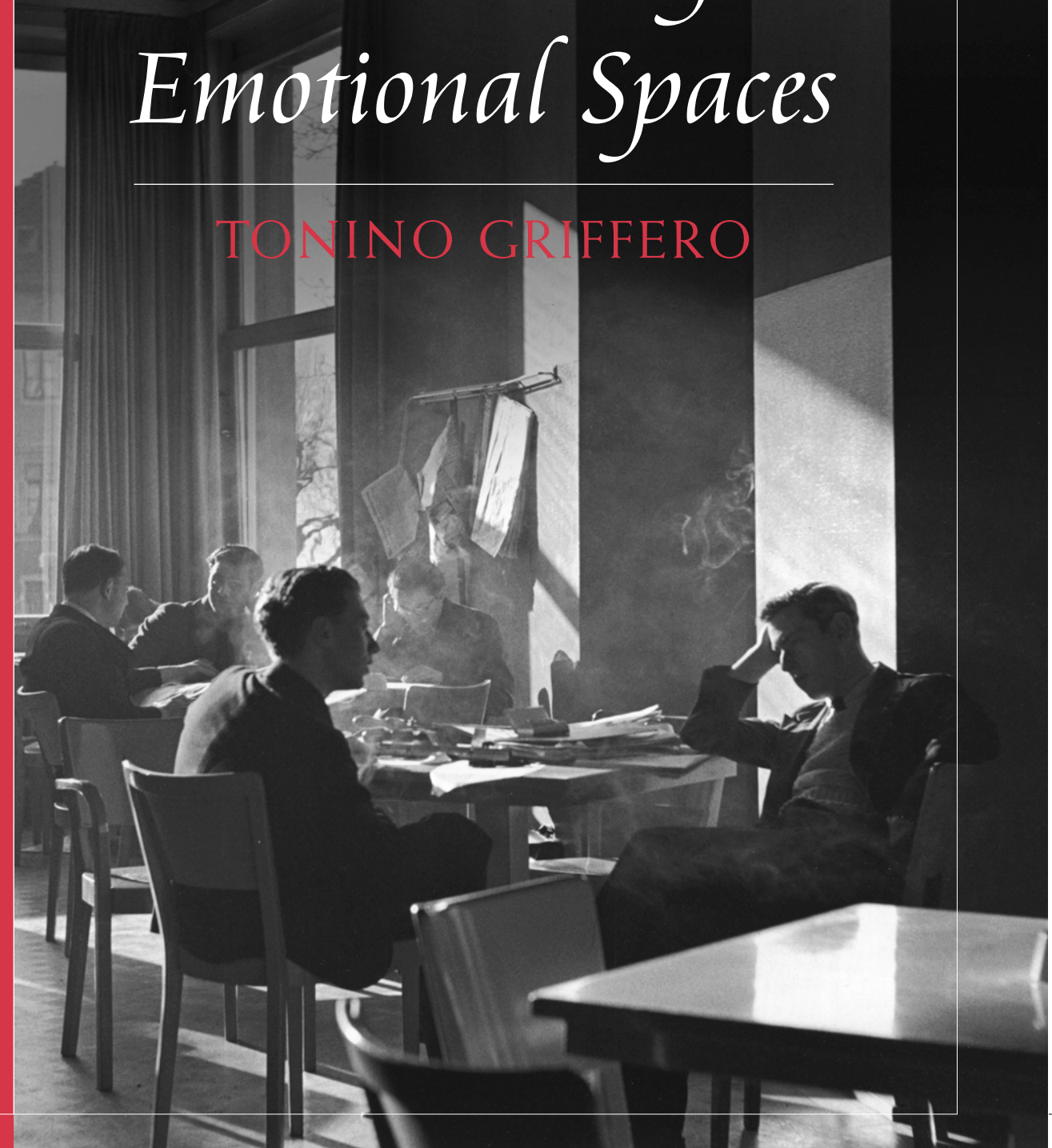




# Atmospheres: Aesthetics of Emotional Spaces

TONINO GRIFFERO



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It is no secret that the atmosphere at lunch is different from the atmosphere at supper, that antique furniture exudes more atmosphere than modern one, that even our appetite can be stimulated by an atmosphere of warmth and trust. Yet, despite our undoubted familiarity with these phenomena, the question 'What is an atmosphere?' still awaits a satisfactory answer.

Originally published in Italian in 2010, Griffero's book is the first to address the theory of atmospheres in a thorough and systematic way. The role of atmospheres in daily life is examined and their main ontological and phenomenological characteristics are defined. Providing a history of the term 'atmosphere' and of its conceptual forerunners (*genius loci*, *aura*, *Stimmung*, numinous, emotional design and *ambiance*), Griffero develops a philosophical approach which finds patterns in the emotional tones of different spaces (affordances), addresses their impact on the felt body, and argues that there is a need for a non-psychologicistic rethinking of emotions.

Showing how atmospheres affect our emotions, our bodies' reactions, our states of mind and, as a result, our behaviour and judgements, Griffero highlights how atmospheres are more effective than we have thus far been rationally willing to admit, and makes us aware of the extent to which traditional aesthetics, unilaterally oriented towards art, has underestimated this truth.

**Tonino Griffero** is an Italian philosopher and Professor of Aesthetics at the University of Rome, Tor Vergata, Italy.

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