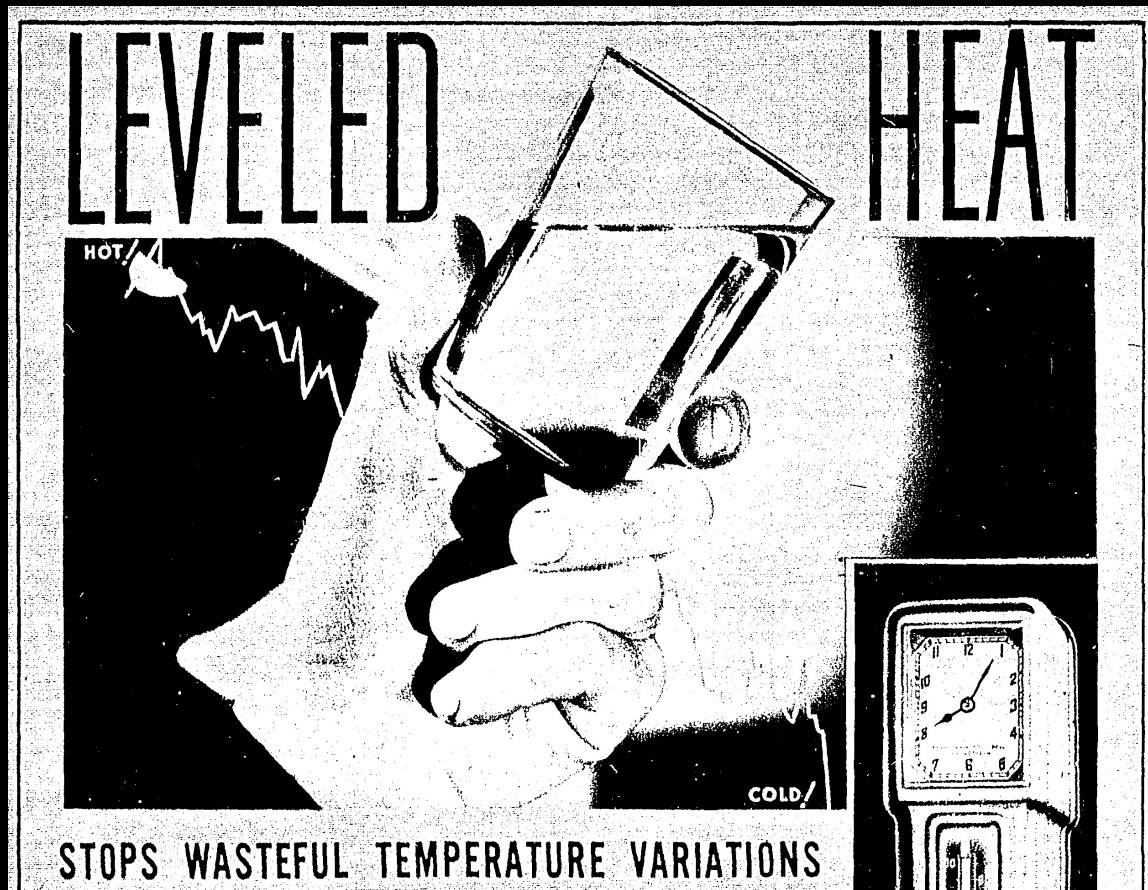


# MEDIA HOT and COLD



Friday, November 16, at 3pm (SSMS 2135)

## Nicole Starosielski,

Department of Media, Culture, and Communication at New York University



All matter emits heat and is transformed by it. These are ubiquitous communications, heat-signals often relayed without intentionality and registered without cognition. An attunement to such affective emissions is critical in the current moment, which is marked both by climate change and by intensifying forms of atmospheric communication, manipulation, and control. This talk articulates a media theory of heat that encompasses the cultural and ideological work of thermal technologies, the thermoceptive reproduction of racialized, gendered, sexualized forms of power, and the ways that the infrared spectrum has been harnessed to support global fiber-optic communications.

Nicole Starosielski is Associate Professor in the Department of Media, Culture, and Communication at New York University. Her research documents the cultures of media infrastructures and their environments, from the nineteenth century telegraph cables to contemporary internet systems. Her first book,

*The Undersea Network* (2015) charted the development of the cable systems that carry almost all transoceanic internet traffic and won SCMS's best first book award. Alongside the book, she designed *Surfacing*, a digital countermapping of the undersea cable network. She has co-edited books with UCSB faculty, including *Signal Traffic: Critical Studies of Media Infrastructures*, with Lisa Parks (2015, winner of SCMS's best edited collection award) and *Sustainable Media: Critical Approaches to Media and Environment*, with Janet Walker (2016).