

**Anthrozoology as International Practice (AIP2021)
A Student Conference in Animal Studies**



AIP2021 Logo designed by Carolina Vitta

4-5 March 2021

Organised by postgraduate researchers from the University of Exeter's Anthrozoology as
Symbiotic Ethics (EASE) working group

<https://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/ease/people/>

Organising committee: Tom Aiello, Kris Hill, Jes Hooper

PGR advisory board: Sian Moody, Sarah Oxley Heaney, Michelle Szydlowski

Staff advisory board: Prof. Sam Hurn, Dr. Emily Stone

Session Chairs: Angi Millwood Lacinak, Sarah Oxley Heaney, Kerry Sands, Molly Sumridge,
Michelle Szydlowski.

Learn more about the research undertaken by EASE postgraduate researchers (PGRs) by
watching our 'three-minute-thesis' presentations:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGwN0amQN3pexcgMJWav5fg>



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Programme outline

Thurs March 4th 2021 (9:00-17:45 UK time)

Introduction (9:00-9:45)

- Opening presentation by **Professor Samantha Hurn**

Session 1 (9:45-11:00). Mourning, Loss, and Welfare

Chair: **Sarah Oxley Heaney**

- **Billings, Rayne:** *Mourning Animal Lives: Love and Loss with the Southern Resident Killer Whales*
- **Scheidl, Heidi:** *Mourning Harold — Companion Animal Grief and Mourning Made Material*
- **Hladky-Krage, Bridget:** *It Just Makes Scents: Using Nosework to Induce Positive Welfare in the Shelter Environment*



Break (15 min)

Workshop 1 (11:15-12:30): Publishing your research

Chair: **Kris Hill**

This workshop is intended to demystify the process of publishing your academic work. It is aimed at graduate students who have little or no experience of academic publishing, but undergraduates and published authors are welcome to attend. The panel will answer your questions about finding appropriate journals, preparing a manuscript, the peer-review process, navigating 'rejections', and finding book publishers for your thesis. Together with senior academics and journal editors, the panel members include students and recent graduates who have agreed to share their experiences (challenges and successes) and provide insight and encouragement to anyone considering publishing their anthrozoological scholarship.

⇒ Prof. Sam Hurn (Director of EASE)

⇒ Dr. Anthony Podberscek (Editor-in-Chief, *Anthrozoös*)

⇒ Dr. Kate Marx, PhD (Anthrozoology, Exeter 2018)

⇒ Lynda Korimboccus, MA (Anthrozoology, Exeter 2019), independent scholar and author of *The Peppa Pig Paradox* (Critical Animal Studies, 2020)



Lunch (12:30-13:30)



Session 2. (13:30-14:45): Animal Assistants

Chair: **Molly Sumridge**

- **Rakestraw, Corisa:** *Therapy Dogs as Healers for Hospitalized Patients*
- **Melancon, Sara Jane:** *The Donkey Problem: a review of donkey history and research as it relates to their use in donkey assisted therapy*
- **Thomann, Vera:** *Human-Animal Relations in Scientific Animal Experiments*



Break (15 min)

Session 3. (15:00-16:15): Zoos

Chair: **Angi Millwood Lacinak**

- **Lawrence-Thompson, Frankie:** *The Salamander in the Room – Investigating Representations of Charismatic and Non-Charismatic Species by British Zoos Online*
- **Devlin, Shona & Wheeler, Allana:** *A Preliminary Analysis of the Difference in Zookeeper Attachment to Animals by Taxonomic Groups*
- **DeSmet, Annabel:** *North American Felid Keepers Perception of Welfare and the Implications for Zoo Managers*



Break (15 min)

Session 4. (16:30-17:45): Elephants & Equines

Chair: **Michelle Szydlowski**

- **Lubabun, Ni'am:** *Selling captive elephant encounters: Lively commodification and the production of value in Tangkahan ecotourism, Sumatra, Indonesia*
- **Madrid, Rebecca:** *Lumber Layoffs, Poverty, and Boredom: Investigating welfare-focused tourism as a domestic solution to elephant unemployment*
- **Facey, Hazel:** *An analysis of the relationship between UK horse owners' characteristics of personality and horse breed*



End of First Day



Friday March 5th 2021 (9:00-17:45 UK time)

Special session EASE postgraduate researchers (9:00-9:45)

- Meet the organisers and other EASE postgraduate researchers



Break (15 min)

Session 5 (9:45-11:00). Animal Encounters in Urban Spaces

Chair: **Sarah Oxley Heaney**

- **Ragavan, Shruti:** *Bovine Ethnographies: Method, Mobilities, and the City-scape*
- **Wang, Xuemeng:** *Rubbish place(un)making with urban pigeons*
- **Young, Miriam & Dominguez, Maria:** *Rewilding Human Thinking To "Save The Planet": An Introduction to Human (de)Centered Design Methods*



Break (15 min)

Session 6 (11:15-12:30): Animals in Art and Literature

Chair: **Kris Hill**

- **Laszlo, Borbála:** *Humanimality: Biopolitical and Bioethical Implications of the Human-Canine Relationship in Wes Anderson's Isle of Dogs*
- **Long, Peter Kao:** *The Making and Representing of Gendered Animals in Food Inc*
- **Motta, Ana Paula:** *Not just good to eat: an appraisal of human-animal relations in the Indigenous rock art from North-east Kimberley, Australia*



Lunch (12:30-13:30)



Workshop 2 (13:30-14:45): Beyond the Degree: Anthrozoology Progression Opportunities

Chair: **Jes Hooper**

This workshop is intended as a forum for undergraduates interested in human-animal relations, to explore the opportunities available to them within the growing field of Anthrozoology. In an exchange of personal experiences, this workshop will provide an inclusive space for panelists to discuss and answer questions on the wide-ranging career options available for those interested in human-animal encounter ranging from PhD routes to careers in teaching, animal advocacy and animal behaviour management.

Panelist will be joining from the following career paths:

- ⇒ PhD
- ⇒ Animal advocacy
- ⇒ Teaching
- ⇒ Animal behaviour
- ⇒ Animal conservation



Break (15 min)

Session 7. (15:00-16:15): Consciousness, Construction, & Communication

Chair: **Michelle Szydłowski**

- **Spiegelhofer, Eva:** *The Call of the Other – Comparing Intercultural and Interspecies Communication*
- **Jones, Erin:** *Great Expectations: the social construction of dogs*
- **Kim, Yoonjung:** *Why are We Crazy about Animal Contents? : The popularity of animal contents in Korean society and it's implication*



Break (15 min)

Session 8. (16:30-17:45): Speciesism and Animals as Commodities

Chair: **Kerry Sands**

- **Gradidge, Sarah:** *Psychological predictors and causes of speciesism: The empirical case of dogs vs. Pigs*
- **Deelen, Evelien:** *The Good Animal: A Qualitative Analysis of Etic Attitudes Towards the use of Animals in Rodeo*
- **Lewis, Corrina:** *From Collector to Captor: The Theoretical Crime of Animal Hoarding*



End of Conference



About Anthrozoology as International Practice (AIP)

Anthrozoology as International Practice (AIP) is organised by post-graduate students from the University of Exeter's Anthrozoology as Symbiotic Ethics (EASE) working group. The theme of our conference is 'Emerging Voices' and we welcome presentations from students and early career researchers in anthrozoology and related fields (such as human-animal studies, natural sciences or philosophy). This conference aims to spotlight research being undertaken by students around the world, in the hopes of building a global support network.

The official AIP2021 conference logo

Seven entries were selected by the organisers for voting. The winner is a design by Carolina Vitta from Argentina. Carolina is currently studying for a bachelor's degree in Psychopedagogy, and her thesis related to anthrozoology. Carolina's profession is as an art therapist and consultant in feline behaviour. She is also a cat assisted therapy specialist.

'This logo is intended to be a symbol representing emerging voices in Anthrozoology. People who join and make a commitment to this fascinating science, and who together raise their voices to generate more knowledge, wellness and empathy in human-animal interaction' (Carolina Vitta)

About EASE

The EASE working group brings together academics and postgraduate research students from diverse disciplinary backgrounds across the University of Exeter (including anthropology, philosophy, sociology, geography, bioscience, psychology, animal behaviour and computer science) whose research and teaching interests explore and address human interactions with other living things. EASE was founded in 2016 following a generous philanthropic donation to support the development of our existing teaching provision and research expertise in Anthrozoology (conceived broadly here as the multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural study of human interactions with other animals).

Reframing Anthrozoology as Symbiotic Ethics:

The principal contention of the working group is that the recognition of other animals as ethically significant beings is both a necessary part of a sound understanding of these interactions, and a moral imperative. Our particular model of qualitative Anthrozoology places emphasis on (i) an empathetic 'living with' (symbiosis) or alongside other animals (either physically, for example with companion animals, or indirectly, for example through ethical consumerism), (ii) a respect for them as autonomous subjects, (iii) an attempt to grasp, wherever possible, their perspectives as well as those of our human subjects, and (iv) a holistic understanding of the context within which interactions occur. Moreover, we suggest that (v) academic research concerned with understanding these trans-species interactions should



have some meaningful, practical application and ultimately improve the lives of our research subjects. Consequently, we propose that Anthrozoology should be reframed as Symbiotic Ethics, to acknowledge the inextricable connections we share with other life forms at a time when our collective futures hang precariously in the balance.

<https://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/ease/about/>

AIP organising committee

Tom Aiello

Thomas Aiello is a professor of history and African American studies at Valdosta State University and is in the process of creating an anthrozoology program at the school. He is the author of almost twenty books and dozens of peer-reviewed journal articles. His work helped amend the Louisiana constitution to make nonunanimous juries illegal and was cited in the United States Supreme Court as part of its decision ruling them unconstitutional. His work was also part of the effort that led Major League Baseball to include Negro Leagues statistics in its historical record. He holds PhDs in history and anthrozoology and is a member of the board of the Animals and Society Institute. Learn more at www.thomasaiellobooks.com.

Kris Hill

Kris was awarded an MA in Anthrozoology from Exeter University in 2018, which she completed while working fulltime in an unrelated field. In 2019, Kris embarked upon her PhD research part-time, focusing on cat-human relations within urban communities. Currently she is building the foundations of a new career – either as an academic, an educator, or a researcher within a non-profit organisation, dedicated to improving the lives of both human and non-human animals. Kris's PhD project studies social discourses surrounding free-roaming domestic cats (*Felis catus*), and cat-human relations in urban environments. Her methods include thematic discourse analyses of user comments responding to various media sources, qualitative survey responses, and interviews, combined with biographical analyses of cat-human dyad case studies. Rather than considering cats, or groups of cats, as normative or reconceived categories, Kris's research attempts to bring to the fore feline individuality and agency. With a better understanding of the nuances of cat-human relationships and the different perspectives, future efforts can be better focused on education and ethical practices that benefit cats, humans, and wildlife.

<https://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/ease/people/krishill/>

Jes Hooper

Jes Hooper [1] is an Anthrozoology PhD student at the University of Exeter and a member of Exeter's Anthrozoology as Symbiotic Ethics (EASE) working group [2]. Jes' current research focuses on human-animal encounters within the trade in exotic wildlife for the pet, coffee, tourism and zoo industries. Jes' PhD project, The Civet Project [3], is a multi-species and multi-sited ethnography following the stories of *Viverridae* species entangled within live animal



trade, with encounters viewed through a trans-species lens. Jes's work actively engages with interdisciplinary scholarship including collaborations with visual artists, critical tourism academics, conservationists, zoo keepers and fellow anthrozoologists. Jes lectures part time on two undergraduate programs in Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Conservation at Plumpton College, Sussex, [4] and blogs under the name Shilo & Patch [5].

Links

1. <https://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/ease/people/jeshooper/>
2. <http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/ease/>
3. <https://www.thecivetproject.com/>
4. <https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/courses/animal-management/>
5. <https://jesshooper73.wixsite.com/shiloandpatch/blog>

AIP advisory board committee

Sarah Oxley Heaney

A passion for the ocean and an activist-researcher for abandoned animals, Sarah works in the second field and has based her PhD project around the first. Sarah believes that more-than-human animals have intrinsic value and do not exist solely for human use. Scuba diving with sharks, is a passion she was fortunate enough to begin over 20 years ago. Additionally, Sarah is impassioned about contributing her voice to those who fight for sharks, their aquatic environments and the effect their population decline has upon eco and planetary systems, through scholarly activism. Moreover, although Sarah is careful to not 'speak for' more-than-human animals, she does wish to add to literature reflecting more-than-human animal biographies and their lived experiences.

The aim of Sarah's research is to address how shark-human interspecies connections help to change perceptions of sharks, by conducting a sensory, trans-species ethnography. Ultimately, her research will also fulfil the role of documenting these unique human-shark relationships as 'extinction stories'.

Sarah is a co-founder of The Anthrozoology Podcast, which along with two other PhD colleagues, was created to feature early-career anthrozoologists discussing various anthrozoological topics: <https://anthrozoopod.wixsite.com/anthrozoopod>

Her research can be followed at www.kissingsharks.com and she can be contacted at sh750@exeter.ac.uk

Sian Moody

Sian is Research and Impact Manager at Exeter University and an EASE PhD student.



Michelle Szydlowski

A PhD candidate in Anthrozoology, Michelle spent decades teaching in zoos, museums and veterinary technician colleges. Her MA focused on how novel practices in ecotourism impact community-based conservation efforts for rhino and elephant in Nepal. Michelle is currently teaching anthrozoology at a private college in Florida. One of the few undergraduate programs for anthrozoology in the US, this college specializes in students with learning differences.

Michelle returns to Asia regularly, continuing her work with community-based conservation efforts focused on endangered species preservation, elephant welfare, wildlife health and sustainable development in the areas surrounding Chitwan and Bardia National Parks in Nepal. Her PhD research focuses on captive elephants in Nepal and examines the health and welfare of these endangered individuals and the members of marginalized communities that care for them. In addition, Michelle focuses on governmental, NGO and INGO programs which attempt to help captive elephants, and how their interactions impact population-level health and individual elephant lives.

Michelle serves as the board chair of a non-profit conservation fund focused on supporting community-based initiatives globally. She is active in environmental education projects, humane education initiatives, one world/one health programs, and biodiversity preservation. When not teaching, she can often be found speaking at conferences or to community groups about her work in Nepal, conservation and other topics in anthrozoology. Upcoming projects include a large human-elephant mitigation program with co-researchers from Nepal. Michelle and two Exeter PhD teammates host *The Anthrozoology Podcast* and *Anthrozoology Speaks*, podcast platforms for ongoing discussions about complex species relationships. You can visit Michelle at internationalelephants.org or email her at ms835@exeter.ac.uk.

Professor Samantha Hurn

Samantha Hurn is Associate Professor in Anthropology, and Programme Director for the MA and PhD Anthrozoology programmes at the University of Exeter, UK. Sam has conducted research and published on trans-species interactions in diverse contexts including street dog management in Romania; rhino poaching in South Africa; eco-tourism and primate conservation in Kenya, Uganda, South Africa and Swaziland; animal based agriculture and vegan ethics in the UK; non-traditional companion animals; and her most recent research, funded by the Society for Companion Animal Studies, is concerned with exploring and finding ways to better support childhood experiences of disenfranchised grief following the loss of companion and/or assistance animals. Sam's book *Humans and Other Animals* was described by John Bradshaw as "the best anthrozoology text". Sam also co-edits the Routledge series 'Multi-Species Encounters'. Sam identifies as a scholar-activist, and her work is intersectional, concerned with reframing anthrozoology (the trans-disciplinary, cross-cultural study of human interactions with other animals) as 'symbiotic ethics'. 'Anthrozoology as symbiotic ethics' argues that the recognition (and protection) of other animals as ethically significant



beings is both a necessary part of a sound understanding of trans-species interactions, and a moral imperative.

Dr. Emily Stone

Dr Emily Stone received her PhD in Anthrozoology from the University of Exeter in 2020. Her doctoral research was an ethnographic exploration of the cat fancy in the UK. She focused on uncovering the pedigree breeding and exhibiting practices, discourses, and relationships that form between humans, humans and cats, and cats themselves within the multispecies leisure activity, with an emphasis on questioning the implications and consequences of involvement for cats and the wider human-cat relationship. Her methods included extensive participant observation at cat shows across the UK, as well as semi-structured and informal interviews with a range of stakeholders. Emily has previously worked in feline welfare at a cat shelter and currently works on a range of anthrozoological issues as a casual postdoc and research fellow.

AIP Session Chairs

Angi Millwood Lacinak

Angi is an Anthrozoology PhD candidate at the University of Exeter. She is the founder of Precision Behavior, an international animal behavior and welfare consulting firm. She writes and instructs workshops directed at improving the lives of people and animals through cooperative interactions as well as working hands-on with both humans and a wide variety of animal species. She served as Manager of Marine Mammals at the Atlantis Resort, The Palm, in Dubai. She was the Animal Training Coordinator at the Fort Worth Zoo and was a member of Disney's Animal Kingdom's opening team. Angi has presented numerous workshops and papers nationally and internationally at conferences, for zoo staff, college students and business professionals. In 2005 she received the Animal Welfare Advancement Award from the ABMA (Animal Behavior Management Alliance). She served as a course instructor for the AZA professional courses: Animal Training Applications in Zoo and Aquarium Settings and Meeting Your Institutional Goals through Program Animals. She is a professional member of the International Marine Animal Trainers Association, the Animal Behavior Management Alliance, where she served on various committees as well as the board of directors, and the International Society for Anthrozoology.

Sarah Oxley Heaney

See above (under the heading 'advisory board')

Kerry Sands

Kerry is an Anthrozoologist, sighthound specialist and scholar activist whose PhD research within the EASE working group examines the lives and experiences of contemporary greyhounds. Her practical advocacy predominantly focuses on helping former racing greyhounds to navigate new lives as companions, whilst creating new narratives of care for



these traumatised individuals. Kerry's scholarly work calls for social change for greyhounds and is informed by her frontline experiences of living with, caring about and advocating for this vulnerable population of domestic dogs.

Molly Sumridge

Molly Sumridge is an instructor of Anthrozoology at Carroll College in Helena, Montana where she teaches courses on canine science, behaviour, and training, as well as topics on AAI, ethics, business, human animal conflicts, and research. She received her MSc in Anthrozoology from Canisius College in Buffalo, New York in 2019. Since starting her Masters, all things Anthrozoology has been her life consuming passion. Molly's MSc focused on the owner-observed behaviours and owner attachment towards New Guinea singing dogs. Her PhD research expands on this work to further examine New Guinea singing dog owner experiences, expectations, and the unique lives of the dogs in their care. Molly's scholarly work also examines perceptions surrounding domestic, wild, and exotic designations and the impact of these perceptions on animals living as pets.

When not immersed directly in research or teaching students, Molly runs Kindred Companions where she sees dogs and their owners for training and support for significant behaviour challenges. as well as CouchWolves.com, a website dedicated to evidence-based information and lifestyle advice for owners of ancient and primitive dog breeds and landraces. She also hosts, participates in, and has been interview for numerous podcasts and blogs on canine-related topics, nontraditional pets, and compassion fatigue awareness. Molly shares her life with a handful of colourful canine characters and participates in numerous dog sports and activities. Molly also shares her life with a patient human partner, and a host of other animals including Alice the certified AAA therapy chicken.

www.mollysumridge.com

Michelle Szydlowski

See above (under the heading 'advisory board')



Oral presentation abstracts

Billings, Rayne

University of Alaska Southeast, USA

Mourning Animal Lives: Love and Loss with the Southern Resident Killer Whales

We are bound by both love and loss. Through the acknowledgement that we are never alone, that our lives are shaped by individuals, human and animal, we open ourselves up to both of these possibilities-- to quote extinction studies scholar Thom van Dooren, we are "interwoven into a system in which we live and die with others, live and die for others"¹

Those of us who engage with endangered animals, whether through our professions, through observation and interaction, or through the media regularly come into contact with animal death. This is ever present with the Southern Resident killer whales; through recognizing and knowing every individual, we allow ourselves the unique opportunity to engage with them at the personal level. These bonds can produce conflicting emotions: love, of course-- but also shame, pain, and grief. Are we, as humans, a species that pushes others to the brink of death? Mourning animal lives is an acceptance that the world we live in is inherently multispecies; our lives are as profoundly impacted by the absence of animals as it is their presence.

Through engagement with Animal Studies and Extinction Studies scholarship, I plan to address these emotions and questions through the lens of the Southern Resident killer whales. While I will be discussing the concept of mourning in particular, my presentation aims to serve as an attachment point for the broader discussion of our complex, passionate relationships to animals.

References

¹ Bird Rose, Deborah. Dooren, van Thom. Chrulew, Matthew. *Extinction Studies: Stories of Time, Death, and Generations*. Columbia University Press, 2017.

DeSmet, Annabel

Beacon College, USA

North American Felid Keepers Perception of Welfare and the Implications for Zoo Managers

The current study set out to examine the perceptions of felid welfare in zoos and elucidate the factors that influence an individual animal care professional's acceptance and recognition of welfare. A total of 121 felid keepers employed in an AZA facility were included in analysis. Results demonstrate job satisfaction is directly linked to access to training on welfare topics. The relationship between job satisfaction and the fulfillment of the 5 Freedoms is positively correlated, $r(116) = .217, p = .001$. Additionally, overall job satisfaction does not appear to influence the bond with felids, but it does with other zoo animals. Those with lower reported job satisfaction demonstrate an overall lower bond with non-felids, where this not observed in felids. Participants in this study demonstrate the direct connection between job satisfaction and perceived fulfillment of the 5 Freedoms. Participants who were provided access to training and information on animal welfare, often demonstrated a higher job satisfaction, more positive perception of their employer, and overall view of zoos meeting the 5 Freedoms with captive felids.



Deelen, Evelien

Washington State University, USA

The Good Animal: A Qualitative Analysis of Etic Attitudes Towards the use of Animals in Rodeo

Rodeos are intrinsically tied to the culture of the American West. However, animal advocacy groups accuse the industry of promoting abuse and cruelty, and argue that the animals are used as nothing more than disposable objects. These views often rely on stereotypical assumptions regarding the treatment of animals involved in the sport, and portray a homogenous and negative attitude towards rodeo livestock. Rodeo associates negate these claims, and instead argue that cultural outsiders do not understand the rural 'Western' way of life or the realities of living with livestock.

This study explores critiques of rodeo in response to an observed gap between emic and etic attitudes regarding the use of animals in rodeo. Through qualitative analysis of the content of animal advocacy websites, I demonstrate that advocacy groups perpetuate myths about the welfare of rodeo animals via distinct thematic narratives, e.g. physical and emotional costs to animals, the provocation of 'unnatural' behavior, the selfishness of rodeo associates, and the 'good animal' narrative that explains why animals would never purposely consent to participate in rodeo. The intended purpose of the study is to bridge the gap between rodeo opponents and proponents, thereby expanding our anthrozoological approach.

Devlin, Shona and Wheeler, Allana

Beacon College, USA

A Preliminary Analysis of the Difference in Zookeeper Attachment to Animals by Taxonomic Groups

Previous literature has established the connection between HAB & HAR between animals and their caretakers directly influences welfare, particularly in mammalian species. This study set out to examine the difference in self-reported bonds by zookeepers and how these bonds potentially influence perceptions of welfare. Findings demonstrate there is a statistically significant difference between taxonomic groups and the average bond as measured by the Lexington Attachment to Pets Scale, $[F(4, 108) = 2.68, p = .038]$. This difference is not observed based on other participant factors, including years of professional experience, gender, or ethnicity. Preliminary findings suggests there is a relationship between LAPS scores and welfare scores, $r(114) = .250, p = .008$. As in the LAPS scores, there was a significant difference in welfare scores between taxonomic groups, $[F(4, 108) = 2.630, p = .038]$.

Facey, Hazel

Hartpury University, UK

An analysis of the relationship between UK horse owners' characteristics of personality and horse breed

Genetics and selection processes influence horse breed and these constructed traits have come to be associated with typical horse personalities. Current research identifying the



relationship between horse breed and horse owner personality is lacking. Numerous horses are relinquished and passed between keepers, potentially because of unrealistic human expectations and breed characteristics not coinciding with desired horse use. Identification of horse-owner matching is necessary as frequently passing horses between keepers may have negative implications to horses' attachment bonds and wellbeing. Therefore, the study aimed to analyse the relationship between UK horse owners' characteristics of personality and horse breed. This area requires research to increase our understanding of the human-horse relationship and potential identification of horse-owner matching. Subsequently, this could increase positive human-horse interactions, inform realistic human expectations, and thus enhance equine welfare.

A quantitative questionnaire was disseminated via social media, utilising a volunteer sample. Likert scales were used to identify self-reported owner personality traits, based on the 'Big 5'. Horse breed was categorised nominally. At the time of writing, some common trends were identified. The most common horse breeds include mixed breeds, Welsh Section D, Irish Sport Horse, Thoroughbred and Cob. The data set shows a spread of self-reported scores across all traits, suggesting differences in horse owner personality. The results will be fully analysed using SPSS, testing for associations and differences between horse breed and owners' characteristics of personality. In January 2021, the abstract will be updated.

Gradidge, Sarah

ARU, Cambridge, UK

Psychological predictors and causes of speciesism: The empirical case of dogs vs. Pigs

Pet speciesism (preferring 'pet' over 'non-pet' animals) increases meat consumption, harming animal welfare and the environment. Yet, research on reducing speciesism (and therefore meat consumption) is sparse. The current two studies begin addressing this gap by exploring speciesism's predictors and causes, which will inform speciesism reduction interventions. Study 1 (n=232; regression) investigated predictors of speciesism, measured as an animal's perceived warmth (how much we view an animal's intent as positive or negative) and competence (how much we view an animal as capable of enacting that intent). Pet status (how much an animal is deemed a 'pet') and perceived similarity of a dog or pig to us predicted that animal's greater warmth and competence. Conversely, familiarity with dogs predicted dog's greater warmth, whilst familiarity with pigs predicted pig's greater competence. Furthermore, greater subjective self-relevance (liking for pig products) predicted pig's lower warmth, whilst greater objective self-relevance (weekly pig product consumption) predicted their greater warmth. Study 2 (n=242; ANOVA's) investigated self-relevance's causal effects on warmth following a 2(objective self-relevance: yes/no; between-subjects) x 2(subjective self-relevance: yes/no; between-subjects) x 2(time: before vs. after manipulation; within-subjects) mixed design, finding that when people do not consume and do not enjoy consuming an animal, they perceive the animal as warmer. Overall, these studies determine speciesism's initial possible causes. Informed by Study 1, two future studies will investigate further possible causes (familiarity, similarity and pet status).



Keywords: speciesism, animals, self-relevance, warmth, competence, stereotype content model

Hladky-Krage, Bridget

Canisius College, USA

It Just Makes Scents: Using Nosework to Induce Positive Welfare in the Shelter Environment

*An animal's living environment has great potential to impact their welfare, and this is especially true of domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) living in animal shelters. Animal shelters are a unique environment: though they provide food, shelter, and veterinary care to adoptable dogs, they can also negatively impact the dogs' welfare due to the stress of social isolation and novel surroundings and routines¹. Thus, it is important to be able to effectively evaluate their welfare by assessing their health, determining stress using physiological and behavioral data, and observing their natural behaviors and affect. This allows for intervention to improve their welfare. In this paper I examine the effects of sheltering on the welfare of the resident dogs, including effects such as infection, disease, obesity, and chronic stress. I review several successful interventions that have been studied, and I propose my own intervention to encourage positive welfare of shelter dogs. Namely, interaction with humans has shown to decrease salivary cortisol levels. Even a 15-minute training session can improve stress levels in a dog, and 20-minute sessions can make a dog more likely to be adopted^{2,3}. Additionally, nosework activities have been shown to positively affect cognitive bias tests⁴. Significantly, cortisol levels are highest on days 1-3 of a dog's stay⁵. Thus, I hypothesize that short bouts of nosework, especially early on in a dog's shelter stay, have the potential to induce positive cognitive bias in shelter dogs, and I propose this intervention to improve their welfare overall.*

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Jones, Erin

University of Canterbury, NZ

Great Expectations: the social construction of dogs

Depending on many variables, some people truly believe that their dogs are akin to human family members, while others believe dogs are incapable of complex thought or



emotion (Blouin, 2013; Hens, 2009; Sanders, 1993). In this presentation, I draw on data I collected using a mixed methods approach to argue that our personal history with dogs, personal experiences, and what we have learned, all go into determining what we believe dogs to be. In turn, what we believe them to be determines how we treat them, which strongly influences how they behave.

In-person interviews (n=15) allowed me to explore the depth of complexities that effect human-dog interactions. Additionally, I used a survey to gather data from a larger demographic (n=2338). These data demonstrate that there is a shared belief that “good dogs” are loyal, friendly and “obedient.” Conversely, “bad dogs” are aggressive, “disobedient,” and motivated by their external environment, which may be interpreted as “disloyal.” This also leads to how people interpret behaviours and ascribe emotional states (Mariti et al., 2012). For example, guilt is commonly ascribed to dogs when they display stress signals (Horowitz, 2009). Dogs may very well experience feelings of guilt, however, assumptions of this kind imply that our dogs have a moral compass, which may result in harsh repercussions in the form of punishment.

Understanding how our expectations limit our knowledge of dogs and how we apply that knowledge can improve the wellbeing of dogs in our care. Changing the way that we see other animals as a whole and shifting the current oppressive paradigm to one that is considerate of the point of view of other animals is imperative. Improving our understanding of how dogs use, and process information and the emotional effects of such interactions can create a more compassionate environment through humane training, increasing choices and respecting that dogs should have some rights to consent.

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Kim, Yoonjung

Seoul National University, South Korea

Why are We Crazy about Animal Contents? : The popularity of animal contents in Korean society and it's implication

The perception of Koreans on animals continues to change, opening a new horizon for human-animal entanglements. A particularly interesting phenomenon can be found within the online spaces, where people who are not raising a companion animal actively participate in



other people's companion animals. We can see this new phenomenon in the meme "I'm the only one who doesn't have a cat" which gained public popularity around Korea. So far, most of the studies have focused on the people who have direct relationships with their animals, but the existence of animals also changes the life horizon of people who do not own animals. We can vividly see this within their stories of unexpected encounters with stray animals and of watching animal contents. In this study, I examine how people are involved in the growth of a certain animal while consuming animal contents and what implication does this phenomenon have by conducting fieldwork and interviews in online spaces. Also, I analyze that even though viewers already know that places such as Youtube are a capitalistic platform, they demand values of ethics, altruism, and authenticity due to the presence of animals. When these expectations fail, they engage in practices such as conducting 'censorship' on these contents. Moreover, the consumption of these animal contents is not simply from the fact they love animals, but because they share the same 'affect' on current Korean society. This study will explore what implications do this new phenomenon has on Korean society and human-animal relationships within it.

Keywords: animal-human relationship, companion animal, animal content, censorship, affect, online space

Laszlo, Borbála

University of Debrecen, Hungary

Humanimality: Biopolitical and Bioethical Implications of the Human-Canine Relationship in Wes Anderson's *Isle of Dogs*

*The affective human-canine bond is often reinforced in cinema (disaster films especially tend to use the trope of interspecies care), but one can also find many examples (mostly horror films) where dogs manifest our fear of the non-human 'other'. Interestingly, Wes Anderson's *Isle of Dogs* (2018), set in a dystopian Japan threatened by an apocalyptic dog flu, mixes the aforementioned traditions. The film simultaneously narrates the banishment of canines to a trash island and the personal drama of young Atari who sets out to rescue his dog from the quarantine. While the latter plotline evokes the tradition of reinforcing human-canine bonding, the element of drastic isolation elicits the horror of being contaminated by the non-human other. In this sense, *Isle of Dogs* also foreshadowed the mixed response to human-canine relations during the present coronavirus pandemic: on the one hand, the ensuing panic that dogs play a role in spreading COVID-19, which has oftentimes resulted in dogs being quarantined, abandoned or even killed in some countries, on the other hand, the increasing urge to adopt and accommodate stray dogs. *Isle of Dogs* is more relevant than ever in its representation of canine-human kinship which I will explore using Giorgio Agamben's notions of state of exception and bare life. In addition, Anderson's film about humanity-infested dogs and animality-plagued societies gives new relevance to Bruno Latour's claim that beside the anthropomorphising views of animals, we also need to consider zoomorphism in our perceptions of the human (137).*

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Lawrence-Thompson, Frankie

University of Exeter, UK

The Salamander in the Room – Investigating Representations of Charismatic and Non-Charismatic Species by British Zoos Online

The representations and resulting perceptions of charismatic and non-charismatic species are important to understand in the continuing fight to conserve the natural world. Zoo social media postings provide a unique opportunity to examine parallel comparisons of the portrayals of different species. The Facebook® content of four British zoos was investigated using textual analysis, to scrutinise both differences in charismatic and non-charismatic representations, as well as to see the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown on the range of species posted. For comparison, the EDGE of Existence website was also analysed in a similar fashion. Results showed social media posts had a heavy charismatic species bias during lockdown, despite the noted increase in zookeepers choosing the content posted rather than traditional marketing staff. Results also showed large amounts of anthropomorphic language use for posts on charismatic species, with less anthropomorphic and sometimes alienating language used for non-charismatic species. Provision of conservation and education information within the postings was very limited, across both charismatic and non-charismatic species, despite these being key mission areas for the zoos. The EDGE of Existence website in comparison contained a wider range of species representation, along with far more factual and conservation focused information included for readers. Recommendations for how zoos can improve their social media are made, along with discussions of areas for potential future research.

Lewis, Corrina

University of Liverpool, UK

From Collector to Captor: The Theoretical Crime of Animal Hoarding

As a highly dysfunctional form of the human-animal relationship, animal hoarding is the compulsive collecting of nonhuman animals and is often characterised as mental illness rather than deliberate animal cruelty. As a result, there is little substantive legal difference between the hoarding of inanimate objects, like newspapers, and the hoarding of 58 chihuahuas, many of which may die or suffer lifelong physical and mental trauma. As the animals are considered the property of the hoarder, rescue centres must often bargain for the



release of only some of the animals in order to treat and rehome them, leaving others neglected with the hoarder in scenarios which could be likened to a hostage negotiation. The hoarder is then free to acquire more and more animals until the next critical mass, resulting in even more harm to animals being done. In theory, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 protects animals from this kind of harm, most closely linked to neglect, but in practice this has often not been the case. Investigating and contrasting a DSM-V recognised mental health issue with the rights of nonhuman animals and the welfare laws in place to apparently protect them, this paper advocates for animal hoarding to be a strict liability offence wherein an interdisciplinary approach is utilised via mental health assistance and criminal sanctions.

Long, Peter Kao

University of Aberdeen, UK

The Making and Representing of Gendered Animals in Food Inc

This paper mainly critiques on the farm house animals against modern capital markets in Food Inc. In capital markets, farm house animals are deprived of their rights for survival and regarded as the ones that are not sentient beings. Therefore, it is not worth talking about their suffering. However, the author argues that it is postmodern human's consumption behaviors that have exerted unnecessary sufferings on farm house animals. Moreover, farm house animals are intentionally put to be gendered as the Other in parallel with the humankind as the Self through C. J. Adams as postmodern philosopher and her theory, vegetarian feminism. Vegetarianism feminism not only serves to revolt and subvert a certain masculine ideology that has long negated and dominated over farm house animals' life and rights for survival since King Henry VIII, but also helps reveal a long-held concept that the access to meat has made men more privileged than women from top-down power dominance and ideology expansion. Meat has become not merely a signifier that implicates farm house animals' unnecessary suffering, but also a site that construes power relations between the human and animals, the male and female and the self and the other.

Key Words: gendered farm house animals, Food Inc., C. J. Adams' Vegetarian Feminism, the Self and the Other, unnecessary suffering

Lubabun, Ni'am

Wageningen University, the Netherlands

Selling captive elephant encounters: Lively commodification and the production of value in Tangkahan ecotourism, Sumatra, Indonesia

Ecotourism has become an increasingly important market-based practice in nature conservation. Several authors and nongovernmental organizations have discussed this commodification of nature in the context of an expansion of capitalism into nature. However, only few have examined the dimension of value in this process of expansion. Focusing on the commodification of captive elephants in ecotourism in Tangkahan on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia, this paper aims to understand how value is produced in human-elephant encounters. Building on the concepts of lively commodities and encounter value, the paper shows how the incorporation of captive elephants in ecotourism constitutes a transformative



moment in which the production of value emerges from the interactions between humans and captive elephants in two ways: first, through the interactions between elephant handlers/trainers (mahouts) and the elephants and second, through the interactions between tourists and the elephants. To produce value, captive elephants are trained by mahouts for the sake of encounters with tourists, who can subsequently have their own type of encounters. Our main conclusion is that the expansion of the commodification of nature requires an understanding of the way encounter value produces “captive” nature: enclosed, managed, and sold as an experience.

Madrid, Rebecca

University of Exeter, UK

Lumber Layoffs, Poverty, and Boredom: Investigating welfare-focused tourism as a domestic solution to elephant unemployment

In this presentation I will discuss the ways in which captive elephant facilities in Myanmar can cooperate with elephant owners to serve the best interests of the resident elephants while also ensuring economic security for owners, mahouts, and their respective families. Myanmar boasts one of the last remaining old-growth teak forests, owing to the use of elephants for selective harvesting. Between 2014 and 2017 the government phased in various amendments to the annual revenue targets and subcontracting agreements, followed by implementation of logging bans and quota reductions. This is resulting in high levels of unemployment for captive Asian elephants and the consequent development of stereotyped movements and negative changes in physical health. Ecocentric tourism is a possible strategy that offers medical care and enrichment for these new retirees while also employing their mahouts. Ecocentrism supports the interests of human, elephant, and environment – life experiences that are deeply interrelated according to the founders of an elephant retirement camp in the northern Shan State. Conclusions are informed by my personal experience supporting veterinary care at this camp, observing the daily activity of elephants, mahouts, and tourists, and interviews with the founders of the camp to determine their motivations for creating the facility, the challenges they faced, and the factors contributing to their choice of available attractions. Additionally, I have conducted an analysis of visitor reviews from various tourism camps with a focus on contentment as well as patterns in the emotive, affective, and descriptive language used.

Melancon, Sara Jane

Carroll College, USA

The Donkey Problem: a review of donkey history and research as it relates to their use in donkey assisted therapy

*The current research body on *Equus asinus* is lacking in all areas which is a significant disservice to the donkey as a species. Despite the lack of research donkeys continue to be used for a variety of tasks, which include therapeutic purposes. Before the ethics of using donkeys in therapy can be assessed to the degree it deserves, a proper body of research on the donkey species must be available. Donkeys have been utilized extensively throughout human history*



and this history informs why current donkey literature is lacking. This study is a literature analysis examining current research on donkey history, physical and mental health, donkey assisted therapy, and ethics. Each area is examined to understand what future research should be conducted to inform the welfare of the donkey generally, and even more extensively as it relates to donkey assisted therapy. The analysis of literature attempts to determine what research should be conducted before considering donkeys for use in therapy. While the donkey is the focus of this research, some ethical considerations for humans are also explored in an attempt to completely address the need for research on donkeys through the lens of donkey assisted therapy.

Motta, Ana Paula

Centre for Rock Art Research and Management, University of Western Australia, AU

Not just good to eat: an appraisal of human-animal relations in the Indigenous rock art from North-east Kimberley, Australia

Research on human/animal relations intersects a wide array of disciplines with particular ways of theorising humans and non-humans. In the last two decades, archaeology has undergone a series of theoretical transformations that saw a shift from traditional - and deterministic – conceptualisations of non-human animals. These conceptualisations focused mostly on the economic potential of animals, where they were seen as ‘good to eat’. With the later postprocessual movement, archaeological approaches evolved to include the symbolic values of animals and focused instead on the role they played in rituals and ceremonies. From this standpoint, animals were conceived as symbolic aids in hunting and, as such, where ‘good to think with’ (sensu Levi-Strauss 1962). However, in the advent of the animal turn and the new ontological turn more emphasis has been placed on relational approaches, which stems away from an anthropocentric understand of the world to highlight instead the interaction between species and the landscape. Therefore, the ontological transformations experienced in archaeology and beyond is reflected on the epistemological foundation of research conducted in regards to non-humans, to include instead more nuanced understandings of animals.

Despite the disciplinary development in this area of research - particularly the search for a variety of ways in which humans and animals lived with each other - animal representations in the rock art from the Kimberley, Australia, have been predominantly interpreted under an economic lens. From this standpoint animals are conceived as preys, neglecting in this process how contemporary and past human populations engaged and represented animals. Here, I critically engage with the multiple ways in which animals have been theorised in rock art research, with a particular emphasis in the Kimberley region, and analyse the vast human and animal depictions found across two periods, in order to assess human/animal interactions and the contribution of animals to social identity.

Ragavan, Shruti

National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

The University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences & Technologies, Bengaluru

Bovine Ethnographies: Method, Mobilities, and the City-scape



A visible and common occurrence on the streets of Delhi, India is the presence of cattle. Cattle, particularly cows, can be observed inhabiting and traversing various public space infrastructures including footpaths, traffic signal islands, and road-dividers amongst others. This is because tabelas (cow sheds) and small to medium scale dairy farms dot the city's landscape. Over the past century, rapid urban agglomeration has led to the enveloping of dairy farms which were located in erstwhile villages around the city. Grazing lands and other open tracts of land previously utilised by dairy farmers and their bovines, have been enclosed and encroached upon amidst this as well. Today, dairy farms are situated in dense 'urban villages' of the metropolis, resulting in cows being left astray during the day, due to this very lack of space.

In this regard, the attempt of 'Bovine Ethnographies'—a mixed-method involving thick ethnographic descriptions, ten-minute ethological scan samples, and tracing the animals' movements through a mobile application, is to capture through following, shadowing, tracking and 'walking-with'—the movements, interactions, geographies, and behaviours of mobile cow bodies. Simultaneously, it also captures the largely immobile lives of buffalo herds in the city, who unlike cows are tethered at all times. The endeavour of this method is essentially threefold—firstly, to understand and map bovine geographies in the city of Delhi through their (im)mobilities; secondly, to examine the way bovines negotiate and interact with city-dwellers and the city-scape; and thirdly, to explore the notion of rethinking the urban through the more-than-human.

Rakestraw, Corisa

University of Texas Medical Branch, USA

Therapy Dogs as Healers for Hospitalized Patients

A phenomenon is happening in American hospitals. Therapy dogs are increasingly coming to the aid of hospitalized patients through animal-assisted interventions (AAI) in ways that physicians or other healthcare personnel may not be able to. These dogs are providing comfort, care, treatment interventions, and hope for patients. As a result, therapy dogs are challenging preconceived notions of what it means to be a healer in a Western framework.

This presentation will consider how therapy dogs are healers for hospitalized patients, with a particular focus on American patients. A new perspective on healing relationships is brought forth by discussing the evolution of the human-animal bond and the aspects of the physician-patient relationship. This exploration shows that therapy dogs are healers and offer a healing presence to hospitalized patients, much like those of virtuous physicians. Therapy dogs have a non-judgmental, non-demanding presence in the hospital that meets the patient as a person. Through the human-animal bond and connection to nature, therapy dogs can reach and affect a person in ways that a physician or biomedical treatment could not. In these ways, therapy dogs are healers. This presentation will highlight the need to reconsider the human and technology dominant conceptualization of health and care to fully realize and appreciate the healing abilities of our connection to dogs.



Scheidl, Heidi

Pacific Northwest College of Art, USA

Mourning Harold – Companion Animal Grief and Mourning Made Material

Grief is an undone, always incomplete, act of care. Dedicated to Harold von Himmel (2013–2020) and Mitchell Scratch (2005–2020), Mourning Harold is a collection of work that utilizes methods of relief printmaking and glass engraving, and is composed of tissue, paper, glass, wax, inks, herbs, adhesives, and grief. Grief is made material, and it is worked with and framed as a continual, ongoing, multisensory, and multimodal set of embodied practices and processes. Mourning Harold developed while contending with trauma and became matter to use in commemorating the lost lives of beloved family, emotional support animals, familiars, and best friends. This work aims to open conversations around—and deepen understandings of—loss, grief, and mourning in a multispecies family.

Grief undone / Grief incomplete / Grief as care

Spiegelhofer, Eva

University of Vienna, Austria

The Call of the Other – Comparing Intercultural and Interspecies Communication

In the light of ongoing research on other animal species and their forms of communicating, we may wonder how much other animals would have to say if humans knew how to listen. Yet, even though scientific studies continue to yield fascinating insights into animal languages, other animals are still widely perceived as ‘voiceless others’ – beings without language who are too alien from us to be understood. This linguistic bias obscures not only their remarkable communicative capacities, but also our moral responsibility of responding to them. Departing from the assumption that other animals do indeed speak and that engaging in dialogue with them is possible, this project explores whether there is a way from the long-assumed muteness of our animal others toward acknowledging them as articulate, sentient individuals. To this aim, intercultural communication theory will be mapped onto interspecies encounters to identify strategies that can help us overcome species differences and anthropocentric notions of ‘animal otherness.’ The project thus develops a theory of interspecies communication and tests its hypothesis against empirical data elicited from three on-site interviews with Austrian animal welfare advocates who shelter pigs, cows and chickens formerly kept for production purposes. Sharing their lives with these animals offers the human participants unique opportunities for interaction with farmed animals as companions. It will be argued that we can draw on their experiences of multispecies dialogue in practice to see how mutual trust and attentiveness facilitate understanding across species boundaries and make interspecies communication possible.

Thomann, Vera

University of Zurich, Switzerland

Human-Animal Relations in Scientific Animal Experiments

As part of my PhD-project, I have developed an interdisciplinary research project interested in the relations between researchers, animal caretakers and laboratory animals.



The qualitative social science project is situated at the intersections of Human-Animal Studies, Science and Technology Studies as well as Interaction Theory and is being conducted at the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Zurich. Based on the observation that the anthropological difference is being renegotiated in the 21st century, the research project aims to analyse how scientific competitiveness, hierarchical institutional organization, political developments and activism regarding animal welfare as well as emotions towards lab animals intersect and produce ambivalences in human-animal relations within research environments. The qualitative interviews are being carried out with multiple researchers, PhD Students and animal caretakers of fifteen research groups, with the lab animals ranging from insects, birds, fish, mice and rats to big mammals such as sheep, pigs and monkeys. The project is consciously based on an animal-oriented perspective, focusing on animal agency within the experiments, coworking processes, the transparency of communication as well as the dealings with “negative” findings.

At the student conference, I would like to present results of the pilot study conducted in 2019 as well as initial findings of the main study (2020-2021). The preliminary results center around the question how an animal-oriented perspective allows to derive argumentative links between processes in which the lab animals do not seem to be involved institutionally. This in turn highlights the relevance of the human-animal relations for both the practice of animal experimentation as well as the institutional scientific culture.

Wang, Xuemeng

Goldsmiths, University of London, UK

Rubbish place(un)making with urban pigeons

This project investigates urban regeneration as a process of creating and cleansing waste matters. Through understanding the recent social history of a local derelict pub in Hackney Wick, London, it suggests urban waste matters, such as feral animals, derelict buildings and remaining industries in cities, are often concurrently fetishised and marginalised. It is not only the humans but also some urban wild animals who could suffer from representations that exotified them and rendered them ‘outside’. I adapted a more-than-human methodology to attune to the senses of pigeons, and read the milieu of the place with them. I attended to the pigeon's atmosphere in the area, how the urban transformation affected pigeons, and how the transformation of Hackney Wick has made them pests. I also acknowledged their own placemaking achievement and their contribution to the transformation of Hackney Wick. I adapted a critical anthropomorphism lens to examine the planning document as well as artists activism protesting material from the pigeon's vantage point. The research output was exhibited as an ethno-fictional autobiography of a local pigeon to invite audiences to be affected by the animal other, and take urban waste matters seriously to reveal the agency of waste matters that live with and against placemaking designs.

Young, Miriam and Dominquez, Maria

Parsons School of Design at The New School, USA



Rewilding Human Thinking To “Save The Planet”: An Introduction to Human (de)Centered Design Methods

In the devastation of the 2020 Australian bushfires, many people incredibly opened their homes to shelter fleeing wildlife. Photos of kangaroos in living rooms and koalas in laundry baskets flooded social media. While these images show the generosity of individual humans, they are damning evidence of our species’ collective failure. They also force an uncomfortable question: how are we, roommate species on this shrinking planet, actually going to live together?

We must acknowledge, in this case, the kangaroo in the room. Humans generally are not well-practiced at understanding other species on their terms and the specialists who are tend to work in silos. To address the climate crisis, we must address both how we work together and our dysfunctional ways of conceptualizing and relating to other lifeforms. (To start, let’s reject this idea that humans will “save the planet.”)

Speculative design offers practices of rigorous imagining that aim to loosen preconceived notions while participatory design softens divisions between specialists so that we might find new ways of moving forward together. In this talk, I’ll give an overview of the latest trends in human (de)centered design based on my thesis research, showcasing how design methods might augment and inspire new forms of human-animal scholarship entirely.



Poster abstracts

Blake, Katie L.

University of Exeter, UK

How Could Non-Euthanasia Shelters Prevent Stress-Related Behaviours to Increase Adoption Rates of Dogs?

Overcrowding (wherein the number of pets entering shelters greatly exceeds how many are adopted from them) can lead to further complications such as turning away other animals in need of help, mental exhaustion for both animals and staff, and increased use of euthanasia. Although overcrowding is a serious problem, managing shelters' populations using euthanasia is contentious. Advocating a non-euthanasia policy instead may appear desirable, but low adoption rates can prolong shelter life and induce chronic stress for the animals (which can become presented through excessive vocalisation, abnormal behaviours, and general non-responsiveness). This is not only indicative of poor welfare, but is also problematic because such stress-related behaviours are undesirable to potential adopters; in a perpetual cycle, animals' chances of being adopted are hindered, and overcrowding continues. Based on previous experience, the purpose of this review was to explore how dogs' stress-related behaviours could be prevented by reconsidering approaches to three aspects of shelter dogs' daily experiences: exercise, enrichment, and pre-adoption dog-visitor interactions. Following evaluation of previous research, the intention is to offer realistic suggestions for improving shelter dogs' welfare and thus adoptability, to be able to promote use of a non-euthanasia policy more widely. This review also premised my current dissertation research regarding representations of shelter dogs through online photographs and videos (and its influence on dogs' adoptability), which will also be discussed.

Bradley, Lauren

Canisius College, USA

Staying physically connected in an increasingly virtual world.

Now more than ever, we are living, working, and playing in a virtual environment. Although technology allows for broader communication networks and increased accessibility, the decline of physical interaction can be detrimental to our wellbeing. As it has been well documented, humans derive many benefits through person-to-person, sensory engagement. These benefits include lower levels of stress, boosts to the immune-system, and the generation of stronger cognitive viability. However, as real human to human engagement has been gradually diminishing, even before we experienced the realities of a global pandemic, it is imperative to continue studies on whether or not we can derive these same (or similar) benefits through engagement with non-human companion animals. There are a variety of studies that offer opposing perspectives on the value, or harm, of animals in our quotidian lives. Since the pandemic began in March, rates of pet adoption have skyrocketed in the US, which is perhaps an indication that humans are yearning for more sensory relationships with animals as their contact with humans has plummeted. During this presentation, I will review the most compelling studies of the proposed benefits of human-animal interaction and pose additional



research questions to be explored if we are to remain healthy and happy as we continue on the trend of living evermore virtually.

Korimboccus, Lynda M

Independent Scholar

University of Exeter MA Anthrozoology Alumni

Representations of Other-Than-Human Animals on Children's Television: 'The Peppa Pig Paradox' and Other Mixed Media Messages

Social attitudes towards animals develop from childhood and the everyday discourse surrounding them. In the UK at least, animals are categorised into subject/object, edible/inedible, even visible/invisible (Stewart & Cole 2009), through the instillation of social norms from those we trust around us. Part of these socialisation processes includes the media, not least through the cultural consumption of children's television (TV). TV representations are investigated to highlight the inconsistencies taught to our children through popular animal characters.

There is little objection to any claim that youngsters love animals: toy collections and city farm visits of many children evidence this. However, most of these children also eat animals and will continue to into adulthood – an example of the 'Meat Paradox' (Loughnan, Bastian & Puvia 2012). Extending this, the more species-specific 'Peppa Pig Paradox' (Korimboccus 2020) highlights the species adorning the side of lunchboxes as well as filling the sandwiches inside. Ham-eating Peppa Pig fans (and fish-eating aquaria visitors) demonstrate disconnect before children are even cognitively able to question it. They believe certain animals are 'for' certain purposes – usually human gain of some sort, and frequently through food choices.

Media reinforces these everyday contradictions through representation of various animal species. Content analysis of children's mainstream UK TV series evidences these speciesist stereotypes, from 'pests' such as Peter Rabbit to 'pets' in Ferne & Rorie's Vet Tales. Though other work exists on wider cultural media representations of animals on TV (e.g. Mills 2017), and even on children's TV during the analog era (Paul 1996), these studies are the first to focus solely on pre-school and primary-age children's digital terrestrial TV in the 21st century.

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Sadler, Jennifer

University of Exeter, UK

Harper Adams University, UK

Title of Presentation: The Effect of Farmer-Working Dog Attachment on Farmer Mental Wellbeing and Canine Welfare: A One Welfare Approach

The farmer-working dog relationship has been a near constant since the advent of agriculture in Neolithic times. Whilst the recognised value of the working dog has fluctuated over time, many farming practices would be inefficient or unfeasible without the aid of a working dog. Even with the support of a dog, many farmers are under high levels of financial, social and psychological pressure. There has been much literature to explore possible health benefits associated with owning a companion animal, yet, no focus on whether the same potential benefits extend to farmers from their relationships with working dogs.

This presentation outlines a study aimed to determine whether strength of farmer-working dog attachment is associated with farmer-mental wellbeing. With the One Welfare concept in mind, the study also aimed to identify whether farmer-working dog attachment is associated with canine welfare. Data was collected via an online questionnaire distributed to farmers to determine attachment using Lexington's Attachment to Pets Scale (LAPS) and mental wellbeing through the Warwick Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS). No correlation ($p=0.54$) between farmers' LAPS and WEMWBS scores were found. However, quantitative data revealed that the majority of farmers perceived mental wellbeing benefits gained from working dog relationships. Significant associations with farmer-working dog attachment were found for veterinary practice registration ($p=0.023$) and night time husbandry ($p=0.00004$).

Full data analysis revealed that working farm dogs transgress flexibly and acutely across a spectrum of worker to companion. This complex relationship therefore requires further investigation to fully understand the nuances.

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The Cultural representation of Elephants in Kerala: A case study from the region of Thrissur district.

The research is oriented to understand the Cultural impact of Elephants towards the ethnic impulse of Kerala temple traditional festival. The area is specifically chosen towards the region of Thrissur district in Kerala, popularly known as "The Cultural Capital of Kerala" which is counted with the elephant's popularity towards that region. A multidisciplinary approach has been proposed for this subjects both taking from the side of Ethno zoology and Iconography in the archaeological context. The study for this topic can be dated back to the ancient India to hypothetical statement, but scientifically it is smudged towards early medieval



India from the popularity of Buddhism in Kerala due to the spread and the fear of being rampaged from Hindu hegemony in Northern region. The research is focused to develop the relation and integration of elephants towards the religious- social pattern of Temple culture. Mostly taking the count on religious worship, the integration of Buddhism and Hinduism is reflected in the elephant culture that leads on social and religious system. This can be taken as question to understand the earliest beginning on usage of this animal within the cluster of religious structure during the earliest historic period. The methodology is followed on surveying the Iconographic features inside the on selected temples, followed with temple festive which is divine both inside the area and outside of the temple. The study is also followed by taking the reports from daily and scriptures of Pali and Vattazhethu.

Key words: Buddhism, Early historic period, Elephants, Pali and Temple tradition

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A matter of perception: The status of semi-public animals in human environments

Many studies have not only shown that human-animal interaction is possible but also how most pets transcend their species identity in the eyes of their owners. Inside their human's home – where their needs are anticipated, fulfilled, if necessary prioritized – pets can gain an immense amount of status. To be able to interact with each other, both humans and animals have to recognize the respective member of the other species as a possible interaction partner and be prepared to enter into communication with them. The success of this relies on both parties differing from habitual ways of their usual interspecies communication. Humans, in particular, who are bound by a complex system of socially expected behaviour, might find it difficult to vary from their species-specific behaviour patterns enough to either favour the interspecies communication or be able to uphold a lower level of communication once they enter public spaces.

Of all pets, dogs have the widest radius of activity as they can take part in human everyday life and therefore become a – like Ulrike Pollack calls it – semipublic animal. My research based on series of qualitative interviews combined with the laboratory observation of dogs and their owners, shows the difference in status and treatment of canines in private and public spaces, as well as the often unnoticed change of the animal's meaning for the owner. Interaction styles, which change with framing and differing social settings, can have numerous consequences, even going as far as entirely silencing the animal voice.

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Understanding owner decision making around care of the older horse

Introduction: The number of aged horses in the UK has been growing over recent years, with many horses remaining active and being cared for into old age. This population are at increased risk of chronic disease, yet research has found that as a horse ages the provision of routine preventive health care measures and veterinary involvement reduce. This exploratory work sought to understand how owners navigate changes in their horse and make decisions around care.

Methodology: In the first stage of this research, data were collected from an open-access online discussion forum where contributors were seeking advice from other participants about the care and management of their older horse. Qualitative data analysis was performed using grounded theory methods.

Main findings: Analysis identified six themes in owner decision making which interact within the overall human-horse relationship. The characterisation of these themes could change over time and were dynamically interrelated. As a horse aged their given purpose could change, this impacted on an owner's understanding of the needs of their horse, for example the requirement for social interactions, and resources assigned. Beliefs around what constitutes a life worth living for their horse, as well as anticipated outcomes for the pair, were integrated into choices around management.

Principle conclusions: A conceptual model was developed to demonstrate the multifaceted ways in which ageing affects the human-horse relationship and impacts upon outcomes for a horse. This can be used to aid development of practical guidance to improve the day-to-day care of the older horse.

Three-minute thesis (TMT) abstracts

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Rethinking Ethno-primatology: vernacular perspectives on macaque-human interactions from Delhi, India

*The presence of rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta* , from here on macaques) in Delhi has been largely articulated as a menace. This can be attributed to an increase in instances of human-macaque encounters, not only due to a rise in the population of macaques but also of humans in Delhi. To mitigate this issue, the government of Delhi recruited individuals from the Qalandar community, a community historically engaged in training macaques, langurs and bears for entertainment shows in Northern India, as monkey catchers and monkey chasers. These individuals would scare macaques from one area to another, often capturing and translocating macaques to outside the city. To this I ask a few questions- firstly, why would the government recruit the individuals from the Qalandar community to scare and capture macaques? Could it be because of the intimate knowledge of the macaques' behaviours*



possessed by them due to their long term association with these other primates? Secondly, how do the monkey catchers/chasers achieve this? And thirdly, in doing so, does the state participate in sustaining these 'vernacular ethologies' while governing primate lives? Based on ethnographic observations of macaques, ethnography and interviews with Qalandars, this paper attempts to primarily explore and describe these 'vernacular primate ethologies', a set of traditional knowledges and practices only possessed by the Qalandar community. And also focus on how such vernacular knowledges can be situated within the larger ethno-primatological framework, broadening its ways of knowing about the entangled lives of humans and other primates.

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How Covid-19 has helped us understand perceptions of equine welfare on livery yards: a qualitative study

In the UK, the majority of leisure horses are kept on livery yards, which means that a livery yard owner or manager designates many aspects of their lives, significantly impacting owner decisions and equine care practices. However, this group have been overlooked in terms of scientific study.

This study used the Covid-19 pandemic as a frame to uncover deeply held beliefs about equine welfare, by conducting in-depth interviews with livery yard managers/owners to explore which aspects of equine care were relaxed or maintained during a pandemic. Initial interviews were held with 25 participants; 15 participants took part in the three month follow up; four have so far taken part in a third (6 month) interview. We also gathered relevant discussion threads from open access discussion forums. All data were anonymised and analysed using Grounded Theory.

Interviews revealed the extent to which equine care routines are considered a necessity: for example, many yards strove to maintain their usual equine management including part-stabling, even if it meant the yard manager/owner having to rearrange human lives extensively in order to do so. Risks to human health from Covid were generally considered less frightening than similar biosecurity risks to horse health (e.g. strangles) and hence maintaining standard horse care remained a priority. Yard owners' relationships with their human clients were altered extensively during Covid, with greater levels of negotiation and compromise between clients and managers compared to pre-Covid times when yard managers described their role as a "dictatorship", with little flexibility for individual clients.

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Exploring animal-assisted intervention among military veterans: The potential social significance and impact of psychiatric service dogs

There is a dearth of meaningful studies speaking to the important role that animal-assisted intervention may play in reducing suicide. However, there is increasing evidence



showing the viability of psychiatric service dogs (PSDs) being used as a complementary approach for military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use – two of the strongest indicators for suicidal behavior across any population. Using a critical suicidology approach with a One Health framework, my Master’s research utilized the concept of zooeyia - which recognizes the health benefits of animals in the lives of humans – to explore the significant role the human-animal bond (HAB) has in meditating suicidal risk. Using in-depth interview data that spanned an 18-month period, I employed a thematic analysis to 28 transcripts derived from Canadian military veterans working with PSDs. My methodological approach used a mix of emotion and pattern coding to discover how the unique social support system enabled by the PSDs can act as a catalyst to increase feelings “mattering” – a validated construct shown to reduce feelings of depression, loneliness, and hopelessness that are commonly associated with suicidal behavior. My study is the first of its kind to uncover the direct impact the HAB may have in reducing suicide risk, and my doctoral research will further explore how PSDs enable feelings of perseverance and hope, where my goal is to build a stronger evidence base for understanding the potential applicability that the HAB has in reducing suicidal risk among broader populations.

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Social Ethical Dilemmas Relating to Euthanasia of the Unwanted Horse in the United Kingdom

“The unwanted horse” is a relatively new label in the equine industry (Lenz, 2009), yet numbers assigned this status in society are increasing. This presents a dilemma surrounding end of life decisions, generating diverse opinions. Provision of euthanasia has been traditionally based around medical considerations; however, it is becoming more common upon owner request for abdication of responsibility for the horse and quality of life concerns. This survey aimed to explore the opinions of horse owners and rescue organisations regarding the acceptability of euthanasia of the unwanted horse.

An online questionnaire was completed by horse owners (N =353), incorporating 18 open and closed questions. This explored financial considerations relating to euthanasia, owner experiences and ethical considerations of rehoming, as well as perspectives on the acceptability of euthanasia of the unwanted horse. Interviews were conducted with managers of two rescue organisations. Quantitative results were converted into percentages to allow comparison between factors. Word data were coded inductively using computer assisted technology (SimStat-WordStat v.6 (SS/WS), Provalis Research) for questionnaires, and manually for interviews. Raw data codes were compared and developed into 1st and 2nd order categories using thematic framework analysis.

Results confirmed that the unwanted horse population is a national concern, attributed to overbreeding, finances and owner requirements. Legislation for horse ownership was encouraged by the respondents, however enforcement was a perceived barrier. Respondents felt that euthanasia could decrease the amount of neglect and welfare cases in the United Kingdom, however it was not generally considered acceptable in equine rescue centres.

