

POLITICAL ANIMALS

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP

JUNE 3-4, 2019

ORGANIZERS: RAF DE BONT AND RIVKE JAFFE

LOCATION: ROOM B5.12 (ANTHROPOLOGY COMMON ROOM), ROETERSEILANDCAMPUS

UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

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Theme

This workshop aims to bring together researchers across the disciplinary boundaries of history, cultural studies, geography, anthropology and sociology to study the political role of animals, and specifically their mediating role within (interhuman) conflicts, solidarities and inequalities. Building on the animal turn within various disciplines, the workshop seeks to develop a “more-than-human” approach to politics and conflict, with an emphasis on animals’ use of space.

We are interested in deploying an interdisciplinary perspective to explore the significance of animals’ territoriality, mobilities and interactions with the built environment, considering spatial contexts and scales together that are often studied separately. Where animal geographies and histories have often focused on the nation-state and its orders, we aim to develop a multi-scalar approach to understand the political role of animals across domestic, urban, national and global scales. We are especially interested in the specific traits and behaviors of different species, including not only their territorial tendencies but also their destructive and constructive potential and their symbolic-aesthetic relations to humans.

Program

Monday, June 3

10:30 Coffee

11:00 Welcome and Introduction

Raf De Bont (Maastricht University) & Rivke Jaffe (University of Amsterdam)

11:30 *Panel #1: Im/mobilities*

Speaking from behind the bars: zoo animals, human prisoners, and a way towards interspecies reconciliation

Violette Pouillard (Ghent University)

Visible and invisible fences: The politics of controlling rewilding

Dolly Jørgensen (University of Stavanger)

World, war, zoo: Zoo-break narratives in a biopolitical frame

Kári Driscoll (Utrecht University)

13:00 Lunch

14:00 *Panel #2: Moral Geographies*

Animal waste work: Producing sewage through urban metabolism

Tora Holmberg (Uppsala University)

On ‘dirty crows’ and ‘licentious cats’: Singapore’s human/nonhuman conundrum

Annu Jalais (National University of Singapore)

Unintentional natures: Thought experiments on canine cosmopolitanism

Krithika Srinivasan (University of Edinburgh)

15:30 Coffee

16:00 **Panel #3: Transforming Animals**

'Our goats, there is nothing different about them, they make one more protein extra in their milk': Spidergoats and synthetic biology

Lisa Jean Moore (State University of New York)

Jugaad and informality as drivers of India's cow slaughter economy

Yamini Narayanan (Deakin University)

18:00 Dinner

Tuesday, June 4

09:30 **Panel # 4: Interspecies Harm and Care**

How natural are elephants? Studying wildlife at the Serengeti Research Institute in decolonizing Tanzania

Bernhard Gissibl (Leibniz Institute of European History)

The missing swarm: On collective entomological inquiry

Javier Lezaun (University of Oxford)

11:00 Coffee

11:30 **Panel # 5: Knowing Animals**

Stray agency and interspecies care

Eva Meijer (University of Amsterdam)

Animal ghosts, ecological anachronisms, and the unequal geographies of dysbiosis

Jamie Lorimer (Oxford University)

Co-designing zoopolis: Political encounters in more-than-human smart cities

Clemens Driessen (Wageningen University)

12:30 **Closing Discussion**

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Fieldtrip

17:00 End

20:00 **Public Event: Spui25**

This event is hosted by the University of Amsterdam
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