

# Reframing Anthrozoology as Symbiotic Ethics

Online Conference

3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021

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University of Exeter



### Exeter Anthrozoology as Symbiotic Ethics (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.

This conference will explore some of the diverse ways in which 'symbiotic ethics' informs work on trans-species relationships and interactions, with particular interest in the intersections between professional and personal ethics, and how inclusive ethical decision-making and practice can or should be key to both aspects of our lives.

## Friday 3rd December 2021

All times GMT

08:45 - 09:00	Welcome Address	
09:00 - 09:30	<b>Keynote:</b> What is Symbiotic Ethics? Why does it Matter? Professor Samantha Hurn	
09:30 - 10:30	Private Lives: Why, When, and How Should the Privacy of Otherthanhuman Animals be Respected?	Kristine Hill
	Words Reserved for Others: The Animalization of Indigenous Peoples in Scholarly Literature	Dominique Augustin
	Life on the Streets: Affective Care in Human-Street Dog Bonds	Shubhangi Srivastava
	Great White Shark Cage Diving an Ethical Conundrum	Raj Sekhar Aich
10:30 – 11:00	Discussion	
11:00 – 11.15	Coffee Break	
11:15 – 13:15	<b>Symposium:</b> Ethics and Anthrozoological Research	Sarah Heaney, Kris Hill, Michelle Szydlowski and Jes Hooper
11:25 – 12:05	Part One: Problematizing the Ethics Process: An Anthrozoological Perspective	
12:15 – 13:15	Part Two: Creating Ethical Guidelines for Trans-Species Research	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:30	<b>Keynote:</b> Applied Anthrozoology and Scholarly Activism Dr Jessica Groling	

14:30 – 15:30	<p>Through the Looking Glass: Viewing Human-Civet Encounters as a Lens through which to Challenge Anthropocentric Futures</p> <p>Wee Vs: How Inclusive are our Institutions for Vegan Children?</p> <p>Zoospeak: Animals in Captivity through the Lens of Poetry and Photography</p> <p>Naming Erzo Red Foxes in Japanese Zoos: The Ethics of Constructing Animal Personhood</p> <p>The Marine Animal in the Jersey-France Fishing Dispute 2021</p>	<p>Jes Hooper</p> <p>Lynda Korimboccus</p> <p>Gordon Meade</p> <p>Emilie Crossley</p> <p>Marion Walton</p>
15:30 – 16:00	Discussion	
16:00 – 16:10	Coffee break	
16:10 – 17:00	<b>Symposium:</b> TBC	TBC
17:00	Day One close	

## Saturday 4th December 2021

All times GMT

09:00 - 09:30	<b>Keynote:</b> Affective Anthrozoology Dr Fenella Eason	
09:30 - 10:25	What if Care Inflicts Trauma? <i>An Equicentric</i> , Welfare versus Wellbeing Dilemma Concerning Semi-feral Ponies	Michelle Whitham-Jones
	A Tale of Two Monkeys: How Euthanasia Decisions in Zoos Affect Zookeeper Grief After Animal Loss	Robin R. Fiore
	How Compassion Fatigue Impacts Animal Welfare Professions	Laura Jane Sheridan
	Belief in Animal Emotions in Zoos	Angi Lacinak
	Are Black and Pale Shelter Dogs Perceived More Favourably When Presented Via Video Footage Rather Than Photographs?	Katie Blake
	Symbiosis and Familiarity in Animal Sacrifice: The Goat in Candomble	Daniela Calvo
10:25 – 10:55	Discussion	
10:55 – 11.10	Coffee break	
11:10 – 12:00	<b>Symposium:</b> The Affective Cafe	TBC
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 13:30	<b>Keynote:</b> Why we shouldn't have pets Dr Alexander Badman-King	

13:30 – 14:25	<p>Lumber Layoffs &amp; Ecocentric Solutions: Can 'Good' Tourism Exist While Relying on Elephant Labour?</p> <p>Vultural Differences: A Multispecies Ethnography of Black Vulture Predation on Cattle in Virginia</p> <p>Toward Humane Interspecies Emotional Labour</p> <p>Asking Consent of Elephants</p>	<p>Rebecca Madrid</p> <p>Taryn Bromser-Kloeden</p> <p>Tiamat Warda</p> <p>Michelle Szydlowski</p>
14:25 – 14:55	Discussion	
14:55 – 15:05	Coffee Break	
15:05 – 16:00	<p>Wildlife Observation in Multispecies Ethnography: Balancing Ethical Attention and Methodological Flexibility</p> <p>Seeing Sheep Using Embodied Care Ethics</p> <p>Do you Know Me? CATegorising Saudi Arabia's Abandoned Cats</p>	<p>Melani Nardone</p> <p>Marika Bell</p> <p>Sarah Heaney</p>
16:00 – 16:30	Discussion	
16:30 – 16:45	Conference Close	