

Exposition

Recent and forthcoming publications

Driscoll, Kári and Eva Hoffmann, editors

What Is Zoopoetics? Texts, Bodies, Entanglements

Palgrave Macmillan, 2018

ISBN 9783319644158

This book brings together essays dealing with the question of zoopoetics both as an object of study—i.e. texts from various traditions and periods that reflect, explicitly or implicitly, on the relationship between animality, language and representation—and as a methodological problem for animal studies, and, indeed, for literary studies more generally. What can literary animal studies tell us about literature that conventional literary studies might be blind to? How can literary studies resist the tendency to press animals into symbolic service as metaphors and allegories for the human whilst also avoiding a naïve literalism with respect to the literary animal? The volume is divided into three sections: “Texts,” which focuses on the linguistic and metaphorical dimensions of zoopoetics; “Bodies,” which is primarily concerned with mimesis and questions of embodiment, performance, and lived experience; and “En-

tanglement,” which focuses on interspecies encounters and the complex interplay between word and world that emerges from them. The volume will appeal to scholars and students in the fields of animal studies, area studies and comparative literature, gender studies, environmental humanities, ecocriticism, and the broader field of posthumanism.

Langdon, Alison, editor

Animal Languages in the Middle Ages: Representations of Interspecies Communication

Palgrave Macmillan, 2018

ISBN 9783319718965

The essays in this interdisciplinary volume explore language, broadly construed, as part of the continued interrogation of the boundaries of human and nonhuman animals in the Middle Ages. Uniting a diverse set of emerging and established scholars, *Animal Languages* questions the assumed medieval distinction between humans and other animals. The chapters point to the wealth of non-human communicative and discursive forms through which animals function both as vehicles for human meaning and as agents of their own, demonstrating the significance of human and non-human interaction in medieval texts, particularly for engaging with the Other. The book ultimately considers the ramifications of deconstructing the medieval anthropocentric view of language for the broader question of human singularity.

Malay, Michael

The Figure of the Animal in Modern and Contemporary Poetry

Palgrave Macmillan, 2018

ISBN 9783319706658

This book argues that there are deep connections between “poetic” thinking and the sensitive recognition of creaturely others. It explores this proposition in relation to four poets: Marianne Moore, Elizabeth Bishop, Ted Hughes, and Les Murray. Through a series of close readings, and by paying close attention to issues of sound, rhythm, simile, metaphor, and image, it explores how the poetry cultivates a special openness towards animal others. Inspired by J. M. Coetzee’s *The Lives of Animals*, it takes up that book’s suggestion that poetry invites us to

relate to animals in an open-ended and sympathetic manner. Poets, according to Elizabeth Costello, the book's protagonist, "return the living, electric being to language," and, doing so, compel us to open our hearts towards animals and the claims they make upon us. But what might it mean to say that poets return life to language? And why might this have any bearing on our relationship with animals? Beyond offering many suggestive starting points, Elizabeth Costello says very little about the nature of poetry's special relationship with the animal; one aim of this study, then, is to ask of what this relationship consists, not least by examining the various ways poets have bodied forth animals in language.

Turner, Lynn, Undine Sellbach, and Ron Broglio, editors

The Edinburgh Companion to Animal Studies

Edinburgh UP, 2018

ISBN 9781474418416

This volume critically investigates current topics and disciplines that are affected, enriched or put into dispute by the burgeoning scholarship on Animal Studies. What new questions and modes of research need come into play if we are to seriously acknowledge our entanglements with other animals? World-leading scholars from a range of disciplines, including Literature, Philosophy, Art, Biosemiotics, and Geography, set the agenda for Animal Studies today. Rather than a narrow specialism, the 35 newly commissioned essays in this book show how we think of other animals to be intrinsic to fields as major as ethics, economics as widespread as capitalism and relations as common as friendship. The volume contains original, cutting-edge research and opens up new methods, alignments, directions as well as challenges for the future of Animal Studies. Uniquely, the chapters each focus on a single topic, from "Abjection" to "Voice" and from "Affection" to "Technology", thus embedding the animal question as central to contemporary concerns across a wide range of disciplines.

Yates, Julian

Of Sheep, Oranges, and Yeast: A Multispecies Impression

U of Minnesota P, 2017

ISBN 9781517900663

In what senses do animals, plants, and minerals “write”? How does their “writing” mark our lives—our past, present, and future? Addressing such questions with an exhilarating blend of creative flair and theoretical depth, *Of Sheep, Oranges, and Yeast* traces how the lives of, yes, sheep, oranges, gold, and yeast mark the stories of those animals we call “human.” Bringing together often separate conversations in animal studies, plant studies, ecotheory, and biopolitics, *Of Sheep, Oranges, and Yeast* crafts scripts for literary and historical study that embrace the fact that we come into being through our relations to other animal, plant, fungal, microbial, viral, mineral, and chemical actors. Yates develops a multimodal reading strategy that traces a series of anthropo-zoogenetic figures that derive from our comaking with sheep (keyed to the story of biopolitics), oranges (keyed to economy), and yeast (keyed to the notion of foundation or infrastructure). Working with an array of materials (published and archival), across disciplines and historical periods (Classical to postmodern), the book allows sheep, oranges, and yeast to dictate their own chronologies and plot their own stories. What emerges is a methodology that fundamentally alters what it means to read in the twenty-first century.

Exposition

Conference



**Universiteit
Leiden**
Centre for the Arts
in Society

Animals: Theory, Practice, Representation
Call for Papers (deadline: October 1st 2018)

The field of human-animal studies has become a lively domain where diverse disciplines examine the divergences and convergences between humans and animals, their evolutions, demarcations, and entanglements. Not only do we conceptualize, historicize, and embody animals in our lives, but also produce, preserve, and consume them, pushing some to the verge of extinction and creating others through genetic modification. The fact that animals play a significant part in most aspects of our lives, thus invites us to reflect on our relationships with them. On April 4th and 5th, 2019, Leiden University Centre for Arts in Society (LUCAS) will be hosting a conference called, *Animals: Theory, Practice, and Representation*. This graduate conference is an international and interdisciplinary platform where PhD and master students can present, exchange, and discuss research results and innovative theoretical insights with participants from diverse backgrounds.

This conference aims to rethink the relationships between humans and animals, in order to examine the ways in which these relationships are defined. By drawing attention to such concerns, we would like to invite participants from a wide spectrum of disciplines to contribute to this intriguing field of inquiry. We invite participants whose field of study or research include, but are not limited to, any of the subthemes below:

***Animals/Humans
the Humanities***

- Literature
- Art history
- Popular culture
- Visual culture
- Media studies
- Folklore
- Race theory
- Critical theory
- Philosophy
- Anthropomorphism
- Zoomorphism
- Agency discourse
- Post-humanist discourse

***Animals/Humans
Sciences***

- Biology
- Zoology
- Ethology
- Medicine
- Bionic
- Natural history
- Ecology
- Rights and liberation,
- etc.

***Animals/Humans
Daily Life***

- Consumption
- Domestication
- Deification
- Fetishism
- Cohabitation
- Regulation
- Representation
- Ethics,
- etc.

Keynote speakers:

Dr. Tobias Linné co-founded the Lund University Critical Animal Studies Network in 2016 and was coordinator for the research theme “Exploring ‘the Animal Turn’: Changing perspectives on human-animal relations in science, society and culture”, funded by the Pufendorf Institute for Advanced Studies at Lund University in 2013 and 2014. He is assistant professor at the Department of Communication and Media, where he teaches at all levels of undergraduate education in media and communication studies and is director of studies for postgraduate education at the department. Since spring of 2012 he is course leader for

the course “Critical Animals Studies. Animals in Society, Culture and the Media.”

Prof. Dr. Robert Felfe is professor of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century art history at the University of Hamburg where he is also a member of the *Naturbilder/Images of Nature* research group and co-editor of the book series with the same title. His research is focused on the connectivity between art and natural sciences in Early Modern times. This includes topics such as the three realms of nature in the history of collecting, the concept of ‘*ludi naturae*’ and the history of the interpretation of fossils. Specific emphasis in these widespread research areas is placed on the use of images and on specific art practices as for instance casting from life, drawing ‘near het leven’, printmaking and related theoretical reflections.

Proposals:

We welcome *2 kinds of papers* from all disciplines:

1. Proposals for a 15-20 min talk (max. 250 words)
2. Proposals for a lightning talk 5 min (max. 150 words)

In your proposal, please include a short biography as well. (max. 200 words)

Please send your proposal and biography to the conference’s Email address no later than **October 1st 2018**. Our Email address: lucasconference@hum.leidenuniv.nl

A selection of papers will be published as conference proceedings in the Journal of the LUCAS Graduate Conference: <http://www.hum.leiden.ed/lucas/jlgc/>.

Should you have any question regarding the conference and/or proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us through the conference’s email address given above.

The organizing committee:

Zexu Guan, Sophia Hendrikx, Ali Shobeiri, Lisanne Wepler, Céline Zaepffel, Jiyu Zhang