RADBOUD SUMMER SCHOOL

ADVANCING COMPASSION: EXPLORING ANIMAL RIGHTS IN MULTISPECIES SOCIETIES

1-5 JULY 2024



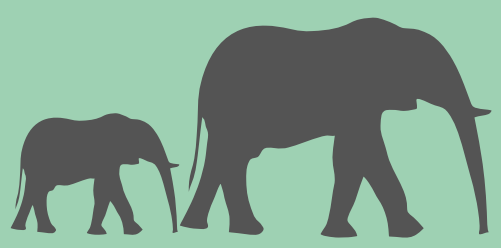
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the summer school!

During this week we'll be exploring the historical, current and future possibilities of animal rights in multispecies societies.

Concepts like animal sentience, dignity, agency and personhood have become more common in recent decades, both in academic and policy debates. Yet other animals are still routinely exploited and excluded from decision-making which affects them.

Moreover, with biodiversity loss continuing at an unprecedented rate in what is known as the Anthropocene epoch, something needs to change.

If we are to enact transformative change to enable truly sustainable and compassionate societies, what needs to happen? Who are the change makers? What would these societies look like and how would they function in practice?



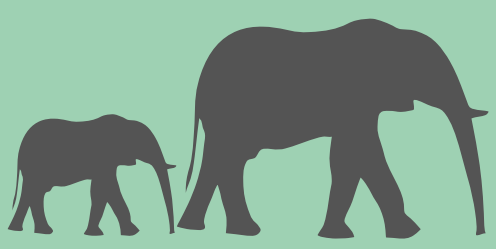
We will explore these questions and more with an inspiring and interdisciplinary group of experts. In the spirit of transformative change and doing things differently, on the first day you'll form working groups to work towards a final creative output. This creative work will be presented during a mini symposium on the final day, hosted by the Radboud Centre for Sustainability Challenges (RCSC). After the presentations, your work will be shared with the Dierfilosofie group - a collective of specialists thinking about how we relate to animals - so your output can serve as inspiration to others.





We invite you to treat this summer school as a space for experimenting and collaboration. There are no right or wrong answers. Just a shared vision of more compassionate and loving societies, with different possible routes to get there. We look forward to sharing this journey with you!

Cebuan Bliss & Sophia de Vries







TIMETABLE

Monday 1 July

Sessions on 1 July will take place in EOS 01.110

11-12.30	Introduction to the summer school
12.30-1.30	Lunch
1.30-3	Multispecies communication - Susan Boonman-Berson
3.30-5.30	Painting multispecies cities - Michael den Boer
7.30	Welcome dinner (optional for all summer school course participants)

Tuesday 2 July

9-10.30	Excursion: Radboud UMC animal testing facility
11-12.30	Mediating human-animal conflicts - Maite van Gerwen
12.30-1.30	Lunch
1.30-3	Jessica den Outer -Animal Rights and Nature's rights in practice
3.30-5	Working group time
7.30	Pub quiz (optional for all summer school course participants)

Room location for sessions unless otherwise specified: EOS N 01.180
(1st floor Elinor Ostromgebouw, Heyendaalseweg 141, 6525 AJ Nijmegen)



TIMETABLE CONT.

Wednesday 3 July

9-12.30	Working group time
12.30-1.30	Lunch
1.30-3	Transformative governance for animals - Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers
3.30-5.30	Excursion: Voedselbos (food forest) Ketelbroek
7.30	Pancake boat dinner (optional for all summer school course participants)

Thursday 4 July

9-10.30	Catalyzing change: Activism for animal rights - Enric Nogura
11-12.30	Working group time
12.30-1.30	Lunch
1.30-3	Cow interaction in dairy farms - Leonie Cornips & Marjolein de Rooij
3.30-5	Excursion: Rewilding in the Ooijpolder - Cebuan Bliss
5.30pm	Optional picnic in the Ooijpolder with our summer school group

Friday 5 July

9-10.30	Philosophical foundations of animal rights - Sophia de Vries
11-12.30	Working group time
12.30-2	Mini symposium - EOS N 01.310
2-3	Closing ritual
3.30-5	Official summer school closing

SESSION DETAILS



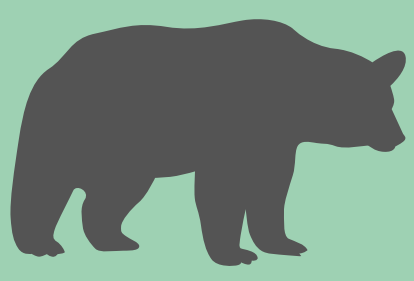
MULTISPECIES COMMUNICATION

In this session we dive in the world of human-wildlife conflicts and coexistence. Specifically we zoom in on the space-shaping activities of humans and wild animals. To further understand these space-shaping activities and thinking how to move forward to coexist with wild animals, we unravel the idea of multispecies communication. We discuss the idea of multi-sensory writing and reading and have an interactive exercise to work with this idea of multispecies communication.

Special notes for this session:
Bring an object that in one way or another symbolized (your) communication with a specific or several wild animals. It can be anything, from positive to negative communication with wild animals, so possibly resulting in conflicts or in cohabitation with the wild animal(s) you have in mind.

Session leader: Susan Boonman-Berson





Susan is passionate about how to think along with wild animals and treat them (more) symmetrically, as participants, in research as well as in wildlife management practices. Bridging disciplines is what she likes – and senses as a necessity to pursue cohabitation. Currently she holds her own company ‘Bear at Work’ to pursue the message of cohabitation between humans and wild animals through (independent) research and guest lectures for a broad audience. Her topics of expertise are human-wildlife relations and how wildlife management practices deal with human-wildlife conflict situations and transform them to practices of human-wildlife coexistence.

PAINTING MULTISPECIES CITIES

In this workshop, we will will paint (future) human society from an animals perspective. In landscaping it's important to understand how not only humans interests are to be met. Urban green spaces host many others animals who have to build their houses too. This workshop is about how animals perceive their homes in our city. Think bird houses, hedgehog passages and squirrel highways.
Some of the techniques we will use include using pencils, fineliners and aquarel paint. No artistic experience is necessary, the workshop is a tool to help you think creatively about human-non-human co-existence and flourishing.

Session leader: Michael den Boer



Michael wishes for everyone to shift the paradigm of gardening and believes that most public green spaces would be better off maintained by their own neighborhood, rather than by for-profit municipal hired lawnmowers. He thinks to grow and protect wildlife-inclusive adaptations in your street, schoolyard, urban farm, village or city is not that hard. The biggest two challenges, most of the time, are to build long-lasting relations with conservative neighbors, landlords or employers. Second is withstanding the constant social-economic push towards commercialisation of land.



EXCURSION: RADBOUD UMC ANIMAL TESTING FACILITY

Testing products on animals such as pharmaceuticals and cosmetics has been scrutinised in recent decades. Critics point out the inefficacy of non-human models of testing. Some forms of animal testing have been banned or reduced, partly due to the implementation of what is known as the 3 R's: replace, reduce refine. Still, many thousands of animals are tested on globally. On the Radboud campus, approximately 8000 animals are still used in experiments every year.

During this session we will get to think about what accelerating the transition to animal free testing entails. We will see how things are currently done, which will allow us to think about alternatives. We will have an introduction to the facility and a tour.



! Note that this excursion is optional



Suggested video: Save Ralph

MEDIATING HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICTS

When humans and non-human animals share landscapes and spaces conflicts may arise when the interests of humans and animals collide. Quite often humans ‘deal’ with those conflicts by killing animals. But this can be morally problematic since animals have intrinsic value. Furthermore, the methods that are used can cause significant impact on animal welfare. In this interactive session/workshop participants are challenged to put themselves in the shoes of different stakeholders (including the animal) and start a dialogue to resolve the conflict in a way that is acceptable for both humans and animals. Existing (ethical) frameworks, information about mediation and example cases from practice are used to go through this process.

Session leader: Maite van Gerwen



With a background in Animal Sciences and further education in Human Behavior Change and Mediation Maite focuses on improving animal welfare and mediating human-animal conflicts. She does so with her own consultancy company Animo Animalis and as director of CAS International, an NGO committed to end bullfighting and other cultural events that cause animal suffering. As a PhD Candidate at Utrecht University’s faculty of Veterinary Medicine she works on the development of an assessment framework for an ethical management of rodents in the context of pest control.

ANIMAL RIGHTS AND NATURE'S RIGHTS IN PRACTICE

In this interactive workshop, you will learn about the interrelationship between animal rights and the Rights of Nature. How do these concepts contribute to the respective movements and why is it so important that we recognise rights for more-than-humans? According to the UN Harmony with Nature programme, Earth Jurisprudence is the fastest growing legal movement of the 21st century, and there are a lot of worldwide developments, from Ecuador to Bangladesh. Jessica will take us on a journey around the world to explore the implications of these legal notions and will invite you to practice with the idea that rivers, trees, birds and frogs should have rights.

To watch before the session: "I am the river, the river is me"
https://cinedeli.nl/film/i-am-the-river-the-river-is-me/

Session leader: Jessica den Outer



Jessica den Outer has a background in environmental law and has been involved in the international movement for Rights of Nature since 2017. In the Netherlands, she advocates for the recognition of the Rights of Nature. Her book 'Rechten voor de Natuur' (Lemniscaat) was published in the spring of 2023, in which she tells the stories behind global examples of the Rights of Nature. In 2024, her foundation for the Rights of Nature was launched, further supporting and broadening the national Dutch citizen movement for Rights of Nature. She has won several awards for her commitment to nature. In 2019, Jessica was appointed by the United Nations as one of the youngest experts in this field.

HOW CAN WE ENACT TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE FOR ANIMALS?



What does transformative change means when it comes to animals? In this session we will explore social scientific perspectives on transformative change and transformative governance. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), transformative change means “a fundamental, system-wide reorganization across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values”. Changing paradigms and values when it comes to our treatment of other animals requires a radically different way of governing, which reorients us towards more compassionate and loving societies.

Session leader: Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers



Ingrid is a Professor at Radboud University and Chair of the Environmental Governance and Politics Group. She is also a member of the Dutch senate with the Party for the Animals (PvdD). Her research focuses on transformative global environmental governance, and aims to contribute to both academic and societal debates on how societies and economies can become sustainable and compassionate, particularly when it comes to animals.

EXCURSION: VOEDSELBOS KETELBROEK

Voedselbos (food forest) Ketelbroek is a transformative food forest a few kilometres from Nijmegen on the German border.

The food forest was started in 2009 by Wouter van Eck and Pieter Jansen. It has been a pioneer of nature-friendly farming, with many others in Europe following their lead.

Over 400 species of plant can be found here, such as delicious nut and fruit trees. It is also home to rare animals, including birds and insects not found elsewhere in the Netherlands. If we are lucky, we may even spot the beavers who call this small patch of forest in otherwise barren agricultural land home.

The trip to the food forest will help us think about how we can feed people sustainably, without having to use animals.



Fun fact: produce from the food forest is used by De Nieuwe Winkel, a Micehlin starred vegan restuarant in Nijmegen!

CATALYZING CHANGE: ACTIVISM FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS

Despair, anger, loneliness... These feelings are all too common among those who aim to challenge the prevailing status quo. The enormity of oppressive systems can be daunting. Yet, change, though gradual, remains inevitable. For the oppressed, however, it never arrives swiftly enough.

Throughout history, social struggle has been an indelible part of our collective narrative, consistently demonstrating that transformation is achievable. Explore a myriad of campaign tactics and avenues for action, delving into the intersectionality of social movements, and glean strategic insights through an interactive workshop exercise.
Recommended video to prepare: Harvard University Class on Veganism

Session leader: Enric Noguera



Enric is an animal and environmental rights activist with expertise in strategy planning, movement coordination, and community building. With a background on political sciences and international law, he navigates activism across diverse fronts, ranging from grassroots street outreach and pressure actions to political campaigns and institutional engagement. Currently, Enric serves as the European cities campaigner for the Plant Based Treaty initiative, leading efforts to advocate for the transition of our food systems. Additionally, he coordinates the coalition Abolish Fur Worldwide (AFW).

COW INTERACTION IN DAIRY FARMS

Animals in livestock farming are often not considered as interesting due to their situational context. However, interaction between cows, and cows and humans can be astonishing and surprising. During this session, we will first examine the current way of looking at animals in livestock farming and how their welfare is ensured. Second, we will focus on linguistic research demonstrating that cows greet the farmer upon arrival or greet each other when passing by. Calves vocalize when they are hungry, and mother cows call their calves in a different manner when a calf is nearby compared to when the calf has been taken away from the mother. We will also show how a calf can actually point in order to make her message clear to the farmer. We will conclude by discussing how this knowledge can improve the lives of animals in livestock farming.

Session leaders:
Leonie Cornips & Marjolein de Rooij





Leonie Cornips is a linguistic researcher examining cow interaction since mid 2018. Her research shows that cows communicate by vocalizing and using their whole bodies. She is affiliated at NL-Lab (KNAW) in Amsterdam and holds the chair “Languageculture” at Maastricht University”.

Marjolein de Rooij is the founder of the Animal Labour Union and advocates for labor rights for working animals. In addition, she initiates projects that connect scientific knowledge about animal communication to practice. She also writes books and articles, gives lectures, and is frequently heard in the media regarding (working) animals.

STORYTELLING AND COMPASSIONATE REWILDING

The stories we tell about animals determine what we do with them (worship them, ignore them, eat them, make cuddly toys in their image). What stories are yet to be told when it comes to conservation practices?

Rewilding projects are becoming popular worldwide. From cheetah's moving to India from Namibia, to the reintroduction of beavers and bison here in the Netherlands. However, rewilding has a dark side. The translocation process can be stressful for animals and many of them die in the process. Reintroduced animals are sometimes culled later in the process. Nevertheless, rewilding offers a glimpse into a possibly more harmonious relationship with nature. On this excursion you'll explore the Ooijpolder rewilding site, home to Galloway cattle and Konik horses. You'll learn more about (scientific) storytelling, and why it's important when it comes to communicating about the lives of other animals.

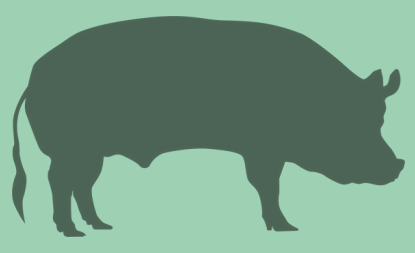
Session leader: Cebuan Bliss



Cebuan always had an affinity with other animals. She noticed that injustices are not just between humans and other animals, but also the way we differentiate between different types of animal. Her research looks at how the animal governance system which protects individual animals interacts with the conservation governance system. In particular, she researches the sometimes difficult trade-offs when it comes to species we deem ‘invasive’, hunting for so-called conservation purposes, and rewilding.

PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF ANIMAL RIGHTS

The philosophical foundation of animal rights law doesn't exist: the foundations are manyfold, complex, and sometimes contradictory. This session will guide you through the history of the philosophy behind animal rights. Nowadays, arguments about the alleged intrinsic value or instrumental value of animals play a key role in the legal philosophical discussions on their protection. We'll discuss the strengths and complexities of the different philosophy schools, providing the tools to formulate strong arguments for, and against, the advocacy of animal rights.



Session leader: Sophia de Vries

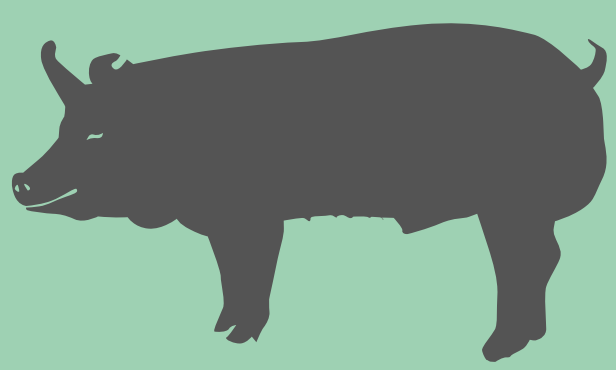


Sophia de Vries teaches legal philosophy and works as a PhD candidate at Radboud University. With a broad interest in law and justice, in her research she explores how nature can best be protected through law. But what is nature? Why does it need protection? And how should the protection be laid down in law? Answering these questions, De Vries aims to offer a new conceptual framework that can serve as a basis for future policy and research.





OTHER INFORMATION





Suggested readings/viewings/listenings:

Note these are just for background, we don't expect you to have looked at them all for the course.

- Akomolafe, B. (2023). It's an Animist's Animist's World and postactivism
- Birch, J., et al. (2021). Review of the evidence of sentience in cephalopod molluscs and decapod crustaceans. The London School of Economics and Political Science. https://www.lse.ac.uk/News/News-Assets/PDFs/2021/Sentience-in-Cephalopod-Molluscs-and-Decapod-Crustaceans-Final-Report-November-2021.pdf
- Blattner, C. E., Donaldson, S., & Wilcox, R. (2020). Animal agency in community: A political multispecies ethnography of VINE Sanctuary. Politics and Animals, 6. https://journals.lub.lu.se/pa/article/view/19024
- Boonman-Berson, S., Turnhout, E., & Carolan, M. (2016). Common sensing: Human-black bear cohabitation practices in Colorado. Geoforum, 74, 192–201.
- Celermajer, D. et al. (2020). Multispecies justice: Theories, challenges, and a research agenda for environmental politics. Environmental Politics, 30(1-2), 119-140. https://doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2020.1827608
- Edelblutte, É., Krithivasan, R., & Hayek, M. N. (2022). Animal agency in wildlife conservation and management. Conservation biology, 37(1), Article e13853. https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13853
- Goodall, J. (2019). "Every animal is an individual." | H.O.P.E. What You Eat Matters
- Knowing animals podcast
- Kopnina, H. et al. (2021). Ecodemocracy in practice exploration of debates on limits and possibilities of addressing environmental challenges within democratic systems. Visions for sustainability. https://www.ojs.unito.it/index.php/visions/article/view/5832/5097
- Meijer, E. (2016). Interspecies democracies. In B. Bovenkerk & J. Keulartz (Eds.), Animal ethics in the age of humans: Blurring boundaries in human-animal relationships (pp.53-72). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-44206-8_4
- Schapper, A., & Bliss, C. (2023). Transforming our world? Strengthening animal rights and animal welfare at the United Nations. International Relations, 37(3), 514-537. https://doi.org/10.1177/00471178231193299
- The animal turn podcast
- van Veen, A. (2023). De-mooo-cracy is live. Retrieved November 16, 2023 from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jm86WtZP4Vk
- Wallach, A., et al. (2020). Recognizing animal personhood in compassionate conservation. Conservation biology, 34(5), 1097-1106. https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13494

What to bring:

- Clothes and shoes suitable for outdoor excursions. The Dutch weather is notoriously unpredictable. It might be blazing sun or pouring rain. Suncream and (natural) mosquito repellent are advised.
- Pen/paper
- Any specific materials you might want for the final creative presentation e.g. filming equipment, art material (we will have some art material)
- An object that symbolises (your) communication with wild animals (for Susan's session)

Lunches and refreshments at the summer school will be vegan.

Veggie/vegan restaurants and cafes:

- Bar Cali, Priemstraat 13
- Bhalu, Bloemerstraat 95
- Cafe de Plak, Bloemerstraat 90
- Maoz falafel, Grote Markt 19
- Tati, Koolemans Beynenstraat 80
- Veggie India, Van Welderenstraat 97b

Organic supermarkets:

- Van Nature, Gerard Noodtstraat 135
- Ekoplaza, Ziekerstraat 79 (city centre) and Groenestraat 199 (nearer campus)

Getting to Radboud:
Radboud University is located near the beautiful (mooi as the Dutch would say) city of Nijmegen.

The university campus is about 10 minutes biking from the city centre. Nijmegen Heyendaal train station is 10 minutes walking from the location of the summer school. There are also several buses, including 10 and 300.

Airports:
Amsterdam Schipol (direct train to Nijmegen about 1.2 hours from Schipol)
Eindhoven (take a bus to the Eindhoven central station and then the train - which may require 1 change - to Nijmegen)

The summer school sessions will take place on the Radboud University campus, unless otherwise specified for excursions.

Public transport planning:
https://www.ns.nl/
https://www.9292.nl/en

More details will be shared with you separately by the Radboud summer school office.



“What you do in life makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make”

JANE GOODALL

