

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 paper 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 Hendriks, Ali Shobeiri, Lisanne Wepler, Céline Zaepffel, Jiyu Zhang