

The Global Research Network presents

Most (Un)Wanted: The ethics of 'pest' & 'invasive' species management

A roundtable addressing the ethical dilemmas associated with managing animals deemed unwanted as 'pests' or 'invasive'.



Global Research Network
Think Tank

13 January 2022

15:00 (London, UK time)

Online via Zoom & Youtube

Live stream

Entrance is Free!

For more info and to register your place, head to

<https://grn.global/event-4596786>

About the Event

The panel will discuss the moral geography of rights, where animals straddle the divide between invasive/native, domestic/feral/wild and urban/rural. Our own pet cats, for example, are considered by some to be an invasive species threatening native biodiversity.

Managing these animals is inherently political and can be associated with discourses on immigration, biosecurity and globalisation. Such politically sensitive animal welfare issues need to be addressed, and there is evidence that this is starting to occur; the European Union, which acknowledges animal sentience in the Lisbon Treaty, is currently working with stakeholders to improve the humane treatment of invasive species.

Perhaps still lacking, however, is a discussion on the normative question on human-non-human relations and how we should co-exist in the Anthropocene: what is the role of invasive or unwanted species in shared multispecies landscapes of the future?

Register today!

Spaces for the Zoom call are limited. To register for the Zoom link or for the live stream, head to:

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Contact us via www.grn.global/contact for inquiries about this event.

Speakers



Erica von Essen, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Erica von Essen is an associate professor of Environmental Communication from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. She now works with human-animal relations, particularly problematic or conflictful ones that include wild animals, at Stockholm University's Department of Social Anthropology. Erica regularly engages with questions of crime, ethics, aesthetics, resistance and representations when it comes to human interactions with wildlife. Her current three projects, 'License to Cull', 'Challenges Facing Modern Hunting Ethics' and 'Pig non Grata' all deal with aspects of accommodating – or rejecting – animals that are deemed out of place in society, often from the perspective of hunters.



Maite van Gerwen, Utrecht University

Maite is conducting her PhD research on the treatment of rats and mice in pest management at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. She is interested in societal aspects of the human-animal relationship, addressing the central question: how do we treat animals in a responsible manner and what do we need for that? Since 2016, she has worked as a project leader at the Centre for Sustainable Animal Stewardship (CenSAS), where she initiates and leads multi-stakeholder projects in which participants work together for achieving a responsible and sustainable human-animal relationship. She also coordinates the organisation of the annual CenSAS Dierendialoog (animal assembly).

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Speakers



Peter Stoett, Ontario Tech University

Professor Peter Stoett is Dean at the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, Ontario Tech University, Canada. He is one of three Co-Chairs leading the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' (IPBES) Assessment of Invasive Alien Species. His expertise includes international relations and law, global environmental politics, biodiversity conservation, and human rights. He is also a Senior Research Fellow with the Earth Systems Governance Project of the Future Earth research consortium and an Expert Member of the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). He has written, co-written and co-edited over 10 books and more than 55 peer-reviewed articles and chapters in edited books, and was a Coordinating Lead Author for the three-year Global Environmental Outlook 6 report published by UN Environment.

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Hosts



Cebuan Bliss, Associate Member

Cebuan is a PhD candidate at Radboud University, the Netherlands. Her research assesses the synergies and trade-offs between animal and biodiversity governance systems. In other words, between systems protecting the health, welfare and rights of individual animals and those protecting the interests of species. She focuses on issues in conservation where there are inherent conflicts: 'Invasive Alien' Species and non-subsistence hunting. These topics relate to themes on non-human agency, multi/inter-species justice and transformative governance. She has co-authored a chapter on animal rights and the rights of nature in the forthcoming book: Transforming Biodiversity Governance.



Tiamat Warda, Junior Fellow

Tiamat is a PhD candidate in Anthrozoology at the University of Exeter and part of the Exeter Anthrozoology as Symbiotic Ethics (EASE) working group. Her research defines the emotional labour in relationships between guide dog instructors and guide dogs during their shared work-lives. Her research interests are predominantly concerned with animal labour studies, in particular interspecies emotional labour, collaboration, and humane jobs.



Marine Lercier, Junior Fellow

Marine is a PhD candidate in Animal Law and pre-doctoral researcher at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, focusing on the welfare and protection of racehorses at the end of their career. Her research interests include animal labour, global animal law, the legal status of animals, interspecies ethics and justice, and racehorse welfare.

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About the Animals & Biodiversity programme

Humans' relationship with nature and fellow animals is critical. We are living the sixth mass extinction, climate change threatens all forms of life on a global scale, and an abysmal number of animals suffer terrible lives in factory farms, aquaculture facilities, laboratories and other captive environments. Abusive and harmful practices put the health of humans and other animals alike at great risk, and threaten the survival of wild animals' communities, their cultures and their habitats. Fellow animals have personalities, forge relationships and have their own modes of social organisations and communication, that are disrupted by human activities in many ways. Our relationship with other animals and the rest of nature has to change.

As a result of this alarming situation and born out of our desire to provide viable solutions, our focus is to provide meaningful insights on animal studies from a global perspective, and to influence policy-making to achieve interspecies justice and build a multispecies society by relying on our core values: equality, solidarity, compassion, and care. We aim to highlight the connections between various issues concerning Animals & Biodiversity, bringing together diverse academic fields. We strive to adopt an anti-anthropocentric and intersectional approach that welcomes insights from critical race theory, disability studies, ecofeminism, post-colonial theory, and critical animal studies.

We provide updates on recent developments through the publication of many resources and by organizing events. We disseminate information concerning these activities through Facebook and Twitter (@Animals_GRN).

Contact us via www.grn.global/contact for inquiries about this event.

About the Global Research Network

The only organisation of its kind, the GRN is an active online meeting place for early career faculty, researchers and doctoral students interested in new thinking about these issues. Members come from a truly global diverse range of backgrounds and higher education institutions.

Our common goal is collaboration, which is needed more than ever as the greatest problems of the day transcend narrow fields of work. We also seek to support one another in a vocation that can be lonely, isolating, and intensely challenging.

The GRN provides a new kind of interdisciplinary and inclusive space, facilitating long-term friendships, creative thinking, and genuine career support.

This organisation is directed by Dr Yoriko Otomo, fellow at the Royal Society of Arts, a Research Associate at SOAS, Governor for the Network for International Law Students and a member of the Global Animal Law Expert Group. She is also on the Board of Minding Animals International.

Become a member!

The GRN is open to Researchers and Academics from across the globe. To become a member, head to:

www.grn.global/applytojoin

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