

**Anthrozoology Symposium**  
**Seventh Edition – 7-9 November 2024 – Iași, Romania**

*Exploring Connections, Hierarchies and Transformations  
in More-than-human Worlds*

**Book of Abstracts**

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## PROGRAMME

### *7th of November*

9:30 – 10:30 Eastern European Time (EET) / 7:30 – 8:30 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)

#### OPENING

Welcome address from the organizers

10:30 – 12:00 EET / 8:30 – 10:00 UTC

#### Keynote Presentation

**Dennis C. Turner** – *What's Going on in the Human-animal Relationship Field? What about Domestic Cats?*

**Chair: Alina Rusu**

12:30 – 14:00 EET / 10:30 – 12:00 UTC

#### SECTION 1

**Jessica Ullrich** – *From Human Privilege to Multispecies Futures. The More-than Human Dimension*

**Isabella Clarke** – *More-than-human Translations*

**Mara-Daria Cojocaru** – *Agency Gone Wild? On Pseudo-non-anthropocentric Attitudes in the Context of Companion-dog-human-relations*

**Chair: Marco Adda**

15:00 – 17:00 EET / 13:00 – 15:00 UTC

#### SECTION 2

**Rimona Afana** – *Individuals vs. Species: A Critique of Environmental Law's Focus on Biodiversity*

**Sarah Oxley Heaney, Cristina Zenato** – *Hooked on Holidays*

**Marina Jacob** – *The Codebreakers. Artistic Foxtrot or Connections in Public Space*

**Gordon Meade** – *De-Extinction: Science Fact or Fiction?*

**Chair: Jessica Ullrich**

**17:30 – 19:30 EET / 15:30 – 17:30 UTC**

### **SECTION 3**

**Kristine Hill, Jes Hooper, Sarah Oxley Heaney, Michelle Szydlowski, Thomas Aiello**  
– *From Dogs to Frogs: Tracing Trends and Themes Over Four Decades of Scholarly Contributions to Anthrozoology*

**Alina Simona Rusu** – *Companion Animal Presence and the Perceived Safety of Social Contexts: How, When and Why?*

**Kristen Angela Livera** – *Navigating the Topology of Pigeon Racing: How Pigeons Reorient Uncharted Epistemologies*

**Maria Martelli** – *Pigeon Towers – Domestication, Control and Care through Multispecies Histories*

**Chair: Mara-Daria Cojocaru**

### ***8th of November***

**9:30 – 12 EET / 7:30 – 10 UTC**

### **SECTION 4**

**Altamush Saeed** – *Interspecies Justice and Disasters in Pakistan*

**Mărtinaș Cosmin, Jetlira Selmani** – *Legal Framework and Ethical Considerations for Non-human Animal Work*

**Cătălina Daniela Răducu** – *The Social Construction of Gender and Species: A Critical Analysis of Patriarchal Dualism and Its Modus Operandi*

**Suzana Marjanić** – *About Chthulucene and the Activism of Animal Friends Croatia*

**Lavinia Andreea Bejan** – *Limits of the Sustainable Development Goals in Protecting Animals. Ideas for the Future*

**Chair: George Bodi**

12:30 – 15 EET / 10:30 – 13 UTC

**SECTION 5**

**Adina Hulubaş** – *The Image of the Sheep Reflected by Romanian Traditional Culture*

**George Bodi, Loredana Solcan** – *A Roar in the Distance. Large Carnivores Represented on Cucuteni – Trypillia Pottery*

**Liviu Măgurianu, Daniel Măgurianu** – *Silent Teachers. Nature's Lessons in Technological Design*

**Marco Adda** – *Zoosomatics: from Animality, Somatics, Ecosomatics, Ethology and Artistic Research to Embodiment and Anthrozoological Belonging*

**Mare Kõiva** – *Communication of Cats with Each Other and with Owners*

**Chair: Cătălina Daniela Răducu**

16:00 – 17:30 EET / 14:00 – 15:30 UTC

**Keynote Presentation**

**Vasile Stănescu** – *Slaughterhouse Capitalism: Animal Resistance and the Need for Solidarity Between Humans and Other Animals*

**Chair: Irina Frasin**

18:00 – 19:30 EET / 16:00 – 17:30 UTC

**Keynote Presentation**

**Guy A. Bradshaw** – *Nonviolence. The Vital Philosophy and Praxis for Earth Revitalization*

**Chair: Isabella Clarke**

**9th of November**

9:30 – 11:30 EET / 7:30 – 9:30 UTC

**SECTION 6**

**Irina Frasin** – *Palliative Care, Animal Emotions and Ethical Dilemmas*

**Bruno Beljak** – *Anthrozoological Case Study: Veterinary Euthanasia as the Agency of Dead*

**Aurora Hrițuleac** – *Similarities between Human and Non-human Animals Behavior: The Terminal Lucidity. From Terminal to Non-terminal Lucidity*

**Julie Anne Parsons** – *Can I Fill Absence from What the Dead Leave Behind through my Creative Practise*

**Chair: Luminița-Iuliana Ailincăi**

**12:00 – 13:30 EET / 10:00 – 11:30 UTC**

#### **SECTION 7**

**Daniela Simionescu** – *Dogs in the Workplace – the Experience of the European Commission*

**Anna L. Arnaudova-Otouzbirova** – *Understanding Canine Fear-induced Aggression*

**Katerina Balani** – *Social Learning and “Do as I Do” Training Method for Dogs Interacting with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*

**Chair: Kristine Hill**

**14:00 – 15:30 EET / 12:00 – 13:30 UTC**

#### **SECTION 8**

**Kinga Szabó** – *Silent Conversations: A Literature Review Investigating Gaze Alternation in Domestic Dogs*

**Gabriela Munteanu** – *Do You See It Too? Reflections on the Applied Values of Dogs’ Perception of Visual Illusions*

**Luminița-Iuliana Ailincăi** – *The Social Behavior of Cats and Their Aggressiveness towards New Pets*

**Chair: Sarah Oxley Heaney**

**15:30 – 16:00 EET / 13:30 – 14:00 UTC**

**CLOSING OF THE SYMPOSIUM**



# **ABSTRACTS**

*7th of November*

**What's Going on in the Human-animal Relationship Field?  
What About Domestic Cats?**

*(Keynote presentation)*

**Professor Dennis C. Turner**, Institute for applied Ethology and Animal Psychology

The speaker will first mention the relevant international organizations, research and practice journals, and major works in the field of human-animal relationships, of course giving priority to those in the English-speaking world and not a particular non-human animal species. Then he will turn to his main area of research over the past four decades: domestic cat behaviour and the human-cat relationship. The following questions will be addressed: Why study cat behaviour and human-cat interactions? How and where can one study these? How does the observer influence these, can that be minimized? What have we learned about human-cat interactions (especially things relevant to animal-assisted interventions)? What are (or should be) the consequences of that knowledge?

*Dr. sc., Dr. habil. Dennis C. Turner has a long and distinguished career in the field of human-animal interactions. Born in the USA, he moved to Switzerland with his Swiss wife in 1973 and also became Swiss in 1992. ScD degree (Doctor of Science) in 1974 from The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health (Dept. of Mental Hygiene), Baltimore. From 1975 to 2011, he held the post of Senior Lecturer and Research Associate, Animal Behavior, Dept. of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies, University of Zurich (Head of the Companion Animal Ethology and Human-Animal Relations Group). Since 2000, also Priv. Doz. (PD title), Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich. From 2001 to 2014 he was elected yearly as Invited Professor for Animal-Assisted Therapy and Anthrozoology, Azabu University Graduate School, Fuchinobe (Tokyo), Japan. He is author/co-author of numerous peer-reviewed research papers and book chapters and co-editor/author of several books available in a number of languages. Dennis also served as President of IAHAIO from 1995 to 2010 and was founding secretary of ISAAT, 2006 to 2015. In 2023 he was awarded the title of doctor honoris causa by the University of Agricultural Studies and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca.*

## **From Human Privilege to Multispecies Futures. The More-than Human Dimension**

**Jessica Ullrich**, University of Fine Arts, Münster (Germany)

Timothy Morton reminds us that “all art is ecological”. That is also true for art institutions. They are ecological in the way that they function in terms of connections and reciprocity. Art institutions are spaces of knowledge production and social interaction that communicate new ways of thinking about the most urgent topics from academic niches into a public sphere. In my talk I want to advocate for a post-anthropocentric art world that considers nonhuman animals as active participants. I will discuss the potential role of art institutions in promoting multispecies justice, rethinking exhibitions, and educational programs. I would like to envision future art institutions as habitats, embracing a pluriverse that respects diverse worldviews, including those of nonhuman animals. The emphasis is on rejecting hierarchies, promoting reciprocity, and acknowledging the agency of all beings involved in the artistic process.

*Keywords:* ecological art institutions, multispecies art, post-anthropocentric art worlds

## **More-than-human Translations**

**Isabella Clarke**, independent researcher

In this presentation, focused on imagination and intuition as much, if not more than, intellect, I will suggest that translating understandings from the more-than-human to the human demands attending, feeling, and relating rather than observing, analyzing, and distancing. Using Vinciane Despret’s concepts of “versions” as against “prose” and Eduardo Viveiros de Castro’s term “equivocation”, I will explore the process of translation before arguing that these valuable ideas can be strengthened further by considering phenomenology, the body, the emotions and the imagination. Finally, I will lead a guided meditation developed by researchers working in plant sentience to encourage an imaginative and intuitive connection to the more-than-human.

*Keywords:* imagination, attending, feeling, phenomenology, more-than-human, connection, meditation

## **Agency Gone Wild? On Pseudo-non-anthropocentric Attitudes in the Context of Companion-dog-human-relations**

**Mara-Daria Cojocaru**, Munich School of Philosophy

I want to challenge a recent trend in dog training ethics that focusses on ‘agency’ (understood as an animal’s capacity to effect change in their natural and/or social environment). While agency has been both popular and helpful in human-animal-studies broadly conceived, I argue in three steps that its uncritical adoption specifically in the context of companion-dog-human-relations is problematic. First, I briefly cover the benefits of placing ‘agency’ front and center in humans’ thinking about other animals. Second, I provide two examples of what it can look like when companion dogs are indeed given more agency, and I interpret what I take to be the dogs’ own comments on the given situations, going by their body language. This dog-informed approach to thinking about ‘agency’ – its potential and its limitations – leads me to, third and finally, challenge the idea that, all other things being equal, it is a good idea to give dogs who have to live their lives as companion animals more agency tout court. I end on instead highlighting the importance of trust for companion-dog-human relations and explain why ‘trust’ and ‘agency’ are antithetical in important, though obviously not in all, ways.

I believe that my presentation contributes to this year’s symposium, which focusses on connections, hierarchies and transformations, because a far-reaching transformation away from what is currently standard in the dog training industry and the ways in which dogs live as conventional pets would be a necessary pre-condition for truly affording dogs with more agency. Inasmuch as petified dogs are simply expected to continue to fit into a world marked by deep-seated hierarchies between them and their owners (‘guardians’ or ‘guards’), attempts at giving them more agency may actually lead to the frustration of canine social agency, and it at any rate reinforces pseudo-non-anthropocentric notions of the good life supposedly shared by humans and dogs.

*Keywords:* agency, companion dog training, trust, ethics

## **Individuals vs. Species:**

### **A Critique of Environmental Law's Focus on Biodiversity**

**Rimona Afana**, independent researcher

Environmental law focuses on species conservation while disregarding the suffering of individual animals. Crimes against individuals are not prohibited under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora if their species is not endangered. A species-centric approach also defines the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement. National/regional frameworks such as the Endangered Species Act and the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats are similarly deficient in rights/welfare provisions for individual animals. This fixation on species obscures crimes against trillions of sentient beings.

While, amid the current extinction crisis, protecting species may seem more pressing than valuing individuals, nonhuman animals are not primarily species, but individuals seeking to survive and thrive, with distinct needs, and a moral (alas, not legal) right to not be harmed. Yet, as long as species are conserved, individuals can be legally displaced, abducted, confined, tortured, and killed. We see that happening to the victims of industrial animal farming, a legal anomaly, and to the victims of wildlife trade, legal and artificially distinguished from wildlife trafficking. Only extreme forms of animal abuse are outlawed; most others are allowed, culturally and legally. This disregard for life and sentience turns nature into a site of extraction and crime.

Instead of a species-centric approach, sounder criteria for conferring rights, particularly to wild animals, are considering: 1) how the animal experiences suffering, physically and psychologically, in the context of its use and abuse; 2) how its murder or abuse impact other individuals of its species living now as well as intergenerationally; 3) how its removal from its habitat impacts other beings, so an ecosystems perspective. My suggested criteria are not easy to assess; this ties our fight for animal rights to our ignorance: we know little about species and even less about individuals.

I show how environmental conventions embrace this species-centric approach, how necropolitics shapes biodiversity, and why an individual-centered framework is preferable but challenging, practically and ethically. Taking a victim-centered perspective, my hope is to identify how environmental law can adopt a more honest, compassionate approach, in particular to sentient wild animals. Part of my aim here is

also to explore how animal rights law, centered on the micro (individual animal suffering) can be reconciled with environmental law, centered on the macro (species and ecosystems survival).

*Keywords:* individual, species, environmental crisis, law, suffering

## **Hooked on Holidays**

**Sarah Oxley Heaney**, University of Exeter

**Cristina Zenato**, Shark Listener, People of the Water

The Bahamas is a popular destination for American-celebrated holidays like the 4th of July and Thanksgiving Day. Although it is illegal to fish sharks in the Bahamas, the number of hooks removed from Caribbean reef sharks by shark-listener, Cristina Zenato, increases during this time. The act of fishing for marine-animal bodies for entertainment is globally accepted as a popular element of human-animal recreational tourist activities. While human friends, and family members gather on shores or boats with refreshments and fishing equipment, poised for a day of enjoyment and human bonding, this normalised, often fiercely defended activity, directly aims to result in marine-animal injury or death. Since shark-fishing is illegal, it is currently uncertain whether these sharks are hooked inside or outside of Bahamian waters. However, illegal activity has been evidenced occurring within Bahamian waters, notably by an incident in 2020 when during their Bahamian vacation, an American family made headlines for illicitly catching, cooking, and consuming a shark on their vacation home BBQ. Within recreational fishing, there is a disregard that the targeted marine-animals may not only be bonded members of their own marine-animal families, but also integral parts of human-marine-animal bonds cultivated over time. One notable example of such interspecies-species bonds belongs to shark listener, Cristina Zenato and the group of sharks she has dived with for over 30 years. Drawing from interviews between Cristina and the author, this paper explores Cristina's bonds with the sharks, the sharks' injuries resulting from hooking, and the process of hook removal. It further explores Cristina's feelings of anxiety due the potential harm caused to sharks by recreational-fishing, and her grief and loss due to the unravelling of shark-human kinship bonds when sharks disappear, potentially owing to recreational-fishing activities undertaken to strengthen other bonds, namely those between humans.

*Keywords:* shark-human bonds, anthrozoology, recreational fishing, unconventional relationships

## **The Codebreakers. Artistic Foxtrot or Connections in Public Space**

**Marina Jacob**, independent visual artist

The long-term artistic project The Codebreakers is informed by the interest for the societal and historical role of non-human animals shared by several scientific disciplines and the arts.

In scope of this project, I explore the intricate ways in which species coexist in different public spaces, and how these places are created from interspecies perspective.

A particular attention is paid to commemorative practices. Monuments and other public modes of commemoration often obscure and misrepresent the contribution of other species to creation of our cities and towns.

Through the lens of Human-Animal Studies this project focuses on the anthropocentrism of public monuments and other commemorative practices.

The project is an artistic attempt to break the anthropocentric “codes” of existing monuments and to create alternative “walking anti-monuments”.

The Codebreakers proposes transdisciplinary approach for inverting this anthropocentric bias through creation and making public of “wild monuments”.

The latter are conceived as a critical comment on the anthropocentrism of the public space and as a chance to start a transdisciplinary dialog about multispecies urban spaces.

Project stages presented:

1. Sweden, Örebro region, Lindesberg municipality. AiR Örebro län 2022 Art in Public Space, Artist in residence in Stripa Gruva mining museum (see images).
2. Sweden, HdK Valand, University of Gothenburg. Commissioning and Curating Contemporary Public Art program, 2023-2024.
3. Japan, Sapporo. Residency at Tenjinyama Art Studio, April-June 2024.
4. France, La Réunion. Artist in residence at La Cité des Arts de La Réunion, June-September 2024.

Objective: finding the ways in which art can contribute to animating a discussion about the possibilities of transformations towards multispecies democracy and alternative modes of interspecies coexistence.

*Keywords:* multispecies placemaking, art, transformations in public space

## **De-Extinction: Science Fact or Fiction?**

**Gordon Meade**, M.A. Hons in English Literature

It is my intention to give a reading of a selection of poems from a collection I am working on at present entitled *The Resurrectionists* which attempts to look at the ethical issues surrounding De-extinction from the perspective of a number of more-than-human animals.

I imagine that the reading would be approximately 15 minutes long with another 5 minutes or so for any questions and answers.

*Keywords:* De-extinction, gene-editing, science, Science-Fiction, poetry

## **From Dogs to Frogs: Tracing Trends and Themes Over Four Decades of Scholarly Contributions to Anthrozoology**

**Kristine Hill**, Hradec Králové University

**Sarah Oxley Heaney**, University of Exeter

**Jes Hooper**, University of Exeter

**Michelle Szydlowski**, Miami University

**Thomas Aiello**, Valdosta State University

Anthrozoology was established as a distinct area of study in the mid to late 1980s, but the scope and focus has shifted and expanded over the past four decades. This paper introduces key findings from a collaborative study that seeks to identify themes and trends and produce a holistic picture of how the field is evolving by examining the increasing number of journals dedicated to Human-Animal Studies and the scholarly contributions to these.

We performed a summative content analysis of 19 journals dedicated to the study of Anthrozoology or Human-Animal Studies. From these journals we retrieved 4055 research papers published between 1984-2023. Based primarily on the title, abstract, and keywords, we coded these manuscripts for categories of animals that were the primary focus, or main beneficiaries of the research. Namely, 1) companion species kept as “pets”, 2) “exotic” pets (such as wild species kept as companion animals), 3) wildlife living in a wild state (including the wildlife trade and sustenance hunting), 4) captive wildlife on display in zoos or aquariums or used in entertainment (such as circuses), 5) animals used for lab based experiments (including behavioural studies) or to teach with



(e.g. vivisection), 6) farmed animals (including farmed animal species kept in sanctuaries and studies on veganism), 7) animals primarily used for sports and leisure (including blood sports), 8) liminal animals who have escaped human control or been displaced by human activities (“feral” cats, street dogs, urban foxes), 9) working or service animals (including those involved in animal-assisted activities related to learning and emotional support), and 10) non-specific (primarily about human attitudes or perceptions of animals more generally). Some papers were coded to more than one category because they centered around a specific species that occupied multiple roles. Other times papers described the interplay between two animal groups, such as companion cats (Group 1) preying on wild animals (Group 3).

Each of these groups are examined separately and sub-coded according to distinct themes (“relinquishment” under companion animals; “police” under service animals) and shared themes (“domestication” subcodes for both farm and companion animal groups; “tourism” subcodes for both the wildlife group and sport and leisure; “welfare” subcodes for all groups). We also look at which species are represented within and across coding categories, and if these differ between journals, institutional affiliations (e.g., US versus European based studies), or changed over time. The overarching goal of this study is to describe active areas of research and identify those in need of more attention. In the current paper we provide an overview of how the focus has shifted across time and journals but is still very much focused on companion animal species, charismatic megafauna, and anthropocentric relationships.

*Keywords:* state of the field, anthropocentrism, history of anthrozoology

## **Companion Animal Presence and the Perceived Safety of Social Contexts: How, When and Why?**

**Alina Simona Rusu**, University of Agricultural Studies  
and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca

Research-based evidence, as well as testimonials of experts in the field of human-animal interactions and animal care providers, indicate that the inclusion of companion animals in pictures (real-life and virtual reality), particularly dogs, tends to render the socially threatening scenes less aversive. The “animal-accompanying effect” has been investigated in various societies differing in safety levels, showing a gender-bias

reactivity in regards to the perceived safety of the social context, depending on the presence of the animals accompanying men. Several authors have started to investigate and search for the applied values of the buffering effect of animal presence on the negative emotional reactions to pictures of threatening social scenes. The aim of the present paper is to provide an interdisciplinary interpretation of the data presented in the literature, by referring to the adaptive values of the “animal-accompanying effect” on both humans and animals.

*Keywords:* safety perception, animal-accompanying effect, human-animal interaction

## **Navigating the Topology of Pigeon Racing: How Pigeons Reorient Uncharted Epistemologies**

**Kristen Angela Livera**, University of Liège & Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

In this presentation, I propose an artistic research exploration into bird singing competitions to examine human-animal interactions. As a core member of The Multispecies Ethnography and Artistic Methods at the University of Liège, my presentation aligns with the call for presentations, focusing on training as a heuristic to challenge skill/expertise divides. Bird singing competitions, widespread cultural phenomena, offer insights into intricate dynamics between humans and birds. My research analyzes the material assemblages surrounding these competitions, emphasizing diverse elements shaping this socio-cultural activity. Employing interdisciplinary methods, including ethology, anthropology, and performance studies, I aim to uncover layers of training, skill acquisition, and interspecies communication. Central to my investigation is the concept of training, exploring how humans and birds collaborate for excellence. By focusing on the material assemblages surrounding this socio-cultural activity, I explore the diverse elements that shape human-bird interactions, including body gestures, idiosyncratic cages, and the use of recordings and CDs for bird song practice. This artistic ethnography challenges conventional notions of expertise, particularly regarding non-human agents. Additionally, I'll explore the interplay between repetition and creativity, imitation and innovation in performances. Through ethnography and artistic representations, I capture intimate dialogues between body, tools, and environment. This research offers critical reflections on human-animal relationships within competitive contexts, transcending disciplinary boundaries.

Building on empirical ethnographic research, this study delves into the intricate world of Belgian pigeon racing, exploring the dynamic interplay between humans, animals, and landscapes. Through the lens of animal geography and interspecies ethnography, my ethnographic research uncovers the collaborative relationship between fanciers and homing pigeons as they navigate shared somatic experiences, shaping their epistemological understanding of environments and territories. Fanciers' mapping methodologies reveal the agency of pigeons, who adapt their routes to evolving topologies. This process of reorientation not only sensitizes fanciers to new observations but also fosters new modes of collective action with their pigeon counterparts. The collaborative mapping signifies the coordination between human and non-human entities, incorporating practices such as tracking traces and enhancing racing proficiency through pigeons' perceptual abilities. In this shared milieu, fanciers enter a heightened state of awareness, sensitivity, and attentiveness to other life forms, navigating beyond the purely visible. In exploring these dynamics, my research aims to shift the focus from the unfolding of action through praxis. This shift challenges traditional paradigms that prioritize structural explanations of social phenomena, instead highlighting the significance of contingent, situated, and interactional aspects of human activity. Through a deep dive into the preparatory practices of pigeon fanciers, I illuminate the significance of preparation in shaping environments, bodies, and actions. This ethnography examines how preparations contribute to the stabilization of environments and gestures, as well as how they constitute forms of inquiry and repetition. Furthermore, I explore the expertise embedded within preparatory practices, considering how they give rise to specific knowledge, skills, and competencies. Our inquiry extends beyond the mere execution of action to encompass the intricate processes of preparation, which serve as productive sites for understanding the emergence and enactment of activity. In tracing the preparatory phase, my findings aim to not only shed light on the dynamics of action but also to enrich our understanding of the complexities inherent in human engagement with the world. By embracing praxis and daily training as a focal point for inquiry, I open up new avenues for exploring the contingencies, resources, and emergent processes that shape human activity. Through interdisciplinary dialogue and empirical investigation, this research seeks to deepen our understanding of the multifaceted nature of preparation and its role in shaping human endeavors.

*Keywords:* multispecies, interspecies communication, bird signing, animal agencies

## **Pigeon Towers – Domestication, Control and Care through Multispecies Histories**

**Maria Martelli**, independent scholar-activist

Relationships between pigeons (*Columba livia*) and humans have been ongoing for a very long time, being part of the unfolding of our common animal history. One aim of this research is to explore the push-and-pull of this relation throughout time, attentive to its changes and its power dynamics, in light of its anthroparchal dimension (Erika Cudworth's concept). Processes of industrial development, urbanization and globalization have deeply impacted the human-pigeon relation, and the discourses about pigeons have changed accordingly. While exploiting them for their meat, their ability to find home, or their droppings, has been beneficial to humans for a long time, now as it no longer is, their presence in the city becomes a social "problem" (as Colin Jerlomack shows). By looking at some designs and purposes of pigeon towers, the human-pigeon relationship is examined from a vegan sociology and ecofeminist, ethics-of-care lens. Dovecotes and pigeon towers have had their meanings shift entirely throughout history from being spaces that encouraged population growth to current modern, 'contraceptive' dovecote designs. Finally, I aim to explore how this fraught multispecies architecture can hold promises for multispecies coexistence.

*Keywords:* multispecies coexistence, pigeon-human relationships, pigeon towers

*8th of November*

## **Interspecies Justice and Disasters in Pakistan**

**Altamush Saeed**, University of Central Punjab Law School Pakistan

Pakistan and the world are going through a transformation in the Anthropocene. Last year, we faced devastating floods that drowned 1/3rd of our nation, displaced 33 million humans, and killed over 1700 humans and 1.16 million farmed animals. During those times, we went into the flood zones through the Charity Doings Foundation and rescued both human and non-human victims of the disaster. For the humans, we set up 25+ medical camps to tackle period poverty, built 200+ houses with solar technology, set up various daily community kitchens, set up a disaster zone plant-based school, provided malaria beds, and set up 1500+ water projects. We are now developing green vegetable gardens across each of these clean water projects to solve the crisis of food security, environmental and animal justice in Pakistan. We provided emergency veterinary aid for the animal victims and around 120,000 kilograms of food and rescued 8000 farmed animals. This year, we have set up the country's 1st disaster zone farm animal shelter in Sindh and a large-scale free-of-cost medical lab in Hub, Balochistan. Our theory of change is enshrined around respect, empathy, and interspecies justice. Our mission is to make the world a better place for all life, be it humans, animals, or the environment.

On the legal side, Pakistan and several other countries have international law obligations. On November 17, 2023, the world breached the 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial 1850-1900 level barrier, making it the hottest day in human history. This is a record that will be broken again and again. The success of an Interspecies Justice approach is directly proportional to the successful implementation of the UN Framework convention on climate change, the Paris Agreement 1.5 degree above pre-industrial level goal, the United Nations Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, the UN sustainability development goals, and a livable future for us all.

Blinding approaches will not work, and what we need is an interspecies justice-oriented approach that advocates for an across-the-board approach and elimination of environmental racism and climate change.

*Keywords:* interspecies justice, intergenerational equity, disasters, climate change

# Legal Framework and Ethical Considerations for Non-human Animal Work

Mărtinaș Cosmin, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University

Jetlira Selmani, Université libre de Bruxelles

From draught animals to mounts, from therapy to the military, humans have devised new ways of exploiting the capabilities of non-human animals and refining existing ones to ensure that they bring the greatest utility to humans. As the works of Peter Singer (1975) and Tom Regan (1983) show, it is possible to discuss the rights of non-human animals as sentient beings or as subjects of their own lives. Similarly, the work of Sue Donaldson and Will Kymlicka (2011) demonstrates that it is also possible to discuss the rights of non-human animals as co-citizens. If non-human animals are to be used for their senses and abilities for the benefit of humans, it follows that it is possible to discuss the rights of non-human animals as workers. After all, we have another term for workers who have no rights. The question, then, is, firstly, what legal rights should we as a community grant to non-human animals as workers, whose labor benefits humans? And, secondly, it is necessary to examine the ethical implications of using non-human animals as workers. The aim is to establish the criteria for recognizing non-human animal labor as “work.” To this end, it is necessary to consider the fundamental principle that labor should be based on consent. In the European legal system, consent requires legal personality, which entails specific rights and obligations. We will show, from a legal standpoint, how the concept of rights can extend from human rights to nature rights, ultimately encompassing the rights of animals as workers. From an ethical standpoint, this paper will examine the nuances of the concept of work, as well as compare the labor of non-human animals with that of humans using, among others, arguments from marginal cases. Through this comprehensive analysis, this paper aims to contribute to the discourse by highlighting the lack of labor rights for non-human animals and pointing out logical and ethical discrepancies, originating from speciesist foundations, which can be overcome by a comprehensive and ethical-based legal framework.

*Keywords:* non-human animal work, worker rights, labour

## **The Social Construction of Gender and Species: A Critical Analysis of Patriarchal Dualism and Its Modus Operandi**

**Cătălina-Daniela Răducu**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research,  
Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

Historical and causal links between the domination of women and nonhuman animals are located in the way women and nature have been conceptualized, especially in the Western intellectual tradition. Hierarchically organized value dualisms relegating women and animals to inferiority will be discussed in this paper, with a view to expose logical flaws in the conceptual basis used to justify and reinforce the joint oppression of women and nonhuman animals.

*Keywords:* women, nonhuman animals, social construction, patriarchal dualism

## **About Chthulucene and the Activism of Animal Friends Croatia**

**Suzana Marjanić**, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb

In the context of researching the epoch in which we live and its multifaceted manifestation of fear – encompassing concepts such as the Anthropocene, the Capitalocene, the Wasteocene, the Plantationocene, among others – I will delve into Donna J. Haraway's concept of the Chthulucene. Haraway suggests a subtle alteration in taxonomic spelling, from “Cthulhu” to “chthulu,” as she introduces the notion of the Chthulucene, stating: “Making a small change in the biologist’s taxonomic spelling, from cthulhu to chthulu, with renamed Pimonia chthulu I propose a name for an elsewhere and elsewhere that was, still is, and might yet be: the Chthulucene” (2016, 31).

I intend to situate these discussions within the framework of activism, particularly within the context of the Animal Friends Croatia association, which is the first association for animal rights in Croatia (founded in 2001).

In doing so, I would emphasize their actions from the last two years (2023–2024), which offer alternative pathways for the future. For instance, in January of this year, the Animal Friends Croatia association held a public discussion concerning Croatian trawlers, which stand out as some of the worst carbon polluters globally, posing a threat to various animal species. It is notable that over the past 65 years, trawlers have discarded over 400 million tons of animals that were not their intended catch.

This presentation represents a small tribute to the Animal Friends Croatia association, Croatian pioneering organization for animal rights, which consistently endeavors to shape our collective future.

*Keywords:* Chthulucene, Donna J. Haraway, the Animal Friends Croatia association, animal rights

## **Limits of the Sustainable Development Goals in Protecting Animals. Ideas for the Future**

**Lavinia Andreea Bejan**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research,  
Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the subsequent targets are part of an agenda conceived as a "plan of action for people, planet and prosperity", as its preamble states. A concern for animals and their protection may be identified in this agenda, mostly, but not only, falling under the umbrella of protecting the "planet". In this paper, I aim to provide an overview of how the care for animals is included (or not) in the 17 goals and 169 targets that seek "Transforming our world", to identify the past and current limitations of the global agenda as reflected in this type of soft law-goals approach, as well as to bring together some ideas for the future of animal protection under such goals and targets.

*Keywords:* animal protection, global agenda, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ecosystems, United Nations

## **The Image of the Sheep Reflected by Romanian Traditional Culture**

**Adina Hulubaș**, Alexandru Philippide Institute of Romanian Philology, Romanian  
Academy, Iași Branch

Data from The Folklore Archive of Moldavia and Bucovina is analyzed to create an ethnological portrait of one of the first animals to be tamed by humans. The sheep is considered sacred and even holds prophetic powers, it can sense danger and warn the shepherd about the imminence. We will revisit the famous ballad known as *The Little Ewe*, in order to dismiss esthetic considerations and to provide recent ethnographic



information, for a more accurate hermeneutics. Hence, the presentation is based on clues found in vernacular architecture practices, husbandry, and folk literature.

*Keywords:* sheep, traditional culture, folk beliefs, ballad, construction rites

## **A Roar in the Distance. Large Carnivores Represented on Cucuteni – Trypillia Pottery**

**George Bodi**, Institute of Archaeology, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

**Loredana Solcan**, History Museum of Moldavia, “Moldova” National Museum Complex

Our presentation will focus on the final phase of existence of the Cucuteni – Trypillia cultural complex when, in addition to the traditional geometric motifs, representations of large carnivores, some assumed to be felines, are also depicted on the pots. Studies on the historical geographical distribution of large carnivores, during Early and Middle Holocene indicate the possible foreign origin of the image in our territory of reference. We will search not only for the origin area of the images, but also their possible paths, through an analysis on the shifting dynamics of the trade routes from a geographical space starting west of the Carpathian Mountains and including all the territories surrounding the Black Sea, with a focus on the Middle and Late Chalcolithic. We will also try to understand the possible meaning of the images, through a contextual, phenomenological analysis, with its results being tested against the perception of large carnivores in ancient texts.

*Keywords:* Chalcolithic, NE Romania, large carnivores, painted representations

## **Silent Teachers. Nature’s Lessons in Technological Design**

**Daniel Măgurianu**, Ensorinstituut, Oostende, België

**Liviu Adrian Măgurianu**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

Creativity is a gift that homo sapiens have been proud to possess since the discovery of fire. Language and revolutionary innovation help us develop the technologies of the future. But inspiration has not manifested itself without some support or model in nature. It is natural for nature to inspire technology. The problem is that this inspiration

is little known or publicized. In this article, we would like to present some interesting examples of how animals have contributed to the development of technology throughout the ages. From medicine to state-of-the-art fighter jets, animals continue to be a life-saving source of inspiration. From this point of view, we believe that animals deserve much more appreciation and respect when we consider that without them, technology would not have been able to save many human lives or provide us with the everyday comforts we all enjoy. Animals, on the other hand, use their own technology to survive without destroying the balance of ecosystems. In this area of environmental protection, we should also learn from animals, who seem to be our silent, patient and inspiring teachers without taking any credit.

*Keywords:* creativity, inspiration, nature, animals

## **Zoosomatics: from Animality, Somatics, Ecosomatics, Ethology and Artistic Research to Embodiment and Anthrozoological Belonging**

**Marco Adda**, AEDC Anthrozoology Education Dogs Canines

Zoosomatics presents an innovative framework to reconsider the interaction between humans and other animals as an embodied involvement. By integrating animal-inspired movements and behaviours into interoceptive and exteroceptive experiences, zoosomatics fosters a profound interconnection with different species and deepens ecological consciousness. The multidisciplinary approach underscores the consciousness, agency and subjectivity of all animals and prompts the bodymind as a fertile ground for anthrozoological belonging and environmental awareness.

Zoosomatics holds particular significance for those who grapple with disembodiment — a detachment from their own somatic experiences due to the prevailing emphasis on objectivity and emotional distance — offering a potent psychophysiological strategy for re-embodiment, enabling them to reconnect with both their bodymind, their feelings and the animals they engage with. Zoosomatics paves the way for an empathetic and ecologically aware professional practice in scientific and artistic fields. It enriches the human animal-other than human animal relationship and fosters ecological engagement and belonging.

*Keywords:* zoosomatics, somatics, ecosomatics, ecophilosophy, disembodiment, ethology, deep ecology, animal agency, anthrozoology

## Communication of Cats with Each Other and With Owners

Mare Kõiva, Estonian Literary Museum

The interaction of cats and dogs with their owners and with each other has been studied from several aspects over the past decades. Since there have been many upheavals in Estonian pet culture, I studied:

- 1) how the interaction of the cat with the owner, other cats and other animals living in the family varies (if there are any in the family). On the other hand, it was about how the owner interacts with the cat.
- 2) What is the vocalization of cats, especially of the owners, and the (verbal) acts of communication of the owners (call signs, conversations, style). It is known that cats give messages with vocalizations, for example, about their situation. At the same time, the survey asked how the owners describe their acts of communication and how, in their opinion, the situation of communication and family traditions affect;
- 3) the aim was to identify additional social and environmental mediators of cat well-being in the context;
- 4) besides, the creation of a narrative corpus on the corresponding topic was explored, which forms the bottom of the animal folklore database.

Method: The survey consists of quantitative and qualitative parts, in addition, the owners were asked to record and film their animals. The survey included owners of one or more cats whose cats live indoors and those whose cats walk outdoors. Some cats can communicate with the neighbours' cat, some are taken with the owners on vacation, to the country, to the workplace.

The results provide new information about the life of cats, highlight the complex, multifactorial relationships between cats and owners in Estonia, and their communication. The results describe impacts of multi-cat living and the cat well-being in domestic environments, and narratives about the cats.

*Keywords:* cats, communication, relationship, interaction

# **Slaughterhouse Capitalism: Animal Resistance and the Need for Solidarity Between Humans and Other Animals**

*(Keynote presentation)*

**Vasile Stănescu**, Mercer University

In my talk I argue for solidarity between humans and other animals. By “solidarity” I mean an awareness of a shared unity of interest between humans and other animals regarding issues that affect and harm both of us. By “solidarity,” I mean that other animals are effective subjects with both language and political acts of resistance that humans can both listen to and support. And by “solidarity,” I also mean explicitly the Marxist and leftist legacy of the term: I argue that the fight against capitalism will inherently fail without an explicit inclusion of the nonhuman animal dimension and, in parallel, fights for animal liberation will never be successful without a rejection of capitalism as their mechanism of success. At a more fundamental level, by “solidarity” I mean that the harm to human animals and other animals is shared and interwoven and, therefore, fights for animals are not a noblesse oblige giving of rights from one more advanced group to our lesser brethren, but a clear awareness that we—all animals—together—are in a shared struggle against systems that oppress us all.

*Keywords:* solidarity, capitalism, Post-Fordism, effeminate rice eaters, animal resistance

*Dr. Vasile Stănescu received his Ph.D. from Stanford University in the program of Modern Thought and Literature. He is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Mercer University. Dr. Stănescu is the co-founder of the North American Association for Critical Animal Studies (NAACAS), and the former co-Senior Editor of the Critical Animal Studies Book Series published by Brill/Rodopi Press. He is currently a member of the Climate Social Science Network (CSSN), based out of Brown University.*

*A pioneer in the field of Critical Animal Studies, Dr. Stănescu has over 25 peer-reviewed publications on the study of animals and the environment. His work has been featured in journals such as the Rhetoric of Health & Medicine, American Behavioral Scientist, The Journal of American Culture, and the Animal Studies Journal. His research has been recognized by numerous institutions, including The Woods Institute for the Environment, Minding Animals International, The Andrew Mellon Foundation, the Culture and Animals Foundation, the Institute for Critical Animal Studies, and Institutul Cultural Român.*

# Nonviolence

## The Vital Philosophy and Praxis for Earth Revitalization

*(Keynote presentation)*

**Gay A. Bradshaw**, The Kerulos Center for Nonviolence

Animals are conventional models for illustrating the evolutionary roots of human violence. Close examination of even highly acclaimed Chimpanzee studies, however, invalidates this claim. Nature's supposed "red in tooth and claw" ethos is a myth. Violence so widespread in humans today is not found in the natural world. Neuroscience reveals why. Animals possess consciousness, cognition, and emotions akin to our own but do not turn their minds to destruction. When unprecedented events such as Chimpanzee and Elephant intra- and interspecific and seemingly "unprovoked" Orca and Bear-on-human violence do occur, the cause is profound human-induced disruptions and psychological trauma. Indeed, despite infinite diversity, fires, floods and kills, the natural world maintains the euphony of peace and abundance to which we are inextricably drawn. Nature is grounded in the philosophy and praxis of nonviolence. Revitalizing the planet, therefore, compels a radical evolution of the human mind. As Albert Einstein asserts, no problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it. Nondual traditions offer a critical path for effecting the necessary transfiguration of the human mind to Nature's consciousness to end violence.

*Keywords:* nonviolence, nature, revitalization, consciousness, animals.

*G. A. Bradshaw is the founder and director of The Kerulos Center for Nonviolence ([www.kerulos.org](http://www.kerulos.org)). She holds doctoral degrees in ecology and psychology, and she was the first scientist to recognize and diagnose PTSD in Elephants, Chimpanzees, and Orcas. Her books include the Pulitzer-nominated *Elephants on the Edge: What Animals Teach Us about Humanity*; *Carnivore Minds: Who These Fearsome Beings Really Are*; and *Talking with Bears: Conversations with Charlie Russell* and *The Evolved Nest: Nature's Way of Raising Families and Creating Connected Communities* ([www.gabradshaw.com](http://www.gabradshaw.com)). She is the primary carer for rescued colonized Animals including disabled endangered Tortoises and native Wildlife at Grace Village, Oregon, USA.*

*9th of November*

## **Palliative Care, Animal Emotions and Ethical Dilemmas**

**Irina Frasin**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

When we share our lives with animal companions, we are not always enjoying only good days and the benefits of togetherness. Sometimes we are faced with difficult decisions, stress, pain and illness and the struggle to find the best solutions for a peaceful way forward. In my talk I will be addressing the multiple facets of palliative care for our companion animals. When we center our attention on the quality of life, the means we have available to assess it become of utmost importance. I will be focusing mainly on the attention needed for the emotional lives of the other animals and also on the ethical aspects involved in difficult decision making in these complicated circumstances.

*Keywords:* end-of-life care, palliative care, hospice, emotions, wellbeing, ethics, human-animal bond

## **Anthrozoological Case Study Veterinary Euthanasia as the Agency of Dead**

**Bruno Beljak**, ICAH - Institute for the culture of animal health

The subject of death, as entity, is both gross and subtle in human perception, moving across physiological boundaries towards non-evidence-based perspectives. Unlike the process of ending other beings' life working as a veterinarian.

Veterinary euthanasia is part of palliative care when owner with medical advice accepts to end animal suffering. It's a place where church has no middle man role. There is no law representative or psychiatrist. Euthanasia of animals is older than domestication. Humans have come into contact with injured, old or helpless animals much before our workmanship with other beings developed a more sophisticated bond.

In rural areas, taking an animal behind the house, or calling a hunter to solve miseries was and still is a form of dealing with ill-health or poverty. Many animal owners today cannot afford euthanasia.

Veterinarians advise other being owners to be by the side of animal when parting to ease the process, mimicking departing of human family members or friends.

The loss of loving being, and sadness that crosses species boundary during euthanasia of animals is a long term and intimate process that takes place in clinics or at field (home).

Through encounters with animal death, folk customs, I will try to construct limits of biological departing and roles we supernaturally and individually feel as breaking the bond with other beings in the process of ending life.

Euthanasia is a thin place where we draw the line with our cultural parts: moral and ethics. We try to accept that ones we were hunters and pray. Death is related to our needs. In philosophical standpoint many of animal's lives wouldn't be created if not by human intervention. The same goes for pets. And when to end their life.

In this case study I will examine some of examples from field of veterinary medicine with anthrozoological perspective.

*Keywords:* other beings, euthanasia, veterinary perspective, animals, cross species boundary

## **Similarities between Human and Non-human Animals Behavior: The Terminal Lucidity. From Terminal to Non-terminal Lucidity**

**Aurora Hrițuleac**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research,  
Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

Denial is a pervasive human defense mechanism. According to psychological research, denial of mortality is the core of it. Against the substantial empirical data provided especially by social psychology, the modern mainstream science undervalued this topic for decades. However, the frontier researchers continued to investigate the existential relevance of death and dying and its impact on individuals and society. As in the case of humans, the research on death and dying in non-human animals was rather neglected. Nevertheless, we witness lately a significant change. Investigations strongly suggest multiple similarities between human and non-human behaviors towards death and dying. My presentation approaches, through comparative analysis, one of them: the terminal lucidity. Additionally, it introduces the concept of non-terminal lucidity as a

much-needed human attitude in the context of actual existential threats for all sentient beings and for our planet itself.

*Keywords:* death and dying, terminal lucidity, non-terminal lucidity, existential threats

## **Can I Fill Absence from What the Dead Leave Behind through my Creative Practise?**

**Julie Anne Parsons**, University of Northumbria

My work is located in the space where bereaved companion human species 'miss' and 'long for' their dead companion animal species resulting from physical and ontological absence.

I have developed a process model which begins with externalizing the remembering's of the companion species relationship, which are created into visual story-things that are set forth into the bereaveds world.

Next stage of my model serves to narrow and make more correct the essence of the relationship through making tools called thing-beings. The tools have a very particular visual language including microscopic imagery from fur, ashes and other natural stuff that the dead have left behind.

Once again, the tools are set forth into the bereaveds world, this time in service intended to bring 'the dead and the living into a state of immediacy'. (Miller 2014, 42). What this immediacy levers aims to bring meaning to my study.

I have many images of the tools in service to show at the symposium, with some lovely quotations from participants, including my own autobiographic narrative and storytelling.

*Keywords:* anthropocentrism, biocentrism, companion species, death, hermeneutics, metaphysics and ontology, phenomenology, relational

## **Dogs in the Workplace - the Experience of the European Commission**

**Daniela Simionescu**, The Dogenius Den Institute

Back in 2023, answering to a growing request from the staff, the European Commission launched a pilot project aimed at including "dogs in the office" days and to explore the feasibility of making this practice permanent. My presentation is an



overview of what we have learned in the first year of this pilot project and will propose some aspects to be taken into account for the next step – making this program permanent.

*Keywords:* pets@work, dog wellbeing, dogs in society

## **Understanding Canine Fear-induced Aggression**

**Anna L. Arnaudova-Otoubirova**, Trakia University, Bulgaria

Throughout human history the domestic dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*) has been a reliable helper and companion to humans performing a great diversity of tasks. With the variety of roles attributed to canines today, dogs often find themselves confronted with unfamiliar environments or unpredictable surroundings. These occasionally involve stressful stimuli to which a dog may react with fear or anxiety. The resulting fear-induced aggression may pose a serious risk for both people and animals and eventually raise welfare concerns for the aggressive animal itself. The following theoretical study focuses on some major factors triggering canine fear-induced aggression while also discussing its manifestation and possible misinterpretation and addressing its potential treatment and management options.

*Keywords:* dogs, fear-induced aggression, interpretation, management options

## **Social Learning and “Do as I Do” Training Method for Dogs Interacting with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

**Katerina Balani**, independent researcher

It is well recognized that Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) as part of Animal-Assisted Interventions or Services can be efficiently used in cases of people and young children who are diagnosed with anxiety, autism spectrum disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental disorders. Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a spectrum of related, neurodevelopmental disorders ranging from mild to severe. Evidence proves that cognitive and social skills developmental patterns are different for children with ASD. Animal Assisted Therapy has been used as treatment method for the last few years with promising results. There is data that these children benefit from practicing imitation in the attempt to develop cognitive and social skills.

The aim of this presentation is to identify and answer research questions, such as: what are the methods indicated in the literature regarding the suitability and training of dogs in canine-assisted therapy for persons diagnosed with neurodevelopmental disorders, and whether the “Do as I Do” method, which brings the imitation element in the therapeutic sessions, should be recommended as a social learning method of training the dogs to be included in canine-assisted therapy for persons with neurodevelopmental disorders.

*Keywords:* animal assisted services, social learning, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Do as I Do method

## **Silent Conversations: A Literature Review Investigating Gaze Alternation in Domestic Dogs**

**Kinga Szabó**, University of Agricultural Studies and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca

Gaze alternation has been the focus of many scientific studies across various species, including dogs. While many studies have confirmed that dogs use gaze alternation in human-directed contexts, their intentionality remains a topic of debate. Many authors believe that adapting one's behavior based on the audience's attention is considered intentional communication, however associative learning might be sufficient to account for this behavior. Additionally, limited research has compared dogs' use of gaze alternation to that of children. This paper aims to provide a brief review of the literature on dogs' use of gaze alternation, focusing on its intentionality and comparing it to the gaze alternation observed in children, with an assessment of whether dogs are sensitive to the audience's attention stance. Expected outcomes include a deeper understanding of the cognitive processes behind dogs' gaze alternation and its parallels with human development. This understanding has significant applied value for dog trainers, other professionals, and guardians, as it can enhance functional human-dog interactions and aid in preventing cruelty towards dogs, thereby promoting overall animal welfare.

*Keywords:* gaze alternation, dogs, intentional communication.

## **Do You See It Too? Reflections on the Applied Values of Dogs' Perception of Visual Illusions**

**Gabriela Munteanu**, University of Agricultural Studies  
and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca

The perception of visual illusions has been of interest to scientists for several decades now, and it has been investigated for humans (adults, persons with different disorders, children etc.) as well as for different other species. The present paper constitutes a brief review of the literature regarding dogs' susceptibility to some of the most studied visual illusions (e.g., the Kanizsa's Triangle, Ebbinghaus illusion, Delboeuf illusion). References to somewhat related studies testing the susceptibility of other species to these illusions have also been included, in order to provide a wider context and perspective upon the findings. We focused on the different testing methods applied in the reviewed studies, while also critically analyzing the different settings and different reward systems involved, and the manner in which these might have influenced the final results. Further considerations regarding the importance of understanding dogs' susceptibility to such illusions were included, especially related to working dogs, because their perception of what they see can impact their safety in a mission situation. Besides, the results regarding the manner in which dogs perceive these illusions were also compared to the way in which humans see them, in order to provide an answer to the main question of the present paper: do dogs perceive visual illusions as we do?

*Keywords:* perception, illusion, dogs, susceptibility

## **The Social Behavior of Cats and their Aggressiveness towards New Pets**

**Luminița-Iuliana Ailincăi**, Iași University of Life Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary  
Medicine

The number of cat owners is increasing, and so is the number of domestic cats. Shelters are full of cats and adoption offers from people are also very common. Cat owners also tend to adopt multiple cats at home, sometimes forgetting that it might not be as easy as they think. Indeed, undesirable behavior can arise from cohabitation with other animals like scratching or marking, but the bigger problem is aggression. It is well-known that cats are very territorial and aggression is quite common and can be violent.

Aggression can be caused by various factors but it is very frequent at the introduction of a new pet in the house. The first part of this study is to consider the state of knowledge regarding cats' behaviour: the origins of domestic cats, and detail its social structure, communication and general behaviors with ethograms, with focus on the aggressiveness of this species, and bring up to light all the types of aggression that exist.

*Keywords:* cats, stress, behaviour, new pets