**British Animal Studies Network**

**‘Emotion’**

**Abstracts and**

**Biographies**

**Abstracts**

Plenaries

Marie Haskell, ‘Studying emotions in domestic animals: why and how’

Recognising emotions in animals is important in many situations. Throughout time, recognising aggressive intent in animals has been important for human self-preservation. Currently, we are also concerned about whether husbandry practices impair the emotional well-being of animals. This has opened a debate about whether animals are capable of experiencing emotions, which has centred on brain structure and the evolutionary role of emotions. The current consensus is that many domestic animals can experience at least ‘basic’ emotional states. However, in the study of animal welfare, we need methods of identifying the presence, valence (positive or negative) and intensity of the emotional state in any husbandry context. For emotions such as pain, the behavioural expression is similar to humans, so direct observation methods such as ‘pain face’ scoring systems have been developed. Qualitative behavioural analysis also relies on our ability to recognise emotional states by observing behavioural expression. Other methods gauge the presence of an underlying emotional state by its effect on behaviours such as decision-making. Animals in positive states show more optimistic behaviour than those in negative states. In social animals, the ability of animals to recognise emotions in its group-mates is of current interest. The study of emotion in animals is a rapidly developing field with implications for both animals and humans carers.

Anat Pick, ‘Insects and Melodrama’

Recent scientific studies have indicated that insects too may possess a degree of subjective experience (Klein and Barron, 2016). In two experimental film shorts featuring a single, dying grasshopper questions of suffering, empathy, and pathos are tested at the supposed limit case of insects. Using the much-derided genre of melodrama, I reflect on the sentimentalist stakes of the animal image, and on cinema's vindication of human and insect emotion.

Panels

Panel 1: Emotional Contagion

Sara Owczarczak-Garstecka, ‘“They can sense that you’re worried, so something could happen”: Managing emotions to stay safe around dogs’

The number of dog bites in the UK is increasing, driving the need for better understanding of prevention. Bites are prevented primarily through education and policies restricting ownership of “dangerous breeds”. It is however unclear what people actually do to stay safe when interacting with dogs. Our aim was therefore to explore the practices used for negotiating safety around dogs. Our discussion is based on 41 in-depth qualitative interviews and participant-observations with dog owners, bite victims and people who work around dogs. These were transcribed and coded to identify common themes. A key theme explaining how dog-safety is achieved in practice was emotional management. Safety was seen as an ability to regulate emotions around dogs, e.g.: expressing positive emotions while feeling fear. Emotions were perceived to be contagious- by self-managing emotions, a dog’s emotions and behaviour, could also be managed. Dog bites were ascribed to emotional mismanagement or a failure to recognise how a relationship or emotional connection with a dog influence perception of risk. While it is unclear if emotional management aids bite prevention, our research suggests that in addition to teaching about dogs’ body language and high-risk contexts, dog-safety education should consider how emotions shape behaviour around dogs.

Timothy C. Baker, ‘Animal Joy: Children’s Animal Fiction and a Love of the World’

Children’s animal fiction – like that meant for adults – is often centred on ideas of suffering and mortality. From Bentham and Derrida onwards, likewise, suffering is posited as the foundation of any study of human-animal relations. Little attention has been devoted to representations of animal joy in children’s fiction. If recent empirical research has cast doubt on the long-held notion that animal-centred fiction is a particularly effective way to impart moral lessons to children, one possibility is that animal fiction is especially important for teaching children joy. This paper will look at a small set of happy animals in children’s fiction, from E.B. White to Kate DiCamillo, to argue that the representations of precarity and vulnerability found in these texts direct readers’ attention to an engagement with the world, not only in terms of natural beauty but interspecies community. Focusing specifically on animal language use and writing, these texts encourage children in a love of the world in a sophisticated way, and expand our understanding of the representation of animal emotion in works for young readers.

Panel 2: Attunement

Megan Donald, ‘How to work with infinite bodies: the emotional geographies of diagnosis in the Small Animal Hospital’

The Small Animal Hospital is a site where animals and humans come together for the purposes of specialist veterinary care, diagnosis and treatment. It is here we expect our pets to undergo the most advanced diagnostic procedures, led by cutting-edge evidence-based medicine. Framed by science and technology studies (STS), and emotional and animal geographies, this paper presents an alternative, affectively-attuned investigation into the diagnostic practices of the Small Animal Hospital. It does so through the story of Tessa, a dog with a sore back: this paper takes us through the 3 sites of her diagnosis within the hospital: *the office*where Tessa’s medical history is read by the vet, *the consultation room*where the vet meets Tessa and her owners and the *neurology examination room*, where Tessa’s bodily symptoms are tested. Each site reveals how veterinary diagnosis is formed not through a purely objective science but through different multispecies intimacies, body practices and affective atmospheres. The result is a distinctly *sensuous science*which highlights the formative role of animal emotion in veterinary medicine, recognises the animal as an actor in its own care and which allows for new avenues of human-animal relations to be explored within interdisciplinary veterinary medical humanities.

Maisie Tomlinson, ‘Mowgli’s Melancholia: the exemplary role of ‘prey animal’ emotions in an Equine-Assisted Personal Development site’

In Equine-Assisted Personal Development, clients work with horses from the ground to reflect on the social-emotional condition of their lives. The rationale for the use of horses is what Lorimer et al (2017), following Thrift, call the ‘affective palette’ of prey animals, evolutionarily primed for continual environmental vigilance and swift flight. In the EAPD site in which I conducted ethnographic research, the ‘present moment state’ of horses-as-prey was frequently depicted as an enviable gift, comprising of an unrivalled emotional attunement to others, a ‘mindful’ sensory attention to the environment, and a cathartic fullness and immediacy to their response. Their behavioural choices could thus be viewed as emotional attunement to the client’s state of mind, making the human’s subjective experience more visible to the facilitator. Moreover, the perceived emotional health of horses-as-prey was frequently upheld as a moral exemplar, set against an overly cognitive and emotionally disconnected mode of modern human life. In this talk I’ll explore the social politics of these narratives as they played out in horse-human interactions. The use of the ‘predator/prey’ storyline has received feminist critique in other equine contexts, but what about when ‘prey-ness’ becomes an emotional aspiration? In any case, who is the predator and what is the prize?

Harriet Smith, Mara Miele, Nickie Charles, and Rebekah Fox, ‘*Fun*? How to become-with a police dog (handler)’

Police dog handlers are trained to control their dogs and to work together with them in challenging front line policing. This is an intense working partnership which depends on a strong bond. The police dog training practices that we examined show that distinct roles and attributes become blurred through the attachment between the police handler and the dog. However, this bond also enfolds their multispecies relating and is essential to the fulfilment of their police dog-handler roles. In this paper we present a visual ethnographic account documenting the developing bond between trainee police dog handlers and general purpose police dogs. We explore how dog emotions, particularly whether they are having ‘fun, are read and elicited by handlers and how they are key to the police-human-dog dyad. We discuss the value of visual multispecies ethnography in research that aims to be attentive to questioning more-than-human emotion. Through a visual analysis of the role of fun in training, we demonstrate how translations of feeling and experience are enmeshed into circuits of actions that become valued police work. Our paper concludes by exploring the value for the dog in having fun within this biopolitical framework of governance.

Panel 3: The Sciences of Animal Emotions

Will Abberley, ‘Sympathizing with Animals in Edwardian Nature Photography: Douglas English's *Wee Tim'rous Beasties’*

Charles Darwin famously used photographic plates to explore the emotions of different species in *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals* (1872). However, Darwin's photographs were all of humans: he relied on drawings to illustrate animals' emotions. This paper will examine another, now forgotten book, which extended Darwin's work through innovative photographic methods that seemed to capture the emotions of wild animals in the moment. *Wee Tim'rous Beasties: Studies of Animal Life and Character* (1903), by the British naturalist-photographer Douglas English, was built around images of creatures such as mice caught in non-lethal traps. The text inferred from these pictures not only isolated emotional states but also extended sequences of experience through anthropomorphic narrative. A strange mixture of empirical investigation and imaginative whimsy, *Wee Tim'rous Beasties* reflects the uncertain status and methodology of field animal psychology at the time. While university professionals were setting up the first laboratories for studying animal behaviour, English's work epitomizes the methodological hybridity of amateur natural history, combining factual observations with the emotional and imaginative responses of the investigator. His book, and its reception, thus echoed the 'Nature Fakers' controversy that was raging at the same time in North American letters, similarly inviting readers to view wild animals with a sympathetic, speculative gaze.

Amy Nelson, ‘Ties That Bind: Dogs and Humans in the Soviet Space Program’

The development of the Soviet Union’s manned spaceflight program brought humans and dogs together in complex and often confounding ways. Researchers who worked with the stray dogs chosen as experimental organisms to make space travel possible for humans brought an array of expectations to the laboratory. Powerful, often contradictory emotions informed their relationships with the dogs, on whom they projected their own aspirations and fears. A raft of assumptions about the similarities and differences between dogs and people allowed the researchers both to empathize with the dogs in anthropomorphic ways and distance themselves from animal suffering. The dogs displayed a comparably complex spectrum of fortitude, fear, affection and resistance in their interactions with their handlers. Using perspectives from ethology, psychology, and Actor-Network Theory this talk examines the affective bonds that informed relationships between researchers and dogs. It considers the space dogs’ relationships and interactions with human researchers, and the unique social and cognitive capacities of dogs. It asserts that dogs’ understanding of human emotions helped them survive. And it shows how what the dogs did – how they suffered, cultivated attachments, and endured shaped the humans’ experience and their memory of the dogs.

Mariam Motamedi Fraser, ‘Challenging Reason? The Passions and Passivity of Animals’

This paper explores the challenge to reason as it is posed, explicitly, by Animal Studies theorists using the concept of affect and, implicitly, by animal scientists working on emotions and cognition in the field of cognitive ethology. Despite their many differences, most scholars in both schools of thought base their work on a naturalistic and universalistic theory of emotions. Affect theorists, for example, deploy the notion of primary emotions to contest the high value placed on reason in marking the boundaries of the *polis* and to fold animals into some form of 'biosocial solidarity,' while cognitive ethologists use complex secondary emotions as a stepping stone to argue that animals are possessed of cognition and morality. Both also, in different but related ways, strip animals of intentionality. The tentative proposal of this paper is that the high price these theories extract from animals in return for their inclusion in politics and ethics lies in their common ancestor: classical ethology. Drawing on the work of Vinciane Despret, the paper argues that a more radical challenge to human exceptionalism lies not solely in a reconfigured understanding of the relations between emotion and reason, but in the relations between emotions, passivity, and intentionality.

Panel 4: Feeling Death/Dead Feeling

Louise Logan, ‘Drawing Species Lines: The Role of Empathy in Illustrations of Vivisection in the *Illustrated Police News’*

In the debate surrounding vivisection in the late-nineteenth century, emotion emerged as a divisive concept, as provivisectionist rhetoric aimed to posit rational science in opposition to sentimental antivivisectionism. As a result, antivivisectionist publications were tasked with revealing the truth about the practice without being dismissed as irrational, and without offending their largely middle-class readership. One newspaper unaffected by such concerns was the *Illustrated Police News*, a sensational penny weekly that became the only paper to side firmly with the antivivisectionists and print original illustrations of vivisection. This paper will consider the ways in which the unique illustrations of the *Police News* were designed to evoke human-animal empathy. Unlike the scientific images reproduced by some antivivisectionist journals, the *Police News’* engravings showed animals surrounded by scientists prepared to operate, which created a sense of urgency and made animal expression and emotion visible. These illustrations were praised by antivivisectionists and derided by contemporary scientists, yet the contribution of the *Police News* to the vivisection debate has been overlooked by scholarship. This paper will show how this understudied publication used sensationalism to evoke empathy in its readership and present the gentleman scientist as criminal, making key interventions in the debate.

Kerstin Weich, ‘On the Emotional Design and Interior Architecture of Putting Down’

Assuming that veterinary practice functions as a standard defining instance in the emotionalisation processes of animals and human-animal relations, I suggest an analysis of of putting down animals. This practice has undergone significant changes: nowadays, at-home euthanasia is performed as a worth-seeing experience with the entire patient owner family present. The growing discussion of euthanasia in veterinary specialist literature over the last three decades is explicitly owed to the challenges arising from the emotional dimensions of veterinary euthanasia. Professional handling of these feelings is promoted as an effective instrument for customer loyalty. The veterinary "emotional management" (A. Hochschild) of euthanasia - in the form of rules of conduct, precise information for the operative procedure as well as controlled emotional expressions and precise empathy - organizes an entire cluster of emotions, through which an interdisciplinary "emotional community" (B. Rosenwein) is forged. This includes who feels right and thus makes good animal death possible. Too much or too little compassion, empathy, reverence or fear of loss endanger good animal death and are marked as deviances. Following a praxeological approach, I examine how this normative regulation is stabilized by the transfer of emotional experience and physical expression of feelings into one another during animal euthanasia.

Eimear McLoughlin, ‘Knowing cows: Transformative mobilizations of human and non‐human bodies in an emotionography of the slaughterhouse’

Amidst the relative absence of emotions in slaughterhouse ethnographies, this presentation will explore the complex emotions that emerge in the killing of cattle in an industrial slaughterhouse. These emotions complicate the commodification of bovine bodies as workers recognize the individuality of, while simultaneously objectifying, the cattle in their care.By mapping how emotions emerge, erupt and confound the act of slaughtering cattle, I conceptualize an'emotionography' of the slaughterhouse. I explore how the identities of both human and non‐human individuals are constructed by line and lairage workers. Hegemonic masculine ideals that underpin slaughterhouse work mean that the emotions of workers as well as the emotional experiences of cattle are either denied, diminished or repressed. The transformation of cows to commodities and humans to ideal slaughter workers is an uneasy and incomplete process that requires daily maintenance in the slaughterhouse. These transformations simultaneously pacify the emotional toll of killing non‐human individuals and reinforce perceptions of cows as sellable, killable and edible in the commodification of bovine bodies. Nevertheless, this emotionography charts emotional experiences through the eyes of workers, cattle and the researcher and argues that emotionality unsettles categorizations of masculinity and 'animals as food'.

Panel 5: Sensitivities

Nicole Mennell, ‘The Emotional Bond of Love (or Obedience) Between Early Modern Falconers and their Raptors’
In her study on human-avian relationships in modern-day falconry, the anthropologist Sara Asru Schroer demonstrates that, ‘birds of prey cannot be forced to hunt and cooperate.’ Early modern falconers were acutely aware of this fact as there is an emphasis in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century falconry manuals on the importance of developing an emotional bond between falconer and raptor, predicated on love, trust, and mutual respect. However, as falconry requires raptors to be released from their restraints, thus allowing them to fly out of the reach of their human masters, there are apparent anxieties about whether this emotional bond is strong enough to make hawks and falcons return to their keepers. This aspect of the sport was a particular anxiety in the early modern period as, unlike modern-day practitioners, falconers could not rely on GPS tracking devices to relocate lost raptors. While falconry manuals advise their readers on how to tame and maintain the obedience of hawks and falcons, they sometimes express regret at the raptors’ loss of freedom and question their assumed autonomy. Through close examination of a selection of early modern falconry manuals, literary texts and visual sources, this paper will argue that when taming hawks and falcons there is a fine line between willing obedience and enforced servitude, the fragility of which a seemingly tame raptor can expose at any moment.

Aline Vogt, ‘Animals, Gender and Feelings in late 18th-century France’

In 18th century France cruel practices against animals were increasingly criticized. One reason for this was the philosophical discourse about the importance of feelings and compassion. Civilization critics like Rousseau urged their contemporaries to rely on their natural sensibility to protect themselves from modern vices. Physiologists and anatomists criticized the Cartesian separation of body and mind and underlined the importance of the feeling body to process external impressions. In my paper I will argue that this new thinking had an impact not only on the way animals were perceived, but also on the strongly gendered relationships between humans and animals. According to Rousseau, women were closer to the natural state of man and should be important guardians of emotions in society. According to physiologists, women had very fine nerve cords, which made them particularly sensitive to the outside world. As a consequence, women became natural mediators between humans and animals. Also, female emotions were increasingly compared to the ones of animals. Men –"hommes" – on the other hand were seen either as cruel towards animals, or as naturally superior to both animals and women because of their independent and abstract mind.

**Biographies**

Plenaries

Professor Marie Haskell is Senior Researcher and Professor of Animal Welfare Science, at Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC). She is a member of the Animal Behaviour and Welfare Team at SRUC and is currently a Senior Researcher. She has also worked at the Roslin Institute. She has extensive experience of research into the welfare of livestock species, particularly dairy cattle. She is also interested in the cognitive abilities, emotional responses and personality of animals and how these abilities and attributes influence the welfare of the individual. Recent research has involved assessing the recognition of emotional state in sheep and assessment of pain faces in cattle. Research into animal personality has resulted in protocols to assess approachability, aggression and social behaviour in cattle.

Anat Pick is Reader in Film Studies at Queen Mary, University of London. She is author of *Creaturely Poetics* (Columbia UP, 2011), co-editor of *Screening Nature* (Berghahn 2013), and has published widely on animals in film, animal ethics, and veganism. She is working on a new book on the philosopher Simone Weil and cinema.

Susan Richardson is a poet, performer and educator whose fourth poetry collection, *Words the Turtle Taught M*e, which emerged from her recent residency with the Marine Conservation Society, was published by Cinnamon Press in 2018. In addition to her ongoing residency with the British Animal Studies Network, she is currently poet-in-residence with the global animal welfare initiative, World Animal Day. Susan has performed her work on BBC2, Radio 4 and at festivals from Hay to Adelaide. She co-edits *Zoomorphic*, the digital literary magazine that publishes work in celebration and defence of animals. [www.susanrichardsonwriter.co.uk](http://www.susanrichardsonwriter.co.uk)

Panelists

Will Abberley is Senior Lecturer in Victorian Literature in the School of English at the University of Sussex. His first monograph *English Fiction and the Evolution of Language, 1850-1914* was published in 2015 by Cambridge University Press. His second monograph *Mimicry and Display in Victorian Literary Culture: Nature, Science and the Nineteenth-Century Imagination* is due to be published by CUP, hopefully in 2019. He’s been co-writing a book on the history of British nature writing, which is also under contract with CUP. In recent years, he's guest-edited an issue of *19* on the theme of 'Replicating Bodies' and published an edited essay collection entitled *Underwater Worlds: Submerged Visions in Science and Culture*. He is currently working on a project funded by a Philip Leverhulme Prize about the emotions of scientists in the long nineteenth century.

Timothy C. Baker is Senior Lecturer in Scottish and Contemporary Literature at the University of Aberdeen. He has published three monographs, most recently *Writing Animals: Language, Suffering, and Animality in Twenty-First-Century Fiction* (2019), and has published work on animal fiction in *The Lion and the Unicorn* and *Humanities*.

Nickie Charles is Principal Investigator on the Leverhulme-funded project ‘Shaping inter-species connectedness: training cultures and the emergence of new forms of human-animal relations’ at the University of Warwick. She has researched the emotional dimensions of inter-species kinship and PAT dog visits to universities.; wherein she pays particular attention to how the dogs are affected by their experiences.

Megan Donald is an early-career researcher who has recently completed her PhD in Human Geography at the University of Glasgow.Megan is interested in the complex ways in which human and animal lives come together within medicine and science, and the challenge of creatively representing these relationships in writing and other media. In particular, her work focusses on the more-than-human ethics of veterinary medicine education: how do student vets learn to become emotionally attuned with animals? How do animals experience veterinary medicine as feeling patients and as objects of science? How can we imagine and practice empathy beyond species and disciplinary divides? These are the questions which drive and encapsulate her research. Alongside this, she is involved in wider debates in qualitative methodology and specialises in: more-than-human methodology, creative and autoethnographic writing; multi-species ethnography and geohumanities approaches. Her next research project aims to investigate the ‘wellbeing agenda’ within veterinary medicine and to pursue the emergent field of veterinary medical humanities.

Rebekah Fox is a research fellow on the Inter-Species Connectedness project at the University of Warwick. She is a cultural geographer with a long-standing interest in human-animal relations completing her PhD on ‘The cultural geographies of pet-keeping’ in 2005 and a post-doc on pedigree pet-breeding and showing in 2008.

Louise Logan is a teaching assistant in English at the University of Strathclyde and is currently in the writing up stage of her AHRC-funded PhD, which examines human-animal relations in the sensational Victorian penny paper the *Illustrated Police News*. In 2018 she participated in the Animals and Society Institute’s Human-Animal Studies Summer Institute at the University of Illinois, for which she received a scholarship from ASI. She is also a member of the Glasgow Animal Studies Reading Group.

Eimear McLoughlin is an ESRC-funded PhD student at the University of Exeter. As part of her research she is currently conducting fieldwork in one of the world’s most mechanized slaughterhouses in Denmark. This fieldwork is part of her doctoral project where she is focusing on the characterization and significance of openness and transparency in animal consumptive practices, with particular focus on zoo animal management and meat production. Having successfully published in the areas of human-animal relations and organisational and gender studies, her wider research interests include the sociology of emotion and visual anthropology.

Nicole Mennell is a doctoral candidate within the Centre for Early Modern and Medieval Studies at the University of Sussex. Her thesis, ‘Shakespeare’s Sovereign Beasts: Human-Animal Relations and Political Discourse in Early Modern Drama’ (which she submitted in January 2019), explores the connections made between figures of sovereignty and animals in early modern drama. Nicole’s chapter, ‘“The Dignity of Mankind”: Edward Tyson's *Anatomie of a Pygmy* and the Ape-Man Boundary’ was recently published in the edited collection *Seeing Animals After Derrida* (2018). She also has a forthcoming chapter on Shakespeare’s lions in *The Routledge Handbook of Shakespeare and Animals.* Nicole is currently writing a commissioned article on ‘Animal Studies in the Renaissance’ for the Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature. Before embarking on her PhD, Nicole undertook an internship at the National Portrait Gallery, where she conducted research for a proposed exhibition on ‘man and beast’ in portraiture. During her doctoral studies, she co-organised several academic events, including the London Renaissance Seminar on Animal Lives in Early Modern Culture. Nicole is currently a research assistant for the Wellcome Trust-funded project ‘Hidden Persuaders’ at Birkbeck College, University of London, which explores the impact of ‘brainwashing’ on conceptions of the human.

Mara Miele is a Professor of Human Geography in the School of Geography and Planning at Cardiff University. Her interests include STS and geographies of science and animal welfare science, especially animal emotions. Miele (2016) The Making of the Brave Sheep or … the Laboratory as the Unlikely Space of Attunement to Animal Emotions, *GeoHumanities*, 2 (1) 58-75.

Mariam Motamedi-Fraser is a Reader in Sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London. She teaches two modules on animals, one at undergraduate level (Thinking Animals) and one at MA level (Animals in Theory and Practice: Philosophy, Agency, Ethics). Her current research investigates the use of anecdotes in the animal sciences. Mariam is (nearly) half way through an ABTC-accredited Advanced Diploma in Canine Behaviour and Management, and is a volunteer at The Dog Hub (Euston, London). Her article 'Dog words; or, how to think without language' is forthcoming in *The Sociological Review* (March 2019).

Amy Nelson is Associate Professor of History at Virginia Tech, (USA), where she teaches Russian history and culture, animal studies and contemporary pedagogy. Her current research focuses on the cultural implications of domestication, animal agency, and the human-animal bond. She has published extensively on the animal protection movement in Imperial Russia, petkeeping practices in the Soviet Union, and on the dogs used by the Soviets to develop the manned space flight program in the 1950s and sixties. She is co-editer (with Jane Costlow) of a collection of essays entitled, *Other Animals. Beyond the Human in Russian Culture and History*. Her first book, *Music for the Revolution. Musicians and Power in Early Soviet Russia* was awarded the Heldt Prize from the Association of Women in Slavic Studies. Her professional website is <http://amynelson.net/> . She blogs at [Sirius Reflections](http://siriusreflections.org/) and Tweets from [@purling4peas](https://twitter.com/purling4peas?lang=en).

Sara Owczarczak-Garstecka is a PhD student at the University of Liverpool in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health and Institute for Risk and Uncertainty. The subject of her PhD is “Dog bites: Perception and Prevention”. Sara has a BSc in Anthropology from UCL, MSc in Gender from London School of Economics and an MSc in Clinical Animal Behaviour from the University of Lincoln. Before embarking on a PhD, she worked in a dog shelter and as a behaviourist.

Harriet Smith is a research associate and animal studies scholar in the School of Geography and Planning at Cardiff University. She completed her PhD in visual sociology at Goldsmiths in 2018, she has recently co-authored a paper for Feminist Review entitled Kinship Across Species: Learning to Care for Nonhuman Others.

Maisie Tomlinson is a third-year PhD student in Sociology at the University of Manchester. Her research explores the ontological, epistemological and social politics of animal behaviour expertise as it is practiced in diverse settings. Shadowing people who study animals, her current work explore practices which share a common belief in the ‘innate’ ability of humans to read and interpret the behaviour of other species, often placing this at the centre of their professional methodologies in an explicitly political way. One is the teaching of horse behaviour and communication in a rural organisation that offers “Equine-Assisted Personal Development”; and the other explores a science-based animal welfare methodology called Qualitative Behavioural Assessment (QBA), following its development for use as a welfare assessment tool for laboratory mice at a UK university. Her work covers themes such as animal subjectivity, ‘anthropomorphism’, agency, relationality, the role of science and the politics of touch and embodiment. She has a particular interest in multi-species ethnography, and has run workshops in how the experience of nonhuman animals might be more closely attended to using somatic-emotional experience, sensory methods, and techniques taken from performance training.

Aline Vogt is a PhD student and currently holder of a starter scholarship at the Department of History at the University of Basel. She received her Master degree in European history from the University of Basel. Her Master thesis focused on gendered emotional practices in early 18th century Switzerland. Her current project "[Of Domesticated Women, Wild Men and other Animals. Human-Animal and Gender Relations in Natural-philosophical-moral Debates in Late Enlightenment France (1745–1805)](https://bgsh.geschichte.unibas.ch/projects/project-detail/?L=1&tx_bgshprojectsext_projects%5Bproject%5D=166&tx_bgshprojectsext_projects%5Baction%5D=show&tx_bgshprojectsext_projects%5Bcontroller%5D=Project&cHash=ef8f96c25a7f92f8df2536ccd53d4bcf)" looks at the construction of differences between humans and animals in late 18th century France and the way in which they were marked as male or female. By combining perspectives on deconstruction and practices from Human-Animal-Studies and Gender History she tries to get new insights on the way relationships between men, women and animals changed at the end of Enlightenment.

Kerstin Weich has been working in the Unit Ethics and Human-Animal Studies at the Messerli Research Institute as lecturer and a scientific coordinator in the research project "Vethics for Vets - Ethics for veterinary officers" since 2012. She studied Modern German Literature, Philosophy and Communication Science at the TU Dresden and at Freie Universität Berlin. Additionally, she graduated in Veterinary Medicine from Freie Universität Berlin in 2011. From 2009 she has been an Ethicist in the Animal Experiments Committee of Berlin. She worked as a vet (companion animal and farm animal medicine) and was engaged as a freelancer in research and teaching. In 2012, she won the Young Scholar Award of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine for an essay on the concept of health in veterinary medicine. In 2018, she became a specialist veterinarian in animal welfare, currently she is about to finalize her phD-project on Veterinary Ethics and Philosophy.