Alistair Anderson

Navigating the Borderlands of Human and Companion Animal Healthcare in the Context of Antibiotic Stewardship

Antibiotic resistance entangles human, animal, and environmental health(s) because the same antibiotics are utilised in human and veterinary medicine, and resistance to these antibiotics can cross species boundaries through shared environments. The behavioural injunctions for public consumption of antibiotics are identical across healthcare contexts navigated by pet-owners in their own health and the health of their companion animals, supported by the ‘One Health’ framing of governmental strategies. It is unclear, however, whether pet-owners draw categorical or biological borders between human and animal health, whether experiences in human medical care or veterinary medical care influence such borders, and whether any such borders – or lack thereof – influence antibiotic stewardship behaviours. Drawing upon a sample of interviews with pet-owners, this paper examines pet-owners’ conceptions of ‘health’ and reflections on experiences navigating ‘health’ in human and veterinary healthcare contexts. The argument advanced in the paper is that the lived experience of navigating different physical, practical, and conceptual borderlands in caring for one’s own health and the health of a companion animal do affect how antibiotic resistance is understood and antibiotic stewardship is practiced by the pet-owning public, challenging the translation of ‘One Health’ principles into antibiotic stewardship in the healthcare borderlands navigated by pet-owners."

Biography

Alistair is a Research Associate as part of the Animal Research Nexus Programme, working in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Nottingham. In this post, Alistair is investigating the roles and experiences of Named Veterinary Surgeons in animal research laboratories. Prior to this, Alistair’s PhD research in the School of Geographical Sciences at the University of Bristol titled “More-than-Human Geographies of Antibiotic Consumption: Pets, Pet-Owners, and Societal Drugs” investigated the beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours of pet-owners in the context of antibiotic stewardship and antibiotic resistance. This research used mixed-methods to examine how and why pet-owners make decisions in the parallel contexts of human and companion animal healthcare with a focus on antibiotic stewardship. Work from this research has appeared in PLoS ONE and the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy. Alistair has also written for policy audiences, including a briefing for the House of Lords Library titled Leaving the EU: Antimicrobial Resistance and as co-author on written evidence published in the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee’s 2018 Inquiry into Antimicrobial Resistance. Other research interests include survey methodology, respondent cooperation, and the use of qualitative methods for questionnaire design.

Raf De Bont

Moving/Being Moved: Wildlife, Humans & Globalization

Historians of globalization have always had a keen interest in movements. Much of their analyses centre on movements of people, products, money, and ideas. Yet, the movements of non-human animals – and ‘wild’ animals in particular – have remained marginal to mainstream stories of globalization. Introducing the NWO Project ‘Moving Animals’, my paper will explore what a more-than-human history of globalization could potentially look like. My story will start out from a small-scale and low-tech invention of the late 1960s: the antelope pass, designed to enable pronghorn movement across sheep-tight fences in Wyoming. I will take this case as a starting point to reflect on the ways in which humans have studied, represented and managed animals that move (or are *being* moved) over large distances. Over the past century, with human and animal territorialities conflicting and intersecting in novel ways, animal mobility has increasingly become a theme of explicit discussion in science, the media, and policy across the world. This, in turn, has spurred new forms of interactions with the animals in question. Looking at these changing interactions between humans and moving undomesticated animals, I will argue, can open up new ways to think about globalization and the borderlands it produces.

Biography

Raf De Bont is Professor of the History of Science and the Environment at Maastricht University (the Netherlands). His research interests concern the ways in which humans have studied, represented and interacted with the natural world from the nineteenth century to today. Recent books include Stations in the Field: A History of Place-Based Animal Research, 1870-1930 (The University of Chicago Press, 2015) and Nature’s Diplomats: Science, Internationalism and Preservation, 1920-1960 (The University of Pittsburgh Press, forthcoming).

Bronwen Buckeridge

Widowhood: interruptive wildness and unruly domesticity in pigeon racing systems

In this paper I will explore the categorical and metaphorical borderland between racing pigeons and the men who train them. Looking through the lens of ‘Widowhood’, a live performance that took place at Matt’s Gallery in 2018 (and parallel text due to be published later this year) I will focus my discussion around the act of separation and pact to return configured between bird and human protagonists during a race. Widowhood, jealousy, the darkness: these are the guarded secrets and preparatory rituals used by pigeon racers to motivate their birds to fly faster on race day. Drawing on field research and notes from the performance I will speculate on racing strategies as an erosion of distinctions between the birds and their trainers, and as a shared narrative of love, loss and longing. Race day itself is both an embodied performance and also produced in the abstract as data. It is an act of waiting that is part observed, part imagined. I will discuss the structure of the race as a troubled border between domesticity and wildness, one that exposes the vulnerabilities of both the birds and the men waiting for them to return.

Biography

Bronwen Buckeridge is an artist and lecturer in Fine Art at Falmouth University. Working across sound, live performance and text she sets up imaginative encounters between species, gently reshaping and shifting narratives into new contexts. Her work is a productive platform for thinking about the artist as translator, curious about the things that fall between experience and expression, and the unknowableness of the human and the non-human animal. Recent work includes a live audio session featuring conversations with dogs, an earthwork made with the assistance of witches, and an exhibition curated by spirits. She has shown her work extensively, with solo presentations at Matt's Gallery (2018), Estuary Festival (2016), City Gallery Gdansk (2016) and the Whitstable Biennale in 2014 and 2012.

Erica von Essen

Pig Non Grata: Understanding Biopower, Necropolitics and Securitization of Nature through the ‘War on Boars

In the following paper, I present a study of the ‘war on boars’ in Europe, through which spatial control of wild boars: fencing, separating zones, or culling as the ultimate way of controlling the flow of the animals, can be understood as necropolitics: the killing of unruly life. I suggest that the war on the boars represents a renewed command-and-control model for conservation of biodiversity of increased surveillance and proactive containment. The war on boars raises questions about the ethics of implementing infrastructures of biosecuritization at human-animal interfaces to discipline the wayward mobilities of animals across symbolic and physical borders. My paper outlines a descriptive necropolitical border regime for wild boars, including actors, their risk portfolios and on-the-ground norms around biosecuring around wild boar bodies. In particular, I pay attention to ruptures in the necropolitical regime: contestations and alternative facts from those doing the ‘biosecuring’ work. These draw from empirical studies with hunters in an ongoing project about changing hunting ethics, an upcoming project ‘License to Cull: Investigating the Necropolitics of Countryside Culling and Urban Pest Control’ and collaborative work in the ERC project Veterinarization of Europe? Hunting for Wild Boar Futures in the Time of African Swine Fever.

Biography

Erica von Essen is an associate professor of Environmental Communication, now working at the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research in Oslo on all things human-wildlife. Her background is in geography and social anthropology, from which she has particularly approached the changing ethics of killing non-human animals: the circumstances, industries, rituals and places in which such killing is permitted or institutionalized. Her research projects are concerned with the norms and knowledges around the dispatching of out-of-place and undesirable species and animals. Her methods are empirical-phenomenological, netnographic and discourse research on the communities of practice that engage in such biosecuritization. Erica von Essen’s PhD thesis, completed in 2016, on illegal hunting of large carnivores in Scandinavia, propelled her into the field of green criminology and has deepened her commitment to explore the relationship between law and morality. Her 50+ publications in 6 years can be found across various disciplinary communities from rural sociology to environmental ethics.

## Ben Farrar

## Statistical smokescreens and storytelling: What can scientists tell us about the mental lives of animals?

Animal psychologists follow the scientific method in their attempts to generate facts about animal minds. To detach themselves from the “subjective” biases of softer disciplines, psychologists work in laboratories, create hypotheses, perform experiments and perform a dizzying array of statistical analyses to determine what the facts are about animal minds. The science/non-science border one of the strongest conceptual, philosophical and methodological divides between those interested in animals and animal-human relationships. Notably, animal scientists have been criticized for asking the wrong questions; by focusing on detachment, operationalization and experimentation, they miss out on the knowledge that can be gained through alternative ways of making meaning, such as storytelling. Here, I argue the contrary: animal psychologists are primarily storytellers, and these stories are made real through experimentation. However, the stories they construct are often weak, and survive only through the protection of “science”. Because of this, animal sychologists are interested in maintaining a strong conceptual border with less scientific disciplines, and this must be recognised when performing inter-disciplinary work. I end the paper by outlining how individuals can navigate the scientific smokescreens in animal research and identify what the scientific method can and can not tell us about animal minds.

Biography

Ben Farrar is a PhD student at the Comparative Cognition Laboratory, University of Cambridge. With a background in the natural sciences, his early research focused on whether non-human animals can represent the mental-states of others, whether they have a “theory-of-mind”. However, he lost confidence in the ability of the science, in its current form, to answer such questions. He now studies statistical reliability and bias in animal cognition research, focusing on how the scientific incentive structure shapes the facts scientists construct about animal minds.

Anna Guasco

Terraqueous Border-‘lands’: Grey Whale Migration Along the North American Pacific Coast

Eastern North Pacific grey whales transgress many geographic, political, and social borders in their annual migrations between Baja California Sur, Mexico and the Bering and Chukchi Seas. These whales (or certain subsets) are known by various names and labels, including ‘friendly whale’, ‘Mexican by birth’, ‘California grey whale’, and ‘Pacific Northwest Feeding Group’. Grey whales’ own mobilities intersect with ongoing scientific, political, and cultural controversies about where these whales belong, how they should be labelled, and what constitutes proper conservation of this once-endangered species. This paper evaluates these controversies – about grey whales’ mobilities, geographic belonging, scientific labelling, and conservation decision-making – to analyse grey whales’ border-crossings. Reinterpreting Bashford’s (2017) notion of ‘terraqueous histories’, I develop the concept of ‘terraqueous geographies’, focusing on the liminal spaces of coastal border-‘lands’. The concept of ‘terraqueous geographies’ is particularly helpful in analysing grey whales’ relationships with more-than-human coastlines – and with the places that people live, work, and play. By exploring issues of animal migration, belonging, and scientific controversies, this paper brings together emerging conversations in animal(s’) geographies, environmental history, border studies, and blue humanities. Finally, the paper seeks to illuminate the ways in which grey whales themselves participate in and shape these discourses and relationships.

Biography

Anna Guasco is a Geography PhD student and Gates Cambridge Scholar at the University of Cambridge. Her doctoral research analyses histories, storytelling, and justice issues surrounding grey whale migration and conservation along the North American Pacific coast. She holds an M.Sc. in Environment, Culture and Society from the University of Edinburgh and a B.A. in American Studies from Carleton College. Broadly, her research interests include conservation narratives and storytelling, environmental justice, animal/more-than-human geographies, environmental history, and political ecology.

Seth Gustafson

Fishers and eels: oral history, disappearing livelihoods, and endangered species in an age of extinction

Though for centuries perhaps the most commonly eaten fish in Europe, the European Eel (Anguilla anguilla) is critically endangered, having declined in population by more than 95% since the 1960s. Bearing witness to this eco-social transformation is the aging last generation of eel catchers, whose labour and livelihood once supplied the British public with eel. With few young eel catchers adopting the profession, the skills, knowledge, memories, and experience of small-scale commercial eel fishing in the UK is set to pass into extinction, even if the eel itself narrowly avoids it. Drawing on recent work in the extinction studies, multi-species geographies, and oral history, this paper narrates the multiple borderland crossings of the fisher/eel relation—rural/urban, abundance/extinction, life/death, and more—in the context of the longstanding Norfolk-London eel trade The paper relies on interviews and archival materials from fishers who, acutely aware of the crisis of the eel and their profession, reflect on the meaning of extinction, recount historical practices of eel fishing, and examine their own role in this moment of environmental transformation. Lastly, the paper considers the role of oral history, living memory, and disappearing environmental knowledge in an age of extinction.

Biography

Since 2016, I have been a Lecturer in Human Geography in the Department of Geography at University College London. There, I convene the MSc in Environment, Politics, and Society, and I teach and research generally on topics of urban environmental politics, problems, and histories. Prior to joining UCL, I was a post-doctoral research associate at the Sustainability Research Centre of the University of Bremen (Germany) with INTERCOAST, an interdisciplinary coastal research post-graduate training programme split between Germany and New Zealand. I finished my PhD in Geography in 2014 at the University of Georgia (USA), which examined how urbanisation is changing environmental politics in historically rural areas of Appalachia. Lately, I have been writing on two topics: the more-than-human histories and geographies of eels in London (see below) and children’s geographies of urban air pollution.

Karen Jones

Science Communication and the Call of the Wild: Wolf Howls and the Sonic Boundaries of Conservation in Algonquin Provincial Park

This paper looks at a few kinds of boundary crossings – of species, spaces and sonic translations - through the evocative medium of the ‘wolf howl’, embedded in which are a series of connected ideas about conservation, animal agency and intra-species communication. In particular, I explore here the extraordinary phenomenon of the public wolf howl that takes place over several nights every August in Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada. The event, which has taken place since the mid 1960s and started out as a scientific tracking tool, regularly attracts thousands of visitors. As the well-ordered traffic jam moves through park roadways, a train of eager wolf-watchers follow park rangers to a designated place to listen to the sound of ‘wilderness.’ Here, then, is a boundary space where conservation science crosses into public pilgrimage and wolf orations are inscribed with different meanings. Combining a methodology of environmental humanities with new approaches in sensory history, this paper encourages us to see boundaries not only as physical or imaginative lines but as journeys and moments: points of transgression, collision, and negotiation that are usefully informed by an attentiveness to sonic engagements.

Biography

Karen Jones is a professor of environmental and cultural history at the University of Kent. She is an enthusiastic supporter of environmental history, landscape history and animal studies. Her books include Wolf Mountains: The History of Wolves Along the Great Divide (2002) – a comparative study of the biology, mythology and culture surrounding wolves in national parks in the Rockies – and Epiphany in the Wilderness: Hunting, Nature and Performance in the American West (2015) – which looks at the environmental and cultural imprint of hunting on the western frontier, with particular focus on animal encounter, ritual and storytelling, and gender tropes and transgressions. Her current research interests include hunting, taxidermy and the interior ecologies of animal display (with Quex Park); wolf mythology and the wild in Canada (from which this paper is taken); and histories of health, space, and wellbeing in the urban metabolic landscape.

Katherine Kanne

Riding is a borderland

Riding is a borderland; variously blurring, demarcating, and transcending the boundaries between human and horse. This hybrid beast, born in the Eurasian Bronze Age (c. 2000-1000 BC), becomes increasingly and necessarily bound to the making, defense, and seizing of geographical borders. In this paper, I explore the novel boundary crossings between human and horse that are conjoined while mediating new cognitive and physical geographies mapped in the Bronze Age. Borderlands are scarred with interactions, evidenced by the osteopathologies of people and horses, and the material culture of their negotiations, the bridle bits. Combining this multi-stranded data with the geospatial expansion of equestrianism, I track the shifting frontiers traversed by the human and horse couple through the European Bronze Age. This integration of bodies, behaviors, sociality, and experience resulted in a new way of being, transforming both species as it unfolded. Equestrianism afforded new ways of life, increased interconnectivity, and ways to resist, consent to, or assert political power. Once the equestrian leaps forth from Pandora’s box, however, political and terrestrial boundaries become ever signaled by the centaur.

Biography

Katherine Kanne is an Instructor and Research Affiliate at Northwestern University, where she recently obtained her PhD in Anthropology after receiving a MS and BA in Anthropology with highest distinction from Purdue University. She is an anthropological archaeologist, with specializations in theoretical archaeology, bioarchaeology, zooarchaeology, and European prehistory. Her current work is focused on how equestrianism affects the long-term trajectory of social change, including the development of complex societies and institutionalized inequalities, and advancing theory for human-animal relationships which bridge processual and post-humanist, multispecies approaches.

Chantelle Mitchell and Jaxon Waterhouse

Present Absence or Absent Presence: the allegory of the Night Parrot

The Night Parrot (Pezoprous occidentalis) is a mysterious figure, having flitted across Central Australian landscapes, between extinction and elusiveness, for much of the 20th Century. With its existence now verified, we see this between-ness continuing; the bird becoming allegorical, extending into archives, collections and across frames of Aboriginal and Western cosmologies. Troubling the most basic of taxonomies, the Night Parrot is at once a present absence and an absent presence - in doing so, the bird finds itself mobilised amidst broader conflicts over environmental management and protection. We seek out the Night Parrot, mobilising it within an allegorical frame to explore the between-ness of the bird, muddying frames of knowledge and power. Our approach affirms the grounded knowledge of collections, traditional knowledge and chronicles of the search, alongside ungrounded knowledge; the bird’s mythos, and correlations with impact sites, in order to present a speculative reflection of how the Night Parrot elucidates contemporary concerns regarding extinction, conservation and environmental management. Within this frame, we are attentive to the consequences of presence and absence for broader conservation - how traces, sightings and possibilities of the Night Parrot may halt industrial development, and lead toward broader conservation initiatives, or the drawing of new ecological boundaries.

Biography

Chantelle Mitchell and Jaxon Waterhouse, through their ongoing research project Ecological Gyre Theory, have presented exhibition and performance lecture deluge for Sawtooth ARI, and have work appearing in Art+Australia, e-flux journal, On\_Culture and Unlikely journal, among others. Chantelle is a writer/curator. She has written for The Lifted Brow, Plumwood Mountain Journal, Marrickville Pause and others, and presented performance lectures for ACCA, the Ian Potter Museum of Art and Bus Projects. Jaxon is a writer/publisher. He maintains a research based arts practice which has seen him exhibit across Australia, most recently in Sculptures by the Sea 2020.

Anindya Sinha

Reaching Out: Interspecies Communication in a Synurbising Forest of Southern India

A population of wild bonnet macaques, an ecologically adaptable nonhuman primate of southern India, has recently developed a novel food-requesting behaviour, exclusively directed towards food-bearing tourists in the Bandipur National Park of Karnataka state. This unique form of multimodal communication, often successfully resulting in food being thrown at the macaque, typically includes a newly evolved gesture of raising an arm towards the human, a soft coo call never used in any other social situation by these monkeys and a visually mediated orientating behaviour that allows the macaque to lock gaze with the human benefactor – all performed intentionally and possibly, even referentially. With our recent analyses that bonnet macaques may possess fairly sophisticated cognitive capabilities, even characterised by an objectified sense of the self, we analyse the food-requesting actions of the macaques as iterated bodily practices by agential individuals within a naturalcultural contact zone, where humans and nonhumans encounter and relate to one another through specific exchanges of signals and materials. Do these actions embody the macaques’ desperate bid to cope with the loss of their natural habitats and resources to a far more powerful species, a final act of negotiation with a world quietly slipping away from their grasp?

Biography

Anindya Sinha is primarily based at the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore, India. Although his early research concerned the molecular biochemistry of yeast, social biology of wasps, population genetics of elephants and the classical genetics of human disease, his principal interests, over the last three decades, have generally been in the behavioural ecology, cognitive ethology, population and behavioural genetics, evolutionary biology and conservation studies of primates and other mammalian species. He is also deeply interested in natural philosophies, performance studies and in the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of India, especially concerning human-nonhuman relations and the lived experiences of other-than-humans. His current obsession is to specifically understand what living in urbanising habitats might mean to nonhuman individuals and populations, and reflect on the opportunities that ethnographic, rather than ethological, explorations offer for our understanding of more-than-human lifeworlds, today and in the future.

Thomas Spencer

White Feathers on the Golden River: gyrfalcon trade and hunting diplomacies in Manchurian borderlands at the turn of the twelfth century

The later medieval period has come to be seen as a watershed moment in the history of Chinese falconry, as the practice of hunting shifted from leisurely pastime to ritual activity. These developments are credited to the conquest and settlement of northern China by foreign tribes from beyond the Great Wall, who brought with them new perspectives on human-animal relationships. However, these perspectives were neither static nor unified, as different groups competed with each other against a rapidly changing ecological and geopolitical backdrop. This paper examines the different relationships between humans and birds as embodied in the cross-border interactions between two tribes at the turn of the twelfth century: the Khitan, who had founded an imperial dynasty based in northern China, and the Jurchens, a loose confederation of agropastoralists in Manchuria who had become the chief suppliers of hunting birds to the Khitan court. The so-called ‘falcon tax’ imposed by the Khitan on their neighbours has been cited as the casus belli for an eventual war that would erupt between the two in 1115 AD, and the escalating border tensions this tax provoked are as much a story of competing paradigms of human-animal relationships as they are one of human conflict.

Biography

My name is Thomas Spencer and I am a graduate student in Medieval History at the University of Birmingham, primarily researching falconry and hunting ecologies in medieval China and Northeast Asia. My MA thesis, completed last year, studied the decline of native goshawk populations in the Khitan Liao dynasty (916 – 1125).