



Welcome

Welcome to the [Emerging Voices for Animals in Tourism \(EVAT\) conference 2023](#). An interdisciplinary collaboration between [The Civet Project](#) and [Fanimal](#), Emerging Voices for Animals in Tourism merges research from anthrozoological and multi-species scholarship, with critical tourism studies and animal ethics to bring together researchers across disciplines with an interest in advocating for animals in touristic contexts.

Through scholarly research, collective problem solving, and ethical enquiry, we strengthen the bridge between "tourism academia" and "non-tourism academia". Specifically, we highlight fresh perspectives, emerging methodologies and innovative collaborative praxis to explore the role of animals in tourism whilst critically working towards more ethical human-animal interactions within the tourism and leisure space.





Conference Conveners

Carol Kline

(she/her)

Dr. Carol Kline is founder of Fanimal and a Professor in Hospitality and Tourism Management at Appalachian State University.



The mission of Fanimal is to provide a space for personal and professional development in a variety of animal and environmental related fields. We foster community, facilitate discovery, and accelerate career building for people who love animals. We aim to multiply our positive impact for animals by focusing on the development of animal allies, academics, advocates, and activists.



Jes Hooper

(she/her)

Jes is founder of the Civet Project, a member of the IUCN SSC Small Carnivore Specialist Group, and a Anthrozoology PhD Candidate at the University Exeter.



The Civet Project is a non-profit with a mission to protect the intrinsic interests of civets (*Viverrid sp.*) through the dissemination of civet research to a range of audiences, and via the promotion of ethical consumerism.



Gordon Meade

(he/him)



*Gordon Meade is a Scottish poet, based in the East Neuk of Fife. In the past, he has been the Creative Writing Fellow at the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and the Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow at the University of Dundee. He has read from his work throughout the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, and Luxembourg. He has published twelve collections of poems, most recently, *EX-posed: Animal Elegies* with Lantern Publishing & Media, New York, in October 2022.*

Gordon will read a from my most recent collection, *EX-posed: Animal Elegies*, a collection of poems and photographs that extends the range of the work by covering the abuse and exploitation of more-than-human animals in the realms of factory farming, wet markets, industrial fishing, entertainment, faith, fashion, and climate emergency.

Yoko Kito

(she/her)

Associate Professor of Ethics and Theology at Doshisha University (Japan). My research is mainly in the area of the thought of Paul Tillich, the thought of Kyoto school, religious philosophy, animal ethics, and Christian ethics. My recent interests are Japanese attitude toward animals, relation of human rights and animal rights.





Keynote Speakers

Jennifer Hadley

(she/her)

I love traveling the world to tell animal's stories through photography. I am passionate about showing people how incredible wildlife is and that these animals and natural spaces are worth preserving and safeguarding. By capturing special moments and personalities of an animal, I hope to change people's perceptions about the animals' lives and value.



Right of Passage

Join us for a screening of Right of Passage, a documentary short about conservation efforts surrounding safer wildlife corridors for the critically endangered red wolf and all wildlife in Eastern North Carolina. The filmmakers will be on hand for a discussion of the making of the film, the intended impact, and how tourism can have both positive and negative effects on wildlife. You can view the film here:
<https://www.rightofpassage.info/>

Cassia Rivera

(she/her)

I am a passionate conservationist who aims to bring compelling visuals and storytelling to the public on behalf of the wildlife I encounter. I believe by telling their stories, we can bring the world of wildlife into the hearts of people in order to create positive and lasting change!



Nancy Arehart

(she/her)

Having spent many hours observing and photographing the Black Bears in Eastern North Carolina during our COVID travel restriction days, my love for wildlife has deepened. There is an amazing connection I feel when in the presence of wildlife in their habitat. It is hard to explain the feeling, but it has made me passionate about preserving these habitats so that the Earth's beautiful animals are free to thrive.



David Fennell

(he/him)

*David teaches and researches in the areas of tourism and animal ethics, ecotourism, tourism ethics, and sustainable tourism. He has written leading books on these topics, including *Tourism and Animal Ethics*, *Ecotourism* (5th edition) and *Tourism Ethics* (2nd edition). A major thrust of his research involves theory from other disciplines to gain traction on many of tourism's most persistent problems. Fennell is founding Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Ecotourism* and is an active member on the boards of several academic journals. He has been recognized internationally for his work on ethics and ecotourism, and is a member of the Global Ecotourism Network.*

Traversing the great global-local divide in animal-based tourism: Integrative Social Contracts Theory and "hyperactive" hypernorms?

Until recently, animals have been left off the table in discussions on what represents a responsible and sustainable approach to tourism. Animals have thus been viewed as holding instrumental rather than intrinsic value.

This presentation, based on several years of cutting-edge research, sets the stage for a new era of tourism by introducing several new models for a deeper consideration of the needs and interests of animals used in the tourism industry.



Mark Jones

(he/him)

Mark trained as a vet at Liverpool University and worked for many years in fish health and disease control, before spending five years travelling extensively and working on rescue and rehabilitation projects for primates, bears, birds, and reptiles in South America and Asia. He has Masters' degrees in both aquatic and wild animal health, and several years' experience in the non-government animal protection sector covering international wildlife trade, wildlife management and animal welfare issues. He joined the UK-based Born Free Foundation in 2014 where he is currently Head of Policy.



Raising the red flag for animals in tourism

Born Free's Raise the Red Flag programme provides a mechanism by which people can submit their eyewitness reports of captive wild animal exploitation and suffering. Since the programme was first instigated as 'Travellers Alert', the charity has received over 17,000 such reports. As well as providing advice on the action people can take, Born Free collates the information it receives and uses it to improve the lives of animals and reduce risks to the public, through direct action, public education and advocating for changes to policy and legislation. This presentation aims to highlight the scale and scope of the problem, provide examples where public concern has led to real change, and consider what needs to be done going forward.

Hin Hoarau-Heemstra

(she/her)

I am an associate professor at the Nord University Business school where I teach and do research. I am currently the project leader of the international research project Sustainable Arctic Cruise Communities: from practice to governance (2020-2023). I have academic interest and expertise in tourism innovation studies, animal ethics in tourism, sustainability, community development and entrepreneurship. I have a background as consultant and coordinator in sustainable development projects in the Netherlands. In 2010, I moved to Norway to do my PhD on innovation in experience based tourism.



Scientific fabulation: The art of giving voice to moss & moose working for tourism

Our talk focuses on the posthuman turn in tourism by discussing how other-than-humans have been welcomed and cared for in tourism studies. By engaging in scientific storytelling with mosses and moose in the Nordic settings, we wish to explore the possibilities of listening and giving voice to multispecies communities both in tourism research and in practice. Scientific fabulation can be seen both as an epistemological approach and methodological tool that brings together existing knowledge, recognises non-human agency, offers new perspectives and stretches moral imaginations beyond the human-centered ideas of wellbeing. Different from traditional and classical fables with moral lessons, dualistic characters of good and evil, and 'happy ever afters', the purpose of this kind of storytelling is to slow down, complicate and hesitate so that multiple voices can be heard.

Emily Höckert (co-presenting with Hin Hoarau-Heemstra)

(she/her)

Emily Höckert is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Lapland, Finland. Her research examines and cultivates relational ways of being, imagining, knowing, and doing in tourism settings. She approaches the questions of multispecies hospitality and ethics of care at the crossroads of hermeneutic phenomenology, postcolonial philosophy, and posthumanism, asking how more-than-human communities welcome and take care of each other. Emily is a member of the research project "Envisioning proximity tourism with new materialism" (Academy of Finland, 2019–2023; www.ilarctic.com) and the "Intra-living in the Anthropocene" research network.



Mucha Mkono

(she/her)

Dr Mucha Mkono is a Lecturer in tourism management at the University of Queensland, Australia. She has broad interests in wildlife tourism and sustainability. Drawing on her research on the impacts of trophy hunting, Dr Mkono has provided testimony for legislators in the UK and the USA.



Women-only antipoaching initiatives in Southern African protected areas: A critical analysis.

Women-only antipoaching units are a new phenomenon that has become a highly visible, albeit controversial, approach to combating the poaching of megafauna in parts of Africa. These groups are typically foreign (Western) founded and/or funded, bringing with that a number of socio-political implications. Proponents view the initiatives as much needed and innovative interventions, boldly confronting and filling a widening gap in megafauna conservation. African authorities and other actors in the region, invested in protecting their key tourism attraction base, have embraced their role and granted them access to operate in protected areas. Critics view them as relying on “spectacle” and reductionist narratives to engage and even manipulate their audiences into donating money to support the cause. I argue in this presentation, adding to a handful of studies that have recently emerged in this area, that the truth is in the middle: their work might represent a well-intended effort to make a difference, but expecting them to be saints and saviours is both unfair and naive. I will discuss the many layers and contradictions within this phenomenon, focusing on three components: the social justice framing; the appeal of “spectacle” and its mediation in the social media era; and the growth of antipoaching tourism.

Georgette Leah Burns

(she/her)

Virtual Wildlife Tourism: Better than the real thing?

As global travel resumes in the wake of a pandemic that engulfed the planet, wildlife populations continue to plummet worldwide and movement away from keeping (at least some) species captive is apparent. It is time to ask the question, is the future of wildlife tourism virtual? This presentation considers animal welfare issues associated with wildlife tourism and whether presenting technologically created images to tourists can more equitably foreground non-human rights, welfare, and agency. Highlighted here are examples of tourism involving wildlife in virtual settings to explore possible advantages and disadvantages of this type of experience for both human and non-human stakeholders. The argument is made that a virtual future needs to consider all stakeholders and that images of non-human animals must be represented with dignity and respect.

*Georgette Leah Burns is an Associate Professor in the School of Environment, and Deputy Director of the Centre for Planetary Health and Food Security, at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. Her work as an environmental anthropologist focuses on understanding and informing ethically responsible human-wildlife interactions in tourism settings. Her fieldwork ranges across species, from seals in Iceland to dingoes in Australia, all with the commonality of promoting responsibility of humans to champion an ideology of coexistence and equitably sharing space. Leah is co-author of *Engaging with Animals: Interpretations of a shared existence* (Sydney University Press), as well as multiple book chapters and journal articles.*





After Party Hosts

Claudia Hirtenfelder

(she/her)

Claudia Towne Hirtenfelder is the founder and host of The Animal Turn. She is a PhD Candidate in Geography and Planning at Queen's University and is currently undertaking her own research project looking at the geographical and historical relationships between animals (specifically cows) and cities. She was awarded the AASA Award for Popular Communication for her work on the podcast, is an active member of the Animals in Philosophy, Politics, Law, and Ethics Research Group and is the co-founder of the Bovine Scholarship Network. She also loves cycle touring and walks with her dog Linus and husband Oliver. Contact Claudia via email (info@theanimalturnpodcast.com) or follow her on Twitter (@ClaudiaFTowne).



Animal Tourism Quiz with Claudia Hirtenfelder!

March 8, 17:45 EST

Kim Stallwood

(he/him)

Kim Stallwood is an animal rights author and independent scholar with more than 45 years of personal commitment as a vegan and professional experience in leadership positions. He volunteers on the board of directors of the Culture & Animals Foundation. The British Library acquired the Kim Stallwood Archive in 2020. He is a consultant with Tier im Recht, the Zurich-based animal law organization, on projects preserving animal rights history, including acquiring his library. He is writing the biography of Topsy, the female Asian elephant electrocuted to death on Coney Island, New York, in 1903.

March 9, 17:45 GMT

Book reading: Topsy the Elephant with Kim Stallwood





Conference Chairs

Nora Livingstone

(she/her)

Nora specializes in corporate social responsibility and cross-cultural management, bringing in extensive international experience with local communities who run animal conservation programs. Coining the term: Consent Based Travel she understands the importance of ethics in all interactions. Nora is also actively involved in the rise of Benefits Corporations and runs her own award-winning B-Corp, Animal Experience International. Nora is also the host of Fanimal Animal Chat Time, a weekly children's show all about animals!



Marika Bell

(she/her)

Marika started her career with non-human animals while obtaining her University degree in Zoology (UW). Initially she worked with large carnivores at zoos but after taking a course in dog training, and obtaining her CPDT-KA from the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers, she caught the animal welfare 'bug' and has been working with shelters and sanctuaries internationally for more than a decade. During this time she received the Susan Wilkens Achievement Award from APDTAU for her work in the sheltering community and The Queen's Diamond Jubilee award for Meritorious Volunteer Service. She completed her MA in Anthrozoology at the University of Exeter, UK in 2016 and upon moving back to the Seattle area of Washington state she joined the board of Homeward Pet Adoption Center. She served a term as the board president in 2020 and continues to serve on the leadership team as the past president.



The Deal with Animals Podcast

Humans interact with animals every day of our lives. Even those without pets interact with animals in various ways: diet, wildlife, the clothes they wear. Even most medicines use animals in testing or in the medicine itself. This is a podcast about Anthrozoology: the study of interaction between humans and non-human animals.

Harvey Lemelin

he/him

Dr. Raynald Harvey Lemelin is a Professor in the School of Outdoor Recreation Parks and Tourism at Lakehead University, he has considerable experience in managing research projects (i.e., Churchill Northern Studies Centre, Assembly of First Nations), and working with Northern communities in Canada and therefore has personal and institutional contacts in the study area. His doctoral research completed in 2004, examined the human-dimensions of the polar bear viewing industry in Churchill, Manitoba, while his Master's research was conducted with the Mohawk community of Akwesasne, and was completed in 1997.

Dr. Lemelin has diversified his studies on human-animal dynamics by examining the human-dimensions of 'dragon-hunting' (i.e., the pursuit of dragonflies by enthusiasts) in Northern Ontario. The research has produced two peer-reviewed publications, two non-peer-reviewed publications on insect leisure and tourism, two conference presentations, and various presentations to Odonata groups. Dr. Lemelin has also organized two insect symposiums in the city of Thunder Bay (i.e., a dragonfly symposium in the summer of 2007; a bee symposium in the summer of 2008).



Josh Milburn

(he/him)

*Josh Milburn is a Lecturer in Political Philosophy and a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow. Before coming to Loughborough in 2022, he worked at the University of Sheffield as a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow (2019-22); the University of York as an Associate Lecturer in Political Philosophy (2017-19); and Queen's University (Canada) as a Postdoctoral Fellow in Animal Studies (2016-17). He read for a BA and MA in philosophy at Lancaster University (2009-13) and PhD in philosophy at Queen's University Belfast (2013-16). He is the author of two forthcoming books about animals in ethics and politics, and the host of the animal studies podcast *Knowing Animals*.*



Claire Parfitt

(she/her)

Claire joined CABI in 2001 as an Editorial Assistant in the books department. Over the past 20 years Claire has expanded her knowledge of book publishing and is now Publisher and head of the Books Editorial Team at CABI. Claire has specialised in the area of leisure, tourism and hospitality during the past 10 years and loves the variety this field of study offers! CABI also publishes books within animal science, which Claire is also extremely interested in. She has a BSc in Zoology from University of Reading, UK.



Neil Carr

(he/him)

Neil Carr is a Professor in the Department of Tourism, University of Otago. His work is grounded in notions of welfare, wellbeing, and rights. He has explored these within the contexts of children and families, animals and sex, utilising the lenses of leisure and tourism to do so. The brains behind all of this, his canine pals, are only stymied by their lack of opposable thumbs.



Sindhoor Pangal

she/her



Sindhoor is a canine behaviour consultant, a canine myotherapist and an engineer by qualification. She is a TEDx speaker and the author of the book, Dog Knows. Sindhoor quit her corporate life to pursue a career in working with dogs, after her dog Nisbi met with an accident and needed special physical and emotional care. She worked as a behaviour and myotherapy consultant for companion dogs, but soon discovered her passion for studying free living dogs in India. Her insights have been published in the IAABC journal and the PPG blog in the US, was presented at the PDTE summit in the UK and was mentioned in the book Canine Confidential by Dr. Marc Bekoff and a National Geographic Bookazine called the Genius of Dogs. She is currently pursuing her masters in Anthrozoology from Exeter University (UK) and is also the principal and director of BHARCS. BHARCS offers a UK accredited level 4 diploma on canine behaviour and applied ethology.

While she wears many hats, Sindhoor's favourite role has been being a mommy to two amazing dogs - Nisbi (who recently passed away) and Cbeeru, who she considers her inspiration and her greatest teachers.



Panelists: March 8th

Rayne Billings

(they/them)

Rayne Billings is a fourth-year student at the University of Alaska Southeast. Their work is primarily focused on the cultural underpinnings of wildlife conservation and biosciences. They work as a marine mammal research assistant, studying humpback and killer whales in Juneau, Alaska.



Killer whales up-close: an overview of whale-watching regulations along the Pacific coast of the U.S/

Commercial whale watching is a large component of the tourist industry in coastal regions. However, it is also well-documented that whale watching vessels have the potential to cause harm to whales, primarily through the disruption of feeding and calf rearing. Killer whales can be particularly impacted by whale watching due to their reliance on echolocation to find prey sources. As killer whales are increasingly impacted by anthropogenic forces, the topic of appropriate human-orca relationships becomes increasingly prudent.

While they are able to be viewed from every state along the Pacific Coast, regulations regarding the proximity and density of whale watching vessels differ by viewing area. I provide evidence that the lack of uniform whale watching regulations increases the potentially harmful behavior when around the whales, putting the whales at risk of boat strikes and habitat disruption. Several regions need increased policy, enforcement, and awareness to improve whale safety / welfare.

Eveline Baptistella

(she/her)

Eveline Baptistella (Ph.D. in Contemporary Culture Studies - Communication and Culture, by Mato Grosso's Federal University - Brazil) is a researcher and journalism titular professor at the Mato Grosso's State University. She dedicates her research to the field of animal studies, media studies, and environmental and scientific journalism. Baptistella also coordinates the research project "Animal Studies and Media", which includes the study of the relationships between human and nonhuman animals in contemporary society and the representation of nonhuman animals on media.



Non-human and human animals in Pantanal tourism: from media depiction to the encounters

This work is the result of a study about Brazilian Pantanal Wetland flagship species depiction in wildlife documentaries and how these narratives impact tourists' behaviors towards nonhuman animals. The data collected through the analysis of four wildlife documentaries indicates that the jaguar, the giant otter and the jabiru are depicted as intelligent emotional animals and the narratives highlights their family ties and communication skills stimulating the empathy towards them. Tourists spent more time spotting flagship species, especially if they considered that the animals are facing the risk of extinction. They were also more prone to adopt a general behavior of respect towards the species represented in the media as beings with complex inner lives. From the data obtained, a discussion was drawn about the media influence on the forms of consideration that tourists dedicate to nonhuman animals and the need for public policies that effectively regulate observation practices such as the importance of inserting non-human animals in the ethical sphere of the media.

Altamush Saeed

(he/him)



Altamush Saeed is a Pakistan-based animal rights lawyer currently pursuing an LLM in Animal Law at the Center for Animal Law Studies, Lewis and Clark Law School as the first Pakistani recipient of the Brooks Institute Animal Rights Law and Policy International Scholarship. He holds an LLM from the University of Michigan Law School and a BA-LLB from the Lahore University of Management Sciences Pakistan. He is a Co-Founder of the Charity Doings Foundation and an Animal Welfare Ambassador to Comprehensive Disaster Response Service, both non-profits incorporated in Pakistan/USA. He is a member of the American Bar Association TIPS Animal Law, International Animal Law, Climate Change & Human Rights Subcommittees and founding member of International Animal Law Working Group at The Union Internationale des Avocats.

Animal edu-tourism behind bars: the dystopian future

For many Animals in Zoos, Kaavan's "The World's Loneliest Elephant" (Islamabad Wildlife Mgmt. Bd. v Metropolitan Corp. Islamabad, Islamabad High Ct, Pakistan, May 21, 2020, W.P. No.1155/2019) triumphant release from his 35-year-long confinement to an Elephant sanctuary in Cambodia, opened an unprecedented gateway that led to the release of all animals and the permanent closure of the Marghazar Zoo, Islamabad. The question the court grappled with was whether "entertainment tourism" in zoos was a necessary reason to keep such a majestic being behind bars. What followed Kaavan, in Pakistan was another case against the Lahore Zoo (Altamush Saeed v Director Lahore Zoo, Lahore, Lahore High Court, W.P. NO.3796/2020) to shut down the zoo and release all animals to their natural habitats. Surprisingly, that case is still stuck in the legal pipeline for two years. This paper presentation will aim to explain if such changes are possible via the courts and what would that future look like, not just for Pakistan, but for Animal Tourism in South Asia.

Susan Nance

(she/her)

*Susan Nance is a historian of animals, and of entertainment and live performance in the United States and Canada. She is Professor in the Department of History and affiliated faculty with the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. Her latest book, *Rodeo: An Animal History*, was published in 2020 by University of Oklahoma Press and won the Thomas J. Lyon Award in Western Literary and Culture Studies of the Western Literature Association.*



Chimpanzees in the desert: historical animal welfare in the showrooms of mid-century Las Vegas

This research paper explores the chimpanzee shows of 1950-60s Las Vegas and the larger tourism and entertainment culture of the period to ask: As post-war Las Vegas tourism blossomed, chimp acts multiplied within the celebrity culture linking casino showrooms, popular music, and early television. Animal dealers imported dozens of baby chimpanzees from central Africa, stripping them of their families, forests, and own lives. In the hands of human trainers and performers, chimp bodies became tools for the production of behaviors serving as matrices for light comedy. The individual chimps who lived through this history coped with psychological stresses about which visitors to Las Vegas were largely unaware. This study explains historical evidence of those stresses and how they contributed to the decline of Las Vegas chimp shows by the later 1960s. This historical research is informed by animal welfare research science and asks what species-specific environmental justice for chimpanzees might be and how interdisciplinary historical work can contribute to the goal of defining (if not ultimately achieving) justice for chimpanzees or any species.

Bobbie Chew Bigby

(she/her)

Bobbie Chew Bigby is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and a native of Tulsa, Oklahoma. She is currently based between Oklahoma, US and Broome, Australia where she is completing a PhD at the University of Notre Dame Australia, Nulungu Research Institute focused on comparative Indigenous-led tourism and cultural resurgence. Bobbie recently co-wrote/edited "Socialising Tourism: Rethinking tourism for social and ecological justice" (Routledge, 2022) and "The Local Turn in Tourism: Empowering Communities" (Channel View, 2022). Bobbie has a deep passion for Indigenous-participation in tourism and believes that tourism can be used as a tool for culture revitalization and resetting animal-human relationships.

"Restoring relationships of respect with eagle relatives: The potential of Tribal-led eagle aviary tours in Oklahoma Indian Country"

This presentation takes a focused look at the experience of Tribal-led Eagle Aviary Tours in the US state of Oklahoma and specifically among the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN) in central Oklahoma. Created to serve the needs of eagles needing rehabilitation, the CPN Eagle Aviary was opened in 2012 to provide care for injured eagles that cannot be released to the wild, along with providing tours and educational experiences to Tribal members and the wider public. Using a critical Indigenist approach and Indigenous storywork methodology, the research and forthcoming book chapter upon which this presentation is based provide a snapshot of the Tribal Aviary tour experience to reveal the layers of Indigenous Potawatomi culture, belief and practice that are shared in conjunction with visitors' experiences with eagles. The presentation also intends to inform about the special US government rights Native American Tribes have in relation to stewardship of eagles, as well as presenting a brief overview of other Tribal-led Eagle Aviaries in Oklahoma, including those of the Iowa and Comanche Nations.



Kaitlin Stack Whitney

(she/her/they/them)

Kaitlin Stack Whitney is an assistant professor in the Science, Technology & Society department and extended program faculty in Environmental Science at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York, USA. She graduated summa cum laude from Cornell University in 2007 and received her PhD in Zoology with a minor in Science and Technology Studies in 2016 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research often uses animals as a lens onto broader systems, with mixed methods grounded in feminist biology, ecology, science studies, and modern environmental history.



Disability as part of diversity: examining the messages zoos and aquariums share with visitors

Zoos and aquariums are important sites of educational tourism as an estimated 700 million people visit every year. My interest is in understanding what they are communicating to visitors about disability and body mind differences in nonhuman animals - and whether they include disability in their commitments to, and celebration of, biological diversity. Most zoos and aquariums have disabled animals (even if not using that term), through connections with wildlife rescue and rehabilitation programs. Building off of Cherney's methods for assessing ableist rhetoric, in particular the examination of "normal is natural," I use both animal bodies and their textual representations to understand what zoo audiences are told to see, believe, and learn about disability. Specifically, I examine the rhetoric in contemporary media about bald eagles and California sea lions; both species are common due to injury in the wild. Zoos and aquariums have enormous power and potential to share positive (or harmful) messages about disability in how they display and discuss animals in their care.

Emma Lundin

(she/ her)

Emma Lundin is a doctoral student in the Department of Recreation, Sport, and Tourism at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Emma's research interests include multispecies interactions and interspecies sustainability in tourism contexts. She focuses on learning with other animals, tourists, and destination residents through more-than-human approaches exploring relationships between humans and other animals and learning experiences in leisure and tourism settings.



Multispecies Interactions in a 'Thoughtful Relational Space': An exploration of tourist-insect encounters

The study explores tourist-insect encounters in insect tourism. I examine boundary re/making by asking how tourists legitimize these encounters and how western anthropocentric ideas are reproduced and resisted in these spaces of relationality. A 'thoughtful relational space' framework is developed from an ecofeminist theoretical framework and non-human charisma, which allows for exploring relationality in multispecies interactions while disrupting human-centric views.

I conducted in-depth online interviews based on particular encounters the participants had photographed and published on social media. I asked tourists imaginative and disruptive questions about the insect's perspective, and to answer, we used verbal expressions, sounds, body language, and camera angles. Questions about the insect's perspective and the relationship reverse the questions and become a space to explore assumptions and initiate dialogues to challenge human-centric narratives. Relational reflexivity-with the participants within the 'thoughtful relational space' develops an embodied understanding of negotiations and collaborative knowledge production in the multispecies interactions, which can disrupt anthropocentrism in tourism.

Wes Roehl

(he/him)



Wes Roehl is a professor of Tourism & Hospitality Management in the School of Sport, Tourism, and Hospitality Management at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, USA. He earned his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University in recreation resource development, then spent 12 years on the faculty at the Harrab College of Hotel Administration at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, before joining the faculty at Temple in 2000. With a disciplinary background in geography and leisure his research addresses performance and analytics, the economic geography of tourism and hospitality, and gambling behavior and management.

The role of animals in tourism is in a state of flux. For example, SeaWorld's treatment of large marine mammals has been the subject of much public debate, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus ceased touring in 2017 after 146 years on the road, and dog racing, which as recently as 1991 was active in 19 US states with a handle of \$3.5 billion has been reduced to a total of two tracks, heavily subsidized, in West Virginia. In many cases, these changes are the results of consumers voting with their wallet, as preference has shifted to other activities. In the case of Florida greyhound racing, however, this is also an example of people voting at the ballot box. The purpose of this study is to better understand patterns of support and opposition to Florida's Question 13, which proposed to phase out commercial greyhound racing in Florida by 2020. Question 13 passed with 70% of the vote. Despite the high levels of support prohibition received, there were systematic differences in opinion and voting behavior across population segments. These results begin to help us understand supporters and opponents of animal-centric attractions and suggest some testable hypotheses about the patterns of support and opposition that may emerge in horseracing.

Carlos Monterrubio

(he/him)

Carlos Monterrubio is Professor at the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México (UAEM), Mexico. His research interests are the sociocultural dimensions of tourism and leisure.



Charrería: tensions between heritage conservation, sustainable tourism development and animal welfare

Charrería, considered the national sport par excellence in Mexico and added to the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2016, generates large amounts of travel flows in sport tourism and has cultural and national identity importance as well as a close relationship with animals, mainly horses. As a sport practice, charrería has been seen as a form of animal abuse and, as a consequence, has faced serious criticism. UNESCO recognition underscores its importance as cultural heritage, but that heritage is built in part through the subordination of other animals. In this project, we recognize that nonhuman animals play important roles in heritage, sports and leisure, helping to cocreate aspects of those experiences across species boundaries. Based on an initial interspecies ethnographic approach in Mexico, this project will explore the practice of charrería as a space of multiple and dynamic relations between humans and horses, mainly. These relationships are based on human dominance, yet humans are also dependent on the other species in order to perform and reproduce this important aspect of Mexican heritage. The project explores charrería as a multispecies practice through which heritage, culture and interspecies relationships are performed, contested and negotiated.

co-presenting with Carlos Monterrubio

Helen Wadham

(she/her)

Helen Wadham is a Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University in the Department of Strategy, Enterprise and Sustainability. Her research lies on sustainability and collaborative approaches across sectors and species.



Kate Dashper

(she/her)

Katherine Dashper is Professor and Director of Research Degrees in the School of Events, Tourism and Hospitality Management, Leeds Beckett University, UK. Her research applies a critical sociological lens to examine practices of work and leisure, particularly focusing on gender issues and interspecies encounters.





Panelists: March 9th

Lucia Tomassini

(she/her)

Lucia Tomassini, PhD - Research Lecturer at NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences and University of Groningen, Campus Friesland in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands.



Researching animal justice from a posthuman perspective

An increasing number of tourism scholars is showing both interest and commitment in exploring animals as non-human entities deserving moral attention and respect. Still, considerations about the methodological possibilities and challenges of this type of research are in their infancy. In our recent study, we reflected on the space of animal justice in wildlife sanctuaries from a post-human perspective. Such study gave us the opportunity to consider posthumanism and its potential in terms of offering both a new epistemology and a theoretical grounding for an approach to justice that isn't anthropocentric. Our choice in terms of methodology was inspired by pluralism, openness, interdisciplinarity and creativity, that was grounded within the different educational backgrounds, professions, and expertise of the four authors (two academics and two ethologists). We combined a narrative approach and a thematic analysis with vignettes and features of narrative analysis. Our findings challenged the perception of wildlife sanctuaries as an ideal 'just' space for wildlife and presented a posthuman stance on interaction between human and non-human animals. We recognise the possibility to explore more disruptive methodologies that, could contribute to capture the animals' point of view.

Co-presenting with Lucia Tomassini

Chiara Grasso

(she/her)

President of EticoScienza. Ethologist, environmental educator, certified safari guide in South Africa and former board member of the Bioparco di Roma.



Giovanna Bertella

(she/her)

Associate Professor at the School of Business and Economics, UiT - The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø. Her research interests are: management, entrepreneurship/innovation, marketing, tourism and leisure studies (nature- and animal-based, rural, food tourism), food studies (plant-based).



Christian Lenzi

(he/him)

Vice-President of EticoScienza. Biologist and scientific author. Member of the Italian society of ethology, involved in scientific research on animal behaviour.



Sarah Oxley Heaney

she/her

Sarah is a third year Anthrozoology PhD student with the University of Exeter and has based her PhD project 'Kissing Sharks' around unique shark-human bonds which challenge the stereotypical views of sharks. She is also an activist-researcher for abandoned animals, founder of @tabulepaws and a co-founder of The Anthrozoology Podcast

Sarah's shark-human interaction research can be followed at www.kissingsharks.com and she can be contacted at sb750@exeter.ac.uk



Fishing for families

The act of fishing for nonhuman-animal bodies for entertainment is an accepted and popular part of human-animal recreational tourist activities. While whole human family members gather on shores or boats, with food and drink, fishing equipment ready for a fun day out of family-bonding activity, this normalised, often unquestioned, often fiercely defended activity directly aims to result in nonhuman-animal injury or death. In the Bahamas in 2021 an American family, touring in the Bahamas, was reported in the press to have illegally fished, cooked and eaten a shark on their vacation home BBQ. Meanwhile, a human shark-listener, who has spent 30 years diving with and forming relationships with a group of sharks relates how she often never knows what happens to sharks that disappear. This paper discussed how the anthropocentric attitudes of human-animal families completely dismiss the trauma brought upon their nonhuman-animal targets.

Maria Diekmann

(she/ her)

Maria Diekmann is a conservationist who has spent much of her adult life trying to protect & research lesser-known species at her Centre in Namibia, Africa. She has recently moved to Nigeria due to it being the epicentre of world-wide pangolin trade & has rebranded her organization from the Rare & Endangered Species Trust to Pangolins International, in an effort to focus on this highly endangered species & find balance between conservation, research, education & tourism while making sure the above benefit & do not cause harm to individual pangolins.



How to education the world about pangolins without causing their demise

Within the past decade, the 8 pangolin species found only in Africa & Asia, have reached the attention of the world. They are internationally known as the most illegally trafficked animal in the world & due to their shy nature, often nocturnal behavior & difficulty to raise, keep or protect in a captive environment, many predict they could go extinct in our lifetime. Pangolins are the only scaly mammal in the world & are believed to be one of the oldest species remaining in today's bio diverse planet Earth. Early human kind began about 6 million years ago, while pangolin ecology dates back to a suspected 80 million years ago. In addition to their population being low, they are highly targeted for their scales, which have supposed medicinal properties, but are in fact chemically the same as human finger nails & grow, break & wear down like our nails. Due to demand found mainly in Asia, it is suspected that a pangolin is poached from the wild every 5 minutes. In contrast a rhino is killed every 8 hours & many have protection in reserves. This paper will explore the pros & cons of using pangolins in tourism & look at the differences between working with wild, rescued for release, rescued non releasable.

Animal companionship in tourism: The case of captive red foxes in Japan

We know very little about the social lives of captive animals in tourism and about which forms of social connection are meaningful to them. In this paper, I share findings from a multi-sited multispecies ethnography of Ezo red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes schrencki*), a subspecies native to Hokkaido, at wildlife tourist attractions in Japan. Red foxes are often inaccurately portrayed as anti-social loners who lack the complex social skills and connections found in canids who form packs. I analyse how captive red foxes seek out companionship with conspecifics, generating affiliative interactions and bonds. Vulpine companionship can comprise closely-bonded dyads or looser configurations involving multiple foxes, and these relationships may either be long-lasting or relatively ephemeral. I explore how such relationships can be interpreted as meaningful for red foxes, thus impacting on their experiences of captivity. There are estimated to be over 400 red foxes involved in Japan's captive wildlife tourism industry; this research provides a voice to a small number of these foxes in the hope of raising awareness of their social needs and preferences.

Émilie Crossley

(she/her)

Dr Émilie Crossley is a Researcher at the Center for Advanced Tourism Studies (CATS) at Hokkaido University in Japan. She recently completed a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship, through which she conducted a multispecies ethnography of Ezo red fox tourism in Hokkaido and Miyagi. Émilie also has a strong interest in the affective dimensions of tourism and has previously written about tourists' emotional responses to poverty, cosmopolitan empathy and ecological grief. She holds a PhD from Cardiff University in Wales, where she taught social psychology for several years, and was until recently based in New Zealand.



Kristine Hill

(she/her)

Kris is completing a PhD in Anthrozoology with the University of Exeter, UK. Her doctoral research focuses on cat-human relations within urban communities, and discourses surrounding free-roaming and free-living cats (Felis catus). Other academic areas of interests include more-than-human families, grief work, animal representations, and Mediterranean street cats and cat-human cultures. Kris is also passionate about the issue of companion animals in rental accommodation and believes no one should be forced to relinquish a beloved companion animal to avoid homelessness. A lifelong cat-lover, the majority of her travel photos have always included cats!

Kristine is also a co-host of The Anthrozoology Podcast



Sun, sea, and cats: A content analysis of travel video blogs featuring street cats from the Costa del Sol, Spain

My personal photo collections from the 1990s and 2000s, and social media feeds from the 2010s onwards, disproportionately feature cats (*Felis catus*) I encountered on my travels. Social media is testimony to the fact that I am not unique in enjoying seeing healthy, happy, cats going about their lives. Furthermore, a study of how Turkey is presented in travel blogs found that photos of street cats attract the same level of attention as the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul (Bical & Öztürk, 2021). My focus is on the cultural interactions between local street cats and human tourists, and I will present data from a content analysis of video blogs (vlogs) featuring the promenade of Torremolinos, home to an aging cat colony. I examined how cats interacted with the vlogger, other humans, and each other, and whether this has changed between seasons and years, and in the context of the Covid19 pandemic. Transcripts of any commentary, as well as the vloggers profiles and other content informed my analysis, and preliminary findings from this study will be presented.

Elephants & NGOs: The intersection of advocacy & tourism in Nepal

Captive elephants in Nepal, and their caregivers, find themselves at a crossroads. Human-elephant pairs offer safari rides through protected areas to tourists interested in experiencing nature more intimately. Tourism income is perceived as vital to local economies and provides employment for marginalized humans. Thanks to increasing regulations and changing human perspectives on animal use within tourism, local and international organizations have recently become involved in elephant lives, purporting an interest in their welfare or that of mahouts. These organizations have tried to implement welfare improvements, 'rescue' programs, social support, or sanctuary-like systems. What is missing is adequate consideration for the welfare of elephants and their caregivers based upon the desires of each, not simply upon external perceptions. These organizations claim to want what is 'best', but few agree on what the 'best' entails. What follows is an examination of the organizations who have tasked themselves with improving the lives of individuals, how their discourses do not always align with their practices, and how inter-agency cooperation, or lack thereof, impacts the lives of elephants and mahouts.



Michelle Szydowski

(she/her)

An experienced educator, Michelle teaches undergraduate conservation, medicine, behavior, anthrozoology, sheltering, and ecology.

Michelle works with pachyderm conservation efforts and mentors students from various countries. Her research focuses on ecotourism's impact on conservation and the health/welfare of elephant-mahout pairs. She also liaises with elephant owners and interest groups to create positive welfare changes for elephants. She serves on the board of an elephant-based NGO. She is active in environmental and humane education initiatives, one world/one health programs, and biodiversity preservation projects. She advocates, teaches, speaks about neurodiversity, and offers solutions for neurodivergent scholars and educators. She co-founded the Anthrozoology as International Practice Working Group and co-hosts The Anthrozoology Podcast.

Visit Michelle at internationalelephants.org.



Lightening Talks: March 9th

Sharmini Julita Paramasivam

(she/her)

Sharmini Julita Paramasivam is a senior lecturer at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Surrey. She graduated as a veterinary surgeon in 2008 from Universiti Putra Malaysia and worked in small animal and wildlife practice. Sharmini has an MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare from University of Edinburgh and focuses her teaching and practice on animal behaviour, welfare and human animal interaction. In 2022, she received senior fellowship in higher education from UK's Advance HE.

Sharmini leads the Animal Neighbours Project in Malaysia which aims to reduce negative interactions between wildlife and humans in urban spaces.



Community attitudes towards macaques in urban Malaysian tourism

Long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) are widely distributed across Malaysia and have been referred to as a 'pest' that causes negative interaction with people. Understanding public perception of macaques is imperative to understanding and mitigating negative interactions. Current mitigation strategies to manage human-monkey conflict include translocation or culling. The questionnaire assessed perceptions of residents, visitors, and workers in Kuala Selangor to gather opinions on tourism, human-wildlife interaction, health, and disease. Most respondents had overall positive opinions of macaques, though half thought there were too many macaques on site and their population needed to be reduced. This presentation will discuss the survey findings and their implications.

Lucia Gräschke

(they, them)



They are a doctoral researcher at the University of Eastern in the field of human geography and human-animal relations. I have a background in sociology and global and transnational studies. My research concerns the international transportation of animals by air. In detail, I focus on transport practices, animal welfare, and cross-border animal mobility when carrying dogs, cats, and horses by air. Since 2020, I have been a member of the Finnish Society for Human-Animal Studies. In my free time, I write a blog about veganism.

Cats & dogs crossing borders: air transport, customs, and companion animals

Various forms of tourism have increased not only the mobility of humans but also the mobility of companion animals. Today, many companion cats and dogs are transported by air when their owners permanently relocate to other countries, go on vacation, or take hiatuses abroad. While unaccompanied dogs and cats are carried in the hold of passenger flights or on cargo flights, accompanied animals travel with their owners in the aircraft cabin. In many cases, air transportation requires border-crossings of animals. This study investigates how the mobility of companion dogs and cats is regulated at airports through border checkpoints and customs facilities. Empirical data provide fieldwork to the customs at Arlanda Airport in Sweden, the customs at Airport Helsinki in Finland, and fieldwork at the Animal Lounge at Airport Frankfurt in Germany. The results indicate various narratives around the notion of safety in terms of preventing diseases, workers' individual safety, and the safety of transported animals.

Jacqui Sadashige

(she/her)

After a seeming lifetime in academia, Jacqui Sadashige recently returned to school to pursue graduate study in global conservation and now works full time as a corporate responsibility officer for PETA—helping corporations adopt more humane and sustainable products and policies. Because she dearly loves teaching and research, Jacqui teaches as an adjunct instructor in Women's and Gender Studies at Drexel University in Pennsylvania in her spare time. She is interested in intersectional approaches to conservation and creative collaborations to support animal welfare. Her recent work has focused on captive elephant and farm animal tourism.



Farm sanctuaries, storytelling, and multispecies ethnography

New sites for animal tourism are emerging in the form of sanctuaries dedicated to the rescue and lifelong housing of sick, injured, or abandoned cows, pigs, chickens, and other livestock. Although many farm sanctuaries offer tours, host volunteer work days, and organize special events, they rarely promote themselves as tourist sites. Instead, with roots in the animal welfare and animal rights movements, many foreground missions of animal rescue, public education, and institutional change. Perhaps for this reason, farm sanctuaries are particularly rich sites for storytelling. As sanctuary owners regularly share updates on their residents' struggles and triumphs on site, on social media, through newsletters, and on blogs, they shine a light on animal individuality, agency, and community. By engaging in conversation with the founders of Lancaster Farm Sanctuary, I invite them to be co-creators of research on the power of storytelling to shift public opinion on farmed animals. As they speak about the unexpected relationships that are unique to farm sanctuaries, we see how multispecies ethnographies might emerge organically in nonacademic contexts.

Rebecca Leanne Madrid

(she/her/they/them)

Rebecca is a graduate student in Anthrozoology at the University of Exeter and a Junior Fellow in the Animals and Biodiversity Think Tank Programme at the Global Research Network. They are the recipient of the 2022 ISAZ Martha Bryant Student Award, and cohost of The Shifting Lens Podcast. Informed by the emphasis placed on symbiotic ethics by the Exeter Anthrozoology programme, Rebecca's work aims to consider all beings affected by a given issue, irrespective of species. Their current research focuses on lumber industry elephant unemployment in Myanmar and the work lives of elephants employed in ecocentric tourism.



Constructions of victimisation in Myanmar Elephants

Rampant deforestation in Myanmar prompted the implementation of logging restrictions to preserve the longevity of the industry, resulting in the unemployment of many working captive elephants. Some of these elephants have been relocated to 'retirement' camps/tourist centres. Elephants working at these sites are presented as living at a sanctuary, rescued from the exploitation of their previous lives.

Medical care is often done in plain view of the public, even including visitors in treat provision during procedures, presenting the question of dignity as it related to helplessness and reinforcing the idea that the quality of these elephant retirees' lives is reliant on the (predominantly foreign) visitor's infusion of money, time, and labour. Volunteer-based tourism relies heavily on a narrative of helplessness, dependence, and need. This presentation examines the ways in which Asian elephant retirement camps employ the telling of elephants' life histories, a narrative of rescue and human saviourism, and the exhibition of care to construct an elephant 'victim', thus perpetuating a hierarchy of power wherein the lives of these beings rest solely with foreign visitors.

Emily McLeod

(she/her)



Emily is a conservation social scientist with an interdisciplinary background in the psychology and zoology. She leads the social science research program at Zoos Victoria, conducting research on how conservation organisations can best connect people with wildlife and the environment with the goal of fostering sustainable behaviours. Emily joined the Wildlife Conservation Science team at Zoos Victoria in 2017, where her current research involves applying social-psychological theories and methods to understand the drivers of pro-environmental behaviours in order to inform how we can best engage our community in conservation action. Emily is investigating ways to encourage responsible wildlife tourism behaviours in her PhD at the University of Queensland.

Responsible captive wildlife tourism

Animal-visitor interactions (AVIs) are offered in captive tourism venues worldwide as a way for visitors to have a special experience during their visit. AVIs can provide opportunities for enhancing education and encouraging pro-conservation behaviour.

However, AVIs can also vary in welfare impacts for the animals involved. In this study we surveyed a representative sample of 6356 Australians to understand their attitudes towards AVIs and to examine how social norms, values, and beliefs about wildlife may predict the acceptability of these experiences. In this talk, we will report on the level of acceptability and future intention to participate in AVIs with the different groups of animals and discuss factors that may be associated these beliefs. The findings of this study provide a snapshot of the wildlife tourism market and can be used to inform the development of programs to shape responsible tourist behaviours.



Panelists: March 10th

Riaz Ahmad

(he/him)

Riaz is a Visiting Teacher at G. C. University, Lahore on the taught courses at Intermediate level, and a PhD Researcher at Nanjing University, Nanjing, China

Animals, tourism, and Sufi shrines: Spiritual tourism & animals in Pakistan

Animal-based Sufi shrines are the reflective of human-animal connectivity in the experience of spiritual touristic contexts, in Pakistan which house several species of non-humans, from birds to dogs and crocodiles. Shrines are also popular sacred visitation places for the masses. The shrine bring food for the animals with a view to having the blessings of the entombed Sufi saints. However, the pressing problem which necessitates this study floats voices for the residing animals within the visitation contexts. During the war on terror, militants inflicted terrorist attacks on the Sufi shrines which resulted in the closure of them, followed later by closures due to COVID-19 lockdowns. Each closure left animals without food. Hence, the emerging voices demand that the state administration of these animal-based shrines must act to incorporate and institutionalize the needful measures to protect the non-humans at these popular touristic sites.



Piumal Herath

(he/him)



Piumal Herath is an Assistant Lecturer in Marketing at the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka. His areas of interest in research include sustainability, AI, tourism, animal welfare, and supply chain management. He has published several papers in international refereed journals and books. Prof. Sivesan Sivanadammoorthy is currently a Senior Lecturer in Marketing at the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Jaffna - Sri Lanka. He completed his doctorate at Federation University, Australia. Sivesan's research interests include tourism governance, sustainable tourism, and service marketing.

Animal welfare & tourism: Controversy on use of elephants in ceremonies

Elephas maximus, often known as the Asian elephant, is of great importance to the continent of Asia as well as the rest of the world. Elephants are used for religious purposes in Sri Lanka, a practice that dates back to the country's early Buddhist history. Sri Lanka has the earliest documentation of elephants being used in religious processions and festivals. It is frequently argued that using animals for entertainment, especially during ceremonies, causes a lot of harassment. Although many animal advocates have spoken out against the specifics, the deeply ingrained culture, religion, and tradition always manage to find a way around them so that they can continue using animals. Businesses that cater to tourists' demands to interact with or otherwise engage with animals in captivity have been abusing animals for decades by getting them to pay for those activities. We conducted interviews with animal activists across the island to test this and gather their opinions. The research, as expected, showed alarming outcomes that demand immediate response.

Bintang Handayani

(she/her)

Bintang Handayani is an animal lover and senior lecturer at Universiti Malaysia Kelantan's Faculty of Hospitality, Tourism, and Wellness. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in communication science before pursuing her MBA and PhD in tourism and hospitality management. Her research is focused on visitor attractions branding and management, dark tourism technology, media-related tourism, and special interest tourism.



Veganism as an ethical practice in the tourist experience

This research looks more closely at the role of ethical veganism in the tourist experience. The narratives of ethical veganism as exemplified by selected social media influencers' Instagram posts are investigated. The study's findings suggest that vegan tour activism, defined as online activities of tourists supporting veganism, can be a viable strategy for destination management and marketing. Vegan tour activism exemplifies how food tourism has been consciously transformed from a utilitarian hedonist agenda to a eudemonic wellness tourism experience. Ethical veganism has the potential to improve tourist indulgence on-site, highlighting opportunities for destination management and marketing. **Keywords:** vegetarianism, fashionable veganism, health tourism, nutrition, tourism activism.

Paul Tully

(he/him)

Paul Tully is a PhD candidate at the University of Otago, New Zealand. He holds a bachelor's in Tourism Management from the University of Central Lancashire, UK, and a master's in Sociology & Social Research from Newcastle University, UK. His research interests revolve around the critical study of leisure with a current focus on human-animal relationships. Recent works include projects on both donkeys and farm animals in the tourism experience.

Gulls and the quest for animal justice in tourism destinations

Gulls are wild animals synonymous with UK seaside resorts. They share this human-constructed place whilst living with their own physiological, psychological, and social interests. In these tourism-dependent locations, however, the relations between gulls and humans appear anything but neighbourly. That is, people complain about gull muggings, 3 am screeching sessions, and streets covered in droppings. This presentation explores these contemporary relations in a UK resort via archival research of 21st century newspaper coverage on the town of Scarborough. This coverage illuminates the vilification of gulls in social discourses to favour humans and their tourism activities. Such a vilification, though, shows the human disregard for the physiological, psychological and social interests of animals who are on the UK Birds of Conservation Concern Red List, thus neglecting gulls' welfare and rights and offering them no justice. The presentation, therefore, considers how humans and their tourism activities can improve relations with gull welfare and rights at the seaside and debates how animal justice can be sought. As a result, it aims to advance conversations on what constitutes 'justice' for animals in tourism destinations.



Tamara Klicek

(she/her)

Tamara Klicek is an animal lover and an Ass. Professor at National Taipei University in the International Program of Urban Governance. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in geography and tourism. Her research is focused on creative cities, city branding, and urban diplomacy, and a special interest in tourism.



City branding and deep ecology: A case study of wild birds in Taipei

Today's global cities invest substantially to promote their image internationally to attract foreign visitors. This paper focuses on one particular aspect of natural life – birds, as this is an underexplored area of city branding and deep ecology in cities. The purpose of this paper is to address the stated gap and contribute to the discussion about how deep ecology in urban areas can influence the city's competitiveness and branding either positively or negatively through the case of city birds and the significance of emotional responses from citizens and potential visitors. The questions that the paper tackles are: How can the well-being of birds be established as part of positive city branding through deep ecology? What is the role of tentative emotional responses by citizens and foreign visitors that can feed negative city branding in that respect? By applying the concept of 'deep ecology' this paper shows and explains how the well-being of the birds can be established.

Yulei Guo

(she/her)

Yulei Guo is an assistant researcher at Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. Her research focuses on panda tourism and tourist-animal interactions.

Xilai Ouyang

(she/her)

Xilai Ouyang is a research assistant at Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. Her research interest is tourists-animal interactions. She is a travel enthusiast and likes to travel around in her spare time.

Becoming panda fans: Endangered animals and tourism

The giant panda, one of the most beloved animals in the world, is a charismatic celebrity that annually attracts millions of visitors. This study examines the relationship between giant pandas and visitors through the lens of fandom and fan communities. We pose two research questions based on an investigation of visitors who identified themselves as panda fans:

- 1) Who is a panda fan?
- 2) What is the significance of wildlife conservation to the panda fan community?

We propose that the concept of fandom and fan community aids in the understanding of the relationship between pandas and tourism.





Round Table Discussion

Helen Usher | Co-Founder and Director, ANIMONDIAL

Helen is a communications and partnerships specialist who has been working for the advancement of applied animal protection and social impact for over fifteen years. Working with corporations, NGOs and academia, Helen has developed and delivered award-winning strategic global CSR initiatives in support of the delivery of the UN Sustainability Development Goals. Helen established the award-winning, specialist consultancy ANIMONDIAL with her colleague, Daniel Turner, to provide Travel & Tourism with impartial advice and practical guidance to better manage animal and nature protection. In collaboration with the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTTC), ANIMONDIAL most recently produced the report, "Towards Nature Positive Travel & Tourism", which considers the necessary actions by this influential sector to halt biodiversity loss and lessen climate change.



Victor Krawczyk | Project Officer and Course Tutor, University of South Australia

(he/him)

Victor Krawczyk teaches at the University of South Australia. His current research is strongly aligned with the humanistic social sciences; working with the sensibilities found in the field of cultural analysis. He is completed his doctoral studies where he investigated compassion afforded to animals in businesses and other organizational contexts, which is located within a wider analysis of human attitudes towards animals from the 18th century to the present-day. He has won a scholarships, awards and research grants to carry out his doctoral research in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. He has published and presented research in the areas of translational research, health (viz. stroke), organizational studies, management, culture and animal studies.



University of
South Australia

Jan Schmidt-Burbach | Head of Welfare and Research

World Animal Protection

(he/him)

Dr. Jan Schmidt-Burbach is an experienced wildlife veterinarian, working as Global Head of Wildlife and Animal Welfare Research for World Animal Protection. He conducted his PhD on captive Asian Elephants and later specialised in animal welfare and the impacts of the wildlife trade. Having been based in Asia for over 10 years, he has led on one of the largest studies on the trade and welfare conditions of captive elephants used in tourism in Asia, published in the report 'Elephants – Not Commodities'. But his work also includes a range of issues revolving around the trade with wild animals, such as curbing the global trade with bear bile from Vietnam, China and South Korea, researching Asian wildlife markets and related public health risks, rehabilitating wildlife victims of the illegal trade, and exposing unsustainable and inhumane practices through commodification of wild animals. Having regularly been exposed to the victims in this trade, he calls for an end of the commercial trade in wild animals in order to protect animals, public health and our environment. Recent published papers include 'Trading Tactics: Time to Rethink the Global Trade in Wildlife' and 'Commercial trade in wild animals: Examining the use of the IUCN Red List and CITES Appendices as the basis for corporate policies'.



Altamush Saeed

(he/him)



 Lewis & Clark Law School

Altamush Saeed is a Pakistan-based animal rights lawyer currently pursuing an LLM in Animal Law at the Center for Animal Law Studies, Lewis and Clark Law School as the first Pakistani recipient of the Brooks Institute Animal Rights Law and Policy International Scholarship. He holds an LLM from the University of Michigan Law School and a BA-LLB from the Lahore University of Management Sciences Pakistan. He is a Co-Founder of the Charity Doings Foundation and an Animal Welfare Ambassador to Comprehensive Disaster Response Service, both non-profits incorporated in Pakistan/USA. He is a member of the American Bar Association TIPS Animal Law, International Animal Law, Climate Change & Human Rights Subcommittees and founding member of International Animal Law Working Group at The Union Internationale des Avocats.

Nikita Dhawan

(she/her)

Nikita Dhawan is Born Free's latest Youth Ambassador. The prestigious role recognises her work raising awareness of the plight of captive animals and engaging and educating young people about wildlife conservation. She lives in New Delhi India, has been passionate about making a positive change for wild animals since early childhood. She is the co-founder of 'Youth for Animals' a not-for-profit organisation which promotes animal welfare and is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Commission on Education & Communication. Nikita has already made headlines around the world with her fearless campaign for the rescue and rehabilitation of an African elephant named Shankar from a Delhi zoo.



Dave Neale

(he/him)

Dave Neale is the Animal Welfare Director for the Animals Asia Foundation. Dave leads a series of animal welfare campaigns aimed at improving the welfare of captive wild animals in China and Vietnam, working in partnership with government wildlife rescue centers and zoos to implement management training initiatives for animal managers and vets. David also leads campaigns to end the use of animals in circuses and to end elephant riding tourism in Vietnam and has established the country's first ethical elephant tourism experience in partnership with the Yok Don National Park. David has a particular interest in education and has developed a capacity building education programme promoting the concepts of animal sentience, emotions and cognition within the teaching curriculums in China and Vietnam. David regularly delivers lectures on animal welfare issues and the concepts of sentience, emotions and cognition encouraging the public to develop a greater empathy for all animal species. David passionately believes that the route to tackling the widespread issues of animal suffering across the world lies in a greater understanding of animals as emotionally and cognitively complex individuals.



animalsasia.org

