



InSPAration

Research impact in a digital culture

October 21-22, 2021 • Virtual Conference

Dates and Times

The Zoom room will be open:

October 21, 2021 at 12:00-16:10 UK time

October 22, 2021 at 12:00-15:40 UK time

The Zoom link will be shared with attendees via email.

[Click here to register for free.](#)

[Recordings of an associated workshop on impact are available here.](#)

This conference was organised by Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs) from the College of Social Sciences and International Studies' (CSSIS) Department of Social Science, Philosophy, and Anthropology (SPA) at the University of Exeter.

Funded by the Researcher Development team at the University of Exeter.



Meet the Speakers



Ruby Hake

I'm a philosophy graduate from the University of Exeter. I'm currently half-way through a masters in philosophy at Exeter, where I'm specialising in philosophy of mental illness, phenomenology, neurodiversity and gender-diversity. My interest in the latter topics began during my undergraduate degree, where I began to study these areas. My dissertation explored the interesting links I discovered between the phenomenology of depression and the phenomenology of female and gender-diverse embodiment. As my presentation touches on, I'm now focussed on the relationships between experiences of autism and experiences of gender-diversity. All of these areas are under-researched and misunderstood, so I hope to continue my studies to a PhD to help to amend this issue. My non-university life includes being a music lover and player, a free-lance research assistant and proof-reader, and an online tutor of politics, English literature and philosophy.

Abstract - The Prevalent Co-occurrence of Autism and Gender Diversity

In this essay I explore the increasingly clear, yet misunderstood, co-occurrence of autism spectrum disorder (hereafter 'ASD') and gender diversity (hereafter 'GD'). It has been revealed that gender diverse (hereafter also 'GD') individuals are more likely to be diagnosed with ASD than cisgender (hereafter 'cis') individuals (i.e. individuals who identify as the gender they were assigned at birth), and that individuals with ASD are more likely than individuals without ASD to be GD. Assigned-female-at-birth non-binary individuals (i.e. individuals who do not identify as either male or female) and trans men (i.e. men who were assigned-female-at-birth) appear to present the highest levels of ASD of the as of yet surveyed GD groups. I will explore three possible explanations as to why this is the case. The first I will discuss is the 'Extreme Male Brain' theory of autism. The second is the problematic yet popular alternative view that ASD causes someone to believe they are transgender (i.e. not the gender they were assigned-at-birth). The third explanation I will explore is a lesser studied alternative explanation, namely that the experience of GD *exacerbates* pre-existing ASD traits. I find that the first explanation over-emphasises an internalist view of ASD, meaning it views ASD as constituted by neural and physical properties of the autistic individual *alone*, ignoring the validity and usefulness of externalist explanations. It also presents an unhelpfully and unjustifiably essentialist view of gender. The second explanation proves illogical, baseless and damaging. The third explanation will prove the best available so far, yet is speculative and incomplete at this stage. I will not arrive at a conclusive answer to the question of why the co-occurrence of ASD and GD is so prevalent, but will argue that the question is not unanswerable; this co-occurrence must be studied further.

Meet the Speakers



Sarah Heaney

Sarah is a second year Anthrozoology PhD student with the University of Exeter and has based her PhD project 'Kissing Sharks' around her passion for sharks and the ocean. She is also an activist-researcher for abandoned animals, and her anthrozoology masters' dissertation focused upon reasons given for, and factors affecting, abandoned cats in Saudi Arabia.

Sarah is a co-founder of The Anthrozoology Podcast,

<https://anthrozopod.wixsite.com/mysite> and the founder of a volunteer animal rescue group in Saudi Arabia and their work can be found on social media with @tabukpaws. Her shark-human interaction research can be followed at www.kissingsharks.com and she can be contacted at sh750@exeter.ac.uk

Sarah/Sarah/Sarah's

Abstract - Saudi Arabian Landscape of Feline Lives: Part 1

Reducing abandonment of Domestic Cats (*Felis Silvestris Catus*) by Analysing Reasons for Relinquishment in Saudi Arabia. Domestic cats are ubiquitous in Saudi Arabia (KSA). They live in the streets, in homes, are bred, frequently traded and often abandoned. Many do not thrive in the streets, simply survive and many perish once abandoned. As Saudi Arabia opens its doors to tourism and social media gives a platform to sellers, rescuers and relinquishers alike, the domestic cat landscape in KSA is receiving increased attention from various stakeholders. Labouring in the Saudi Arabian rescue world for sixteen years and founding one of the first legal animal welfare charities in KSA has given the researcher and her research a unique insight into why cats are relinquished and often abandoned in KSA. Furthermore, this research offers strategies to improve the feline landscape for all stakeholders, especially the marginalised feline population. This research engages social media posts, cat adoption applications, interviews with two companion animal professionals and the researcher's autoethnographic voice. The findings show multiple factors for relinquishment and ultimately abandonment ranging from expectations not meeting reality, care costs, normalisation of cats belonging in the street to lack of facilities, changes in circumstances of both cat and human, family pressure and lack of cat care information to a range of misinformation being circulated about cat welfare. Despite having presented these findings to the Ministry of Health, their official publication has been requested before further deliberation is considered. The researcher is seeking to positively impact the lives of cats and humans residing in Saudi Arabia by presenting these conclusions in the hope of engaging in further dialogue with Saudi Arabian authorities.

Meet the Speakers



Elis Jones

I am an ESRC-funded PhD student working at the intersection of philosophy, sociology and marine sciences. My research focuses on the role of value in coral reef science, specifically in attempts to regenerate corals. I moved from the West Midlands to Exeter in 2014 to study Politics, Philosophy and Economics. My undergraduate dissertation focused on providing a non-anthropocentric definition of environmental damage. After graduating in 2018, I secured funding for a combined Master's/Doctorate from the Economic and Social Research Council's South West Doctoral Training Partnership (SWDTP). For the MRes portion of this I examined attempts to modify corals for climate change resilience. I am now working on my PhD at Exeter University's Egenis Centre for the Study of Life Sciences. My research is broadly motivated by an interest in process philosophy and the opportunities this provides for avoiding or reframing traditional dichotomies, such as objectivity/subjectivity, naturalism/normativism or human/nature.

Abstract - Making Marine Philosophy: Science, Sea and Society

In this talk I present a key challenge and opportunity for impact presented by my PhD: the philosophy of marine science, which is the field I am working in, and want to continue working in, doesn't officially exist: having no journals, nor being mentioned in any papers. It is, however, a field whose time has come, with growing attention being paid to the ocean in academia (e.g. the 'Blue Humanities' movement) and society generally (e.g. the UN Ocean Decade). I first introduce my project and its disciplinary positioning between philosophy of science and marine science. I then highlight the three areas I am targeting for impact, explaining my progress so far and future plans in each area. The first area is academic philosophy, where attention to marine science is sporadic, unlike systematic attention received by other disciplines. The second area is marine science, where awareness of philosophy of science is low. The third is public society, where awareness of philosophy of science generally, and philosophy of marine science specifically, is very low. I discuss some examples of talks, publications and workshops I have used to help develop marine philosophy as a field in each of these areas, including work undertaken with schools and marine scientists. In doing so, I highlight the advantages and disadvantages that a post-Covid world has provided. I then sketch out some of my future plans for impact, including a collaborative project with a marine NGO, a workshop with scientists, artists and musicians, a collaborative project with an artist, a workshop bringing together philosophers, social scientists, historians and marine scientists, and a journal special issue related to this. I hope this talk will benefit people at earlier stages of their PhD but also be a chance for me to benefit from the experiences and advice of others.

Meet the Speakers



Courtney Sommer

Courtney Sommer (she/they) is a PhD student in SPA. Their research explores the ongoing legacy of Evidence-Based Medicine, focussing specifically on evidence-based guidance around depression developed by the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Courtney uses Institutional Ethnography to explore controversy surrounding the depression guideline, looking at how EBM's discursive legacies are woven into institutional processes, practices, and ways of speaking. Courtney's academic interests include feminist epistemologies, sociology of medical knowledge-making, and mad studies. Outside of her academic work, Courtney is founder and director of a user-led organisation (makespaceco.org) supporting people with experience of self-harm. Courtney is also advisor to various mental health charities and has worked with multiple NHS trusts to help guide their work around youth mental health, suicide intervention, and self-harm. You can follow Courtney on Twitter [@CourtneySommer_](https://twitter.com/CourtneySommer_)

Abstract - What have methods got to do with impact? Using Institutional Ethnography to Explore Evidence Based Medicine and Psychiatry in the UK

Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) was introduced in the 1990s, and has had a profound impact on how medicine is imagined and practised worldwide. My project explores EBM's lasting impacts in the context of UK mental health policymaking and practice, focussing specifically on evidence-based guidance on depression produced by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). The guideline has been controversial, and faced much pushback from service user and clinical groups. In this presentation, I will introduce Institutional Ethnography (IE) (as developed by Canadian sociologist Dorothy Smith) as a methodology, exploring its commitments to taking textually mediated processes seriously, feminist standpoint theory, and 'taking sides' (Cupit et al, 2021). Having explored the method, I will briefly outline some of the findings from my work so far, highlighting the implications it has for research on evidence-based medicine as well as the sociology of medicine more broadly. Lastly, I will explain what I think methods have to do with impact, and offer some key learnings from applying my academic findings to my non-academic work - as a founder of a user-led mental health organisation, and as an advisor and speaker to various NHS Trusts and mental health charities.

Meet the Speakers

Sawako Shinomiya

I am a 1st-year PGR student in sociology. My research interest is the medicalisation process of autism and other developmental disabilities (called "hattatsu shogai") in Japan, and I am currently working on how the expertise of autism has been imported into Japan from the western countries, using discursive materials and interviews with experts and practitioners. I received my bachelor's degree in Sociology from Hitotsubashi University in 2014 and my master's degree in Sociology from the University of Tokyo in 2017. While working at a consulting firm and an IT company after finishing my master's degree, I published three journal articles in Japanese: 1) the emergence of the concept of "hattatsu shogai" in Japan, 2) changes in the definition of LD in the Japanese education system, and 3) the incorporation process of autism into the Japanese education system. From the experience of working as a data analyst using R and Python, I have an interest in mixed methods of quantitative and qualitative approaches. My preferred pronouns are she/her.

Abstract - How Autism Spectrum Disorder Disseminated to Non-Western Countries: The Formation of Education and Welfare Systems in Japan

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is currently being diagnosed worldwide, including non-western countries. How did it become so frequently discovered across borders? Previous studies have attributed the global increase in ASD to the widespread use of psychiatric expertise (mainly international diagnostic criteria) and the advertisement of pharmaceutical companies. However, psychiatric or pharmaceutical aspects only partially compose the story of ASD. Psychiatry does not dominate the entire process of the treatment of ASD. In contrast to high expectations about the potential of psychiatric intervention, ASD remains medically incurable. Therefore, addressing ASD mainly entails care provided by education and welfare. This scenario leads to the necessity to address global ASD dissemination not only in the export of medical concepts and medications but also in the formation of educational and welfare services. This study investigates the relationship between psychiatric expertise and education/welfare systems on ASD in local contexts using Japan as a case study. As a non-western but scientifically advanced country, Japan progressed relatively early in importing psychiatric expertise on ASD but faced difficulties in tailoring the education and welfare systems. The study considers Japanese discursive documents and interview data with experts on ASD as materials. This PhD project is on-going; therefore, the presentation will focus primarily on the educational side, where investigations have been conducted. The academic impact of this study is to reveal the process of local embedding of ASD without simplifying it into westernisation or medicalisation. Moreover, this study provides an opportunity to re-examine the role of psychiatric expertise in the current fluid and complex society. In terms of social impact, this study informs accurate knowledge of the occurrence of ASD to improve local institutional designs and policies.

Meet the Speakers



Rebecca Madrid

Rebecca is currently completing their MA in Anthrozoology at the University of Exeter, with intent to begin PhD-level research in September 2022 after graduation. Their current research focuses on elephant unemployment solutions in Myanmar and the neocolonial factors affecting perceptions of the Canadian Atlantic seal harvest. Their work is informed by the emphasis placed on symbiotic ethics by the Exeter Anthrozoology programme, undergraduate studies in Anthropology, and a Kerulos Center course on decolonizing research. Rebecca aims to include the interests of all human and nonhuman animals impacted by a given issue.

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Abstract - 'Good' Tourism and 'Good' Scholarship: Personal reflections on the role of the researcher

This autoethnographic presentation considers the ways in which my experience of the research process has produced discomfort, forced introspection, and ultimately shaped both the final written product and the way I will engage with scholarship in the future. As researchers we are tasked with considering the ways in which our research will impact the field, policy, public perception, and our interlocutors. In the interest of reflexivity, we also consider the position and bias from which we are addressing a given issue. While often uncomfortable, these considerations can at times change the course of our research, demonstrating the impact of critical scholarship on ourselves as researchers. In 2020 I embarked on a project aiming to investigate eco-centric tourism as a domestic solution for supporting the care, enrichment, and protection of unemployed lumber industry elephants in Myanmar, specifically using the retirement camp at which I worked as a case study.

As a result of the devastating global pandemic, during which the camp laid to rest two elderly elephant matriarchs and Myanmar was subject to a military takeover, I must contemplate my own role as researcher as well as my responsibilities to those I consider friends in a country under duress. Factors I will discuss include issues of globalized exploitation, saviourism, and the continued role we as researchers have in upholding these power hierarchies if we are not consciously and actively working against them. The well-meaning academic – much like the eco-conscious tourist – can imagine ourselves to be less exploitative and mentally avoid accountability for the hardships our animal and human participants have experienced. As scholars and consumers we should strive to unpack and reflect on the less explicit ways in which we may be perpetuating harm.

Meet the Speakers



Doroteya Belcheva

Doroteya Belcheva is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Exeter in the department of Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology. Her research interests are in the field of aesthetics, everyday aesthetic theory, and human-machine interaction. Her research focuses specifically on the role of transformative technology in reshaping our aesthetic perception.

Abstract -The Impact of Transformative Technology on Our Aesthetic Perception

Transformative technology is any technological device designed to improve human cognitive and physical functions. Such advanced tools as artificial body parts, various robots or AI-based programmes can have significant impact on the way we experience and assess the environment we live in. As any other aspect of our everyday life, the novelty which technology brings will affect our aesthetic engagement with the environment. Aesthetic norms and stereotypes were formed in a context (social, environmental, cultural) which has changed significantly over the past decades. As a result, what seemed to be relevant when describing our aesthetic reactions to a piece of art, natural surroundings or an ordinary everyday object seems to be insufficient or not well suited to explain our aesthetic preferences when interacting with artificial personalities or looking at robots taking part into typical human activities. Therefore, my presentation will focus on the impact of the transformative technology on our aesthetic perception. I will address the question of how such technology can challenge and reshape our aesthetic stereotypes and the way we understand aesthetic concepts such as beautiful, ugly, or pleasant. I will illustrate my views by introducing two cases: the case of sex robots and the case of the robot-priest Paper performing a funeral ceremony. By this I want to suggest that transformative technology can have a significant impact on the way we understand, feel and respond to the environment. By creating new context and aesthetic norm, such devices make possible to think potential new, technologically based aesthetic experience.

Meet the Speakers



Sally Murrani

Self-funded PhD research student (2018-present).

University of Exeter.

Accredited translator, consecutive and simultaneous interpreter from/into English/Arabic with over 25-year experience.

BBC trained journalist with nearly 8-year experience reporting on Middle East and North Africa (MENA) affairs.

Extensive worldwide experience in international development & peacebuilding through working for, and leading teams within international organizations including, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Iraq, Kosovo, Tajikistan and Syria.

EDUCATION

MA International Relations, University of Plymouth, UK.

BA English Literature, University of Baghdad, Iraq.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (AFHEA).

Associate Fellowship of the University of Exeter's ASPIRE.

Member of the Iraqi Translators' Association (ITA) –member of the International Federation of Translators (FIT).

Abstract - Patterns of Integration and Assimilation in Iraqi Sabeen Mandaean Diaspora in Britain, Netherlands and Sweden

My study explores Iraqi Sabeen Mandaean integration in British, Dutch and Swedish societies by exploring the interplay of the social and the psychic (mind). This is done by examining the interconnectivity of the etic, found in individual, community and state practices, pursuits and policies, and the emic, found in individual perspectives and narratives of lived experiences shaped and reshaped by social power structures and relations and mediated through differentiated agency. Taking an intergenerational approach, this empirically oriented qualitative-quantitative bilingual English-Arabic study involves semi-structured interviews and a survey, and is based on the integration experiences of my own diaspora community.

Meet the Speakers



Catherine Broomfield

I am a first year rural sociology PhD research student at the Centre for Rural Policy Research. My PhD is informed by my life experience, both as a communicator in business, and as a beef and sheep farmer and advocate for grazing livestock as part of a regenerative and sustainable farming system. You can find out more about my "other lives [here](#). These experiences have led me to puzzle over two questions which now inform my PhD research: why is my lived experience as a beef and sheep farmer in Devon so at odds with the prevailing public discourse which demonises the cow as a key driver of our triple health, environment and climate crisis? Is the way in which farming engages with its publics a reason for this situation and in what ways can we improve engagement for the collective good of farming and wider society?

Abstract - Aristotelian phronesis: recalling an ancient virtue to help contemporary society arrive at good collective choices about the future of UK beef and sheep farming.

Beef and sheep farming is at the centre of a contentious debate about the causes of, and potential mitigation strategies for, the triple climate, environment and health crisis facing the UK. In response the prevailing public, policy and academic discourse focuses on the global scale to bring clarity to planetary issues. What is often lacking in the 21st century global gaze is an appreciation of the heterogeneity of livestock farming methods and an understanding that beef and sheep farming's environmental, climate and social impacts are highly dependent on the farming method deployed in each place-particular setting. How then, should UK farming engage with wider society to arrive at wise collective place-particular choices about the role of beef and sheep farming to a society striving towards a sustainable future?

Aristotle considered phronesis, or "wisdom in practice" to be the most important of 3 intellectual virtues, the other two being episteme (theoretical scientific knowledge) and techne (applied technical knowledge). Where the latter two dominate our contemporary society, phronesis has not travelled into our lexicon or thinking. Aristotelian phronesis inspired Bent Flyvbjerg to advance phronetic social science (PSS) as a way of correcting the 'headless' social science that fruitlessly seeks to emulate the natural science's quest for grand universal theories. Instead, PSS is social science with a phronetic value-rational head, emphasizing the concrete, situational and practical to ensure social science has real "so what" social impact. I propose applying phronesis to my study of how farming engages with wider society. In following a PSS approach I hope to make practical suggestions to how farming and society can better arrive at good collective choices, in the best possible manner, for the place-particular case of beef and sheep farming in the UK.

Meet the Speakers



Yiyang Gao

I am in the fourth year of my PhD in Sociology. My interests lie in the areas of ethnicity, immigration, social inequality, sociology of education, and quantitative methods. Currently, I am working on my dissertation, which examines ethnic and social segregation in English secondary schools. The study goes beyond analysing the unequal geographical distribution of ethnic minority students. I aim to examine segregation in the broader context of post-war immigration and the assimilation of multiple ethnic groups. Diversity, inclusion, and intergroup contact have always piqued my interest. Before moving to Exeter, I did my master's degree in London. Afterwards, I moved to Beijing and worked for a technology company. Campus life and the workplace are both characterised by a lot of cultural diversity. I used to go to musicals with my friends from all over the world. As the West End has now been opened, you are welcome to join us if you are interested in musicals as well!

Abstract - My PhD Journey So Far

The presentation consists of three parts. To begin, I would like to introduce how I changed my research topic in my first year and how the concept of research impact influenced my final decision. I will introduce my PhD project, which examines ethnic and socioeconomic segregation in English schools. Secondly, I will discuss my experience in applying data and introduce the efforts made by public sectors, such as the ONS and the Department for Education, to enable researchers to make a greater contribution to public policy discussions. Finally, I will reflect on my experience talking with the data science and policy teams at the Department for Education. I will also make the audience aware of other working placement opportunities. In closing, I will share some thoughts that I have gained from conversations with people in the public and third sectors.

Meet the Speakers



Louise Toller

I am an ESRC funded PhD student in the department of Sociology, Philosophy, and Anthropology. My PhD explores the experiences of young people with ME/CFS, using a combination of visual and verbal methods. I am particularly interested in the role of liminality in their lives - the impact of having a condition that is fluctuating, largely invisible, and medically and socially contested - and how they experience possessing multiple, shifting identities.

Abstract - Taking a step back, finding a new perspective: Reflecting on what participants can gain from taking part in research

In their Impact Toolkit, the ESRC defines research impact as 'the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy', whether this is in terms of advancing academic understanding, influencing policies and services, or benefiting individuals and organisations. While we often think about impact in terms of the contribution that our findings make in wider society, the very act of taking part in research itself can also have an impact on our individual participants. My PhD explores the lived experiences of young adults with ME/chronic fatigue syndrome, using a combination of interviews and participant-generated photographs. Previous researchers using similar methods have suggested that the process of taking photos as part of a research project can give participants the chance to reflect on their experiences of the topic being researched, which they may find beneficial or therapeutic. In this paper I will reflect on two aspects of the photographic process – taking the photos, and then looking back at and talking about them during interviews – in order to explore what my participants felt they had gained from their participation. I aim to show that impact can be small, personal, and happen within a study, as well as being more large-scale.

Meet the Speakers



Molly Sumridge

Molly Sumridge is a PhD student at the University of Exeter, as well as an instructor of Anthrozoology at Carroll College and dog behavior consultant in Helena MT. Her professional interests focus on primitive/ancient dogs, and behavior modification for dog sports and pet aggression. Her research focuses include human-animal relations and relationships specific to domestication, primitive/ancient dogs, non-traditional companion animal relationships, and dog sports. Molly leads the canine program in the Carroll College Anthrozoology department, in which students train and care for foster dogs during the academic year. Her courses focus on research, training, canine ecology, cross-cultural human-canine relationships and conflicts, working dogs, and critical analysis of human-animal interactions and relationships. When she is not teaching or consulting she is up to her eyeballs in research working on a PhD in Anthrozoology, focused on discourse involving the labeling of dogs, specifically New Guinea singing dogs.

Abstract - Access=ability

Research and study in all its forms, has had a looming barrier that academia as a whole had yet to address until the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2021; namely accessibility. The consumption of information via online sources has been the normal form of navigation for the youngest of generations but previous generations have struggled to adjust, and in many ways have strangled the integration of these new norms. Today most academic paywalls can be circumvented, ideas are presented in new formats through podcasts and vlogs, and avenues of learning have expanded to purely online environments. Access to research populations has also changed, through community growth in list-servs, online boards, apps, and social media groups. Success for neurodivergent students in academic pursuits has also never been so high. As a neurodivergent, first-year distance Ph.D. student who received her masters through online education, and has spent the greater part of her professional nonacademic career taking advantage of online formats such as video conferencing, blogging, online course creation, online community creation, and podcasting, there is an intense relief that these avenues have become a normal form of information navigation, consumption, dissemination, and population observation. It is my hope that my research will not just impact the populations I study, but through growing normalcy of the dissemination of knowledge in online formats and further demand for remote/distance learning and research opportunities, academic institutions will further support their students and expand their online programs, preventing a return to the old "normal", disconnecting our new connected world in an effort to put tradition and custom above accessibility. Furthering online systems and structures for education and research is critical in allowing more neurodivergent individuals accessibility in academia and to follow their dreams of asking questions and finding answers, unhindered by their differences.

Meet the Conveners

Sergio Sorcia Reyes



Bio

I am a PhD Student of Sociology, funded by the Global Excellence Studentship for International Students. My current work is a qualitative study exploring the multiple ways that young people engage and appropriate narcocorridos music in Mexico.

I also have extensive experience as a professional musician. My interest for the use of music as an element for social change led me to undertake an MA in Music Education at the Institute of Education UCL in London, under the support of the IoE Centenary Scholarship. During this time I was interested in understanding the role of music education in contexts of detention in Mexico.

My previous work involved working with young people in different settings, including 6 detention centres in Mexico City, and teaching the undergraduate degree of performance in classical and jazz music, as part of the music faculty at UNICACH in Chiapas, Mexico.

I am also interested in the sociology of music education, performance, and sound studies. In the following link you can visit my project Sonidos: Memoria Colectiva del COVID-19 CDMX+. This project looks at the ways that people perceive and use sound as part of the process of construction of memory during (and after) the current pandemic in Mexico City and the Metropolitan Area.

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Meet the Conveners

Benedict Lane



Bio

Benedict Lane is an AHRC-funded PhD candidate in his second year at the University of Exeter, working on problems in the philosophy of moral progress. He graduated from the University of Bristol with an MSci in Physics and Philosophy in 2019, and subsequently worked at the University of Exeter in student representation before starting his PhD in 2020. His research draws broadly on numerous domains of philosophy, including moral philosophy, moral psychology, philosophy of language and mathematics, and philosophy of science, to put together an original theory of moral progress within a social constructivist metaethics.

Meet the Conveners

Kris Hill



Bio

I am working on my PhD in anthrozoology while building the foundations of a new career – either as an academic, educator, or within a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the lives of animals, including humans. Currently, I am a Postgraduate Teaching Associate for a first-year sociology module at Exeter University, and Communications Officer for the Society of Companion Animals Studies (SCAS). As part of the Exeter Anthrozoology as Symbiotic Ethics (EASE) working group, my doctoral project focuses on cat-human relations and social discourses surrounding free-roaming urban cats (*Felis catus*). My research utilises elements of discourse analysis and more-than-human biographical methodologies. I have published papers based on my MA research into animal-themed tattoo narratives and symbolic representations of animal others. Furthermore, I am involved in several collaborative projects aimed at engaging stakeholders both within and beyond academia.

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Meet the Conveners

Tiamat Warda



Bio

Tiamat Warda is an Assyrian-Californian PhD candidate in anthrozoology at the University of Exeter and part of the Exeter Anthrozoology as Symbiotic Ethics (EASE) working group. After six years of working as a guide dog instructor and running a guide dog school, she received a MA in anthrozoology from the University of Exeter in 2019. This pairing of academic and on the ground, personal and professional experience informs her current multispecies ethnographic and autoethnographic research on the emotional labour performed by guide dogs and their instructors with and for each other during their shared work-lives. Tiamat is a Junior Fellow for the Animals & Biodiversity Think Tank programme at the Global Research Network. She works as a partner in a KA2-Erasmus+ EU-programme concerned with the development of a standardised education and certification for assistance dog trainers/instructors and as an anthrozoological academic consultant at Pfortenpiloten. Tiamat's research interests lie predominantly at the intersection of animal labour and emotion management studies, with an emphasis placed on interspecies collaboration, humane jobs, and care work.

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Meet the Conveners

Dr Michelle Szydlowski



Bio

Michelle has enjoyed a long career teaching in the public and private sectors, and currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Anthrozoology at Beacon College in Florida. Michelle's previous research focused on how novel practices in ecotourism impacted community-based conservation efforts in Nepal. Her current research focuses on the health and welfare of captive elephants in the Sauraha area, along with the health and welfare of the marginalized community members that care for them. Michelle also focuses on governmental and INGO/NGO programs which attempt to help elephants, and how their interactions impact population-level health and individual elephant lives. Michelle serves as the board chair for a non-profit conservation fund and on the advisory board of an elephant non-profit. She is active in environmental education projects, humane education initiatives, one world/one health programs, and biodiversity preservation initiatives. When not teaching, she often speaks at conferences or to community groups about her work in Nepal, global conservation projects or other topics in anthrozoology. Upcoming projects include elephant-human conflict mitigation and continued work with elephant owners and NGOs. Visit Michelle at her website: internationalelephants.org or listen at The Anthrozoology Podcast (<https://anthrozoopod.wixsite.com/anthrozoopod>).