



## 8TH INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL FUTURES CONFERENCE

The 8th Biennial Conference of the European Association for Critical Animal Studies (EACAS)

# ANIMAL ADVOCACY AGAINST THE GRAIN?

## Traditions and Transformations in and around the Movement

### CALL FOR PAPERS

16–17 June 2023, online

*This conference focuses on traditions and transformations in the context of animal advocacy and activism. 'Traditions' is understood here as an umbrella term for various kinds of ideas, practices, habits, and ways of life that are being justified and essentialised by evoking chronological continuities and the past. For instance, eating animals is often legitimised by way of claims that since humans have always eaten meat, we are omnivores "by nature". 'Transformations' emphasises the constant flux in which decisions are made to invent and modify traditions, in order to suit our contemporary morals and ways of life.*

*Traditions are socially constructed, as changes in traditions over time and their variety in different cultures and societies attest. We appeal to certain versions of history and reject others owing to our present circumstances and ethics. Traditions and histories are also enmeshed in power relations. Appealing to tradition ("traditional family", "traditional gender roles", "traditional food" etc.) and grand narratives is a powerful strategy that continues to be used by dominant groups to subdue or even render deviant the practices and ways of knowing of non-normative groups. At the same time, many marginalised groups, such as colonised/indigenous people also appeal to tradition, to resist colonial epistemologies and ways of life. Ethical tensions abound between human traditions and animal rights in many contexts.*

*What kind of traditions and histories, how and why are appealed to, constructed and contested in the context of humans using other animals or advocating for the end of animal use? How can the idea of tradition help us to link the past and the present in moving towards more ethical ways of relating to other animals?*

**We invite papers to engage for example, with the following issues, from critical animal studies and other critical perspectives (feminist, decolonial, indigenous, critical race, disability etc.):**

- indigenous worldviews and practices in relation to nonhuman animals
- food traditions and veganism (heritage foods etc.)
- entrenched misconceptions about the benefits of hunting versus its actual unsustainable practices
- ecofeminism and contextual veganism
- deconstructions of the common sense and the resulting utopias and dystopias
- animal rights activism and favourable vs critical messaging with regard to traditions
- lived experience of traditions and transformations in animal advocacy and animal rights activism
- the transformation of cultural practices in the context of climate, biodiversity and socio-economic crises.

The conference will be held in English. We are looking forward to contributions from academics and activists. We also welcome posters, performances, and exhibitions that creatively engage with the conference theme. **Please send your abstract or description of the proposed event (max 300 words) to [conference@loomus.ee](mailto:conference@loomus.ee) by February 28, 2023.**

Presentations will take place online and will be live-streamed. We encourage participants to join us in Tallinn on 17 June for post-conference networking meeting. All practical information (speakers, registration, accommodation, fees) will be announced in early 2023. The conference is organised by Loomus, Estonian Vegan Society, and EACAS.

