



Call for Papers

ANIMAL FUTURES 2024

(Re)visioning animal advocacy: strategies, dilemmas and directions

17-18 May 2024, online

This conference critically examines the current state and possible futures of the animal advocacy and vegan movements and veganism in various parts of the world, asking where these movements are headed.

All social movements and forms of activism operate according to certain strategies, stemming from particular assumptions. Yet, often these remain implicit, unquestioned, taken for granted and unexamined, not only by the general public, but also by active participants of the movement themselves. These strategies are shaped by various interrelated factors, such as the personal knowledge, values and experiences of activists as well as broader social, cultural and historical circumstances in particular sites of activism. As the animal advocacy and vegan movements have become increasingly global, local activisms are shaped by certain hegemonic ideologies. For instance, in recent years, the philosophy and practice of effective altruism, stemming from utilitarian thought, has increasingly influenced many segments of the animal advocacy and vegan movements, and received criticism from scholars and activists using intersectional feminist approaches. The popularity of effective activism can in part be traced to increasing neoliberalisation of societies, while its tactics lead to certain kinds of animal activism which bring certain animals and practices into the spotlight while neglecting others.

The strategies that vegan and animal advocacy organisations and activists deliberately or unknowingly adopt shape their activities and the consequences of those both in the present and in the future. Different tactics also have different potential for including variously positioned humans in animal activism.

We invite papers to engage, for example, with the following issues from critical animal studies and other critical perspectives, including from an activist and practitioner view:

- strategies of animal advocacy and vegan movements in different social, cultural and geographical settings, including academic research and activism (e.g. critical animal studies);
- dilemmas that the movements face in their strategic planning and action;
- internationalisation and globalisation of animal activism, including the travelling and exchange of strategies;
- reasoning behind the tactics of different animal advocacy and vegan organisations;
- questions of “effectiveness” of certain tactics: what evidence is there and by whom?
- ways in which strategic choices of the movement have implications not only for non-human animals but also for advancing social justice in the present and in the future;
- consideration of ways in which certain strategies are (implicitly) gendered, and ways in which other categories, such as race and class, and their intersections play a role.

The working language of the conference is English. We look forward to contributions from scholars and activists. We also welcome panel discussions, posters, performances, films, exhibitions, and other formats that creatively engage with the conference theme. **Please send your abstract or description (up to 300 words) of the proposed event and your short biographical note (up to 100 characters) to conference@loomus.ee by February 29, 2024.**

Presentations will take place online and will be live-streamed, but we encourage participants to join us in Tallinn on 18 May for a post-conference networking event. All practical information (accepted speakers, programme, registration) will be announced in early 2024.

The conference is organised by Loomus and Estonian Vegan Society.

