



Being Human: Medicine and the Human Sciences
Symposium



The Human Animal?

Investigating the Boundaries of Being Human



Wednesday 30 May 2012
9.30am - 4.30pm
Radcliffe House, Lecture Room 1



Global History
and Culture
Centre

THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK
Department of History



Centre for the
History of Medicine



“The Human Animal? Investigating the Boundaries of Being Human”

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Radcliffe House, University of Warwick

Programme

- 9:30-10.00 **Registration and Refreshments** (Radcliffe Lounge)
- 10:00-10.15 **Welcome & Introductory Remarks, Dr Chris Pearson and Dr Claudia Stein**
(History, University of Warwick)
- 10.15-11.15 **Session 1**
Chair: Claudia Stein
- Professor Nickie Charles**
(Sociology, University of Warwick)
- 'Post-human families? Kinship across the species barrier'*
- Dr Kirsten Greer**
(History, University of Warwick)
- “Natural” Connections in the British North Atlantic, 1840-1880:
Territoriality, Empire, and Non-Human Agency'*
- 11:15-11:45 **Refreshments** (Radcliffe Lounge)
- 11:45-13:15 **Session 2**
Chair: David Beck
- Professor Wyn Grant**
(PAIS, University of Warwick)
- 'Political Science: Framing the Badger'*
- Dr Amy Kilbride**
(Life Sciences, University of Warwick)
- 'A life worth living? Exploring farm animal welfare'*
- Dr Dita Wickins-Drazilova**
(Warwick Medical School)
- 'Would Neanderthals belong in a zoo or a university? Could research into
Neanderthal genome make us rethink human-animal boundaries?'*

13:15-14:15 **Lunch** (Radcliffe Dining Room)

14:15-15:15 **Session 3: Keynote**
Chair: David Lambert

Professor Sandra Swart
(Stellenbosch University, South Africa),

'Its hour come round at last: Animal agency and social history'



Abstract: This paper explores new ways to write history that engages with the lives of animals. It offers a discussion of how social history can be enriched by focusing on history from an animal perspective – and equally, how the tools provided by social history reveals the historicity of animals. I firstly propose that animals changed human history not only on the macro-level, but in the small, intimate arena of the bodily, following Febvre’s call for a sensory history. Secondly, I explore social history’s long-time concern with agency and with understanding socio-cultural experiences from the perspective of those who actually lived them – in this case, from an animal perspective. Thirdly, I ask how social history that takes animals seriously might be written and might offer a fresh dimension to our understanding. I make explicit comparisons with women’s history, black history, gay history, the histories of colonized peoples and working-class histories. To make my point, I look at the most analysed event in southern African historiography, the South African/Anglo-Boer War (1899–1902) to argue that animal analysis changes our understanding, however slightly. In the shadow of the big stories – war, conquest and colonization – exist small slices of personal, intimate history. These are the secret histories of how contact with animals changed how humans experienced the world physically and changed how some thought about the world and their own place in it.



15:15-15.30 **Refreshments** (Radcliffe Lounge)

15.30-16.30 **Session 4: Roundtable discussion**
Chair: Nickie Charles

17.30-19.00 **Dinner at Gusto, Warwick Arts Centre**

19:30-21.30 **Theatre performance of *Kafka's Monkey*** at Warwick Arts Centre, performed by the Olivier Award winner and Complicite founding member **Kathryn Hunter** (Peter Brook's *Fragments*, National Theatre's *The Visit*, Mike Leigh's *All or Nothing*, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*).

The performance will be followed by an interval and panel discussion featuring Kathryn Hunter, Kirsten Greer, Peter Sahlins, Dita Wickins-Drazilova and chaired by Chris Pearson.



Speaker biographies

Professor Wyn Grant

Wyn Grant is part-time professor of politics at the University of Warwick having retired from his full-time post in 2011 after 40 years at Warwick. He is vice-president for Europe and Africa of the International Political Science Association. He was deputy principal investigator for the RELU Governance of Livestock Diseases (GoLD) which involved four Warwick departments. As part of the research he had a period of secondment in the Animal Welfare Team at Defra.

Dr Kirsten Greer

Kirsten Greer is a Visiting Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Research Fellow in the Department of History, University of Warwick. Her primary research interests are in the spatial imaginations of the nineteenth-century British Empire through cultures of natural history, focusing specifically on the Mediterranean and the North Atlantic. She examines intersections between geopolitics and zoology, and entanglements of "race," gender, and class in the production of scientific knowledge. She is also interested in the agency of migratory natures in bioregion-making. Greer is a member of the Global History and Culture Centre at the University of Warwick and the coordinator of the Transnational Ecologies project with the Network in Canadian History and Environment.

Dr Amy Kilbride

Amy Kilbride is a veterinary epidemiologist working as a post doc in the School of Life Sciences. Her research focus is improving the health and welfare of animals on British farms. Amy has a BSc in psychology and zoology from Bristol University and a PhD in farm animal welfare from Warwick University. Previous research has included welfare certification, livestock housing, sheep lameness and neonatal mortality. She is currently working on a multidisciplinary Defra funded project investigating the barriers and motivators for farmers improving the welfare of their sheep.

Professor Sandra S. Swart

Sandra S. Swart is Associate Professor of History at Stellenbosch University. She is a social and environmental historian of southern Africa, having received concomitantly both a doctorate in modern history at the University of Oxford and an MSc in Environmental Management also from Oxford. She is the author of *Riding High: Horses, Humans and History in South Africa* (Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press, 2010); co-author of *Breeds of Empire* (2007), with Greg Bankoff; and co-editor of *Canis Africanis: A Dog History of Southern Africa* (2008), with Lance van Sittert.



Dr Dita Wickins-Drazilova

Dita Wickins-Drazilova is a Research Fellow in Clinical Ethics at Warwick Medical School. She is particularly interested in various areas of applied ethics: clinical and medical ethics; public-health ethics; research ethics; biotechnology and biobanking; ethics of childhood and childhood obesity; and animal and environmental ethics. She has worked on several research projects as an ethics advisor, and has taught various courses in applied ethics. Her main interest in animal studies is in the ethical issues of cloning extinct species of mammals, and ethical and social aspects of keeping wild species in captivity in institutions such as zoos.

Professor Nickie Charles

Nickie Charles is Professor and Director of the Centre for the Study of Women and Gender in the Sociology Department at the University of Warwick. She has published widely on many aspects of gender including feminist social movements, the gendered division of paid and unpaid work and the refuge movement. She is currently working on research exploring kinship across the species barrier which investigates the circumstances in which animals come to be regarded as kin and whether this indicates the emergence of post-human families. Her most recent books are *Families in Transition* (with Charlotte Aull Davies and Chris Harris), The Policy Press, 2008 and *Human and other animals* (edited with Bob Carter), Palgrave, 2011. Other books include *Gender in Modern Britain*, Oxford University Press, 2002, *Feminism, the state and social policy* (Macmillan, 2000), *Gender divisions and social change* (Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1993) and (with Marion Kerr) *Women, food and families* (Manchester University Press, 1988).