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Contribution to the Gender and Feminist Research Symposium: *Gender Studies Looking Forward – A new light on approaches to gender and feminist research*, November 4th, 2015

Gender and Critical Animal Studies: Potentials and possible tensions

What are the connections between the subordination and oppression of other animals and women? What do different articulations of masculinity with animality imply? How can the category of species be included in intersectional analysis? And should it be?

Gender studies and critical animal studies can be seen as two overlapping dimensions of the same critical project for social change. In the establishment of critical animal studies in the early 2000s, gender studies served as a model in terms of how to oppose what was seen as a growing apolitical and academic mainstreaming tendency within human-animal studies. Furthermore, critical animal studies research has often studied how exploitative practices such as hunting, butchering, milk and meat production (and consumption) are gender-coded, utilising feminist analyses, also spawning its own repertoire of contributions such as “The Sexual Politics of Meat” (Carol Adams) and analytical concepts such as “carnophallogocentrism” (Jacques Derrida), and “anthroparchy” (Erica Calvo).

This presentation discusses the intersections of gender studies and critical animal studies. The aim is to invite a discussion on both potentials and possible tensions resulting from the inclusion of species relations into gender studies, and from using gender perspectives in critical animal studies.

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