



vHc

2018 VIRGINIA HUMANITIES CONFERENCE

Call for Papers

Animals in the Humanities: Relations, Representations, and Ethical Implications

Roanoke College, Virginia

Dates: March 23–24, 2018

Submission deadline: February 5, 2018

Does the presence of animals in culture call the very nature of the humanities into question?

The human condition has always been defined in relation to the animal. Yet our relationships with animals have always been ambivalent and ambiguous. Pampered as pets, raised and killed in horrendous conditions as food, we simultaneously idolize and exploit them. Patriarchal culture has often linked animality with women (and the indigenous) and rationality with men (and civilization).

To challenge some of these traditional practices and categories, recent studies of animals in culture have raised important theoretical questions about what constitutes the humanities. For example, why has there been an “animal turn” in the humanities: why are so many intellectuals challenging the human-animal binary? Are animals no longer the “absolute other”?

How has the representation of animals changed after Descartes, Darwin, and Derrida? How has the recent interest in animal cognition altered their ethical status?

This conference welcomes submissions exploring any question concerning animals in the humanities. For further information, please contact Marwood Larson-Harris (mdharris@roanoke.edu).

Keynote Speaker:



Steven M. Wise is founder and president of the Nonhuman Rights Project. He has practiced animal protection law for 30 years throughout the US and is the author of *Rattling the Cage: Toward Legal Rights for Animals* and *Drawing the Line: Science and the Case for Animal Rights*. An HBO documentary about his work was released in February 2017.