

Call for young researcher proposals

Conference On Convergence and Divergence between Animal and Environmental Ethics

The Centre de Recherche en Éthique/Center for Research in Ethics (CRE) in association with the Groupe de recherche en éthique environnementale and animale (GRÉEA) in Montreal will host an international conference on ***Convergence and Divergence between Animal and Environmental Ethics*** between **May 17 and May 19, 2017**, in the city of Montreal (more information to come).

The organizing committee of the conference (see below) invites graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and non-tenure track assistant professors to submit paper proposals to be considered for inclusion in the program of the conference. Papers addressing any philosophical issue relevant to the conference theme are welcome.

Up to four proposals will be selected that will benefit from a 45 minutes discussion with invited speakers and other participants. The time of presentation for each selected paper will be of 45 minutes as well.

Submission format and procedure: Please submit a 300-500 words abstract formatted for blind review (exclude any personal and institutional information). Email your submission as a PDF **and/or** Text (odt., doc., rtf.) attachment at : valery.giroux@umontreal.ca **and** greea@umontreal.ca

Extended deadline: Thursday, February 23, 2017

Funding: The CRE will provide assistance for participant's transportation and lodging expenses.

Description:

"[T]wo streams of thought meet and are woven together... [in]to the beginnings of what, I believe, will be a lasting marriage. (Though I have no illusions about the tranquility of that particular relationship.)" (Singer 1992)

Environmental ethics and animal ethics have much in common. For one thing, each field has firmly established itself over just the past few decades. On the theoretical side, this has meant the founding of journals like *The Journal of Animal Ethics* and *Environmental Ethics*; and on the practical side, the organization of activist groups running the gamut from polite to militant. For the most part, both fields have also shared a commitment to non-anthropocentrism. As the editor of a recent anthology put it, "Environmental ethics [which for him includes animal ethics] begins the moment we reject the view that only humans can be moral patients..." (Williston 2016). In other words, humans are not the only entities in the universe worthy of direct moral concern.

Animal and environmental ethics have tended to differ, however, on the question of just which other entities do count for their own sakes (rather than merely for the sake of humans). Environmental ethicists have often included all individual animals, plants, and other organisms; along with "soils, waters" and the ecosystemic "community as such" (Leopold 1949). In contrast, animal ethicists have tended to limit their direct moral concern to beings able to experience joy and suffering (Singer 1975). Animal and environmental ethicists have also largely applied their respective theories to different domains, i.e., domesticated animals including pets, livestock, and laboratory subjects; vs. wild organisms, species, and ecosystems.

However, humans are causing increasingly strong interactions between the wild and domestic realms. For example, the overfishing of wild populations has induced a massive rise in fish farms. Conversely, scientists now identify animal agriculture in general as the world's leading cause of biodiversity loss (Machovina *et al.* 2015). Furthermore, it has been nearly 25 years since two important book-length anthologies focused on the relationships between environmental and animal ethics (Hargrove 1992, Ryder 1992). We therefore plan to host a conference on the topic in May 2017, and to publish a new edited volume based on it.

The conference will bring together major established scholars, as well as up-and-coming researchers, in both fields. Speakers will address convergence and divergence between animal and environmental ethics. To wit, how much overlap is there between the policies that would be morally required for the sake of animals alone (including humans), vs. those required for the sake of organisms

(including animals), entire species, and ecosystems? We will focus on answers to this question in the following contexts: (1) the wild vs. domesticated spheres, (2) predation by some non-human animals upon others, and (3) animal agriculture.

Reference

- Hargrove, E. C., editor. 1992. *The Animal Rights, Environmental Ethics Debate*. State University of New York, Albany, NY.
- Leopold, A. 1949. *A Sand County Almanac*. Oxford University. New York, NY.
- Machovina, B., K. J. Feeley, and W. J. Ripple. 2015. Biodiversity conservation: The key is reducing meat consumption. *Science of the Total Environment* 536:419-431.
- Ryder, R. D., editor. *Animal Welfare and the Environment*. Gerald Duckworth. London, UK.
- Singer, P. 1975. *Animal Liberation*. Avon. New York, NY.
- Singer, P. 1992. Foreword. In: Ryder, R. D., *op. cit.*
- Williston, B. 2016. Moral standing. In: Williston, B., editor. *Environmental Ethics for Canadians*. Oxford University. Toronto, ON. P. 25.

Organizing committee:

Gregory Mikkelson (McGill University)

Mauro Rossi (Université du Québec à Montréal)

Valéry Giroux (CRÉ, independant researcher)

Sophia Rousseau-Mermans (Université de Montréal, Université Paris 1)

Christine Tappolet (Université de Montréal)

Frédéric Bouchard(Université de Montréal)

Invited presentators (alphabetical order)

- **John Baird Callicott**, University Distinguished Research Professor and Regents Professor of Philosophy, University of North Texas, North Texas, USA
- **Mark Budolfson**, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont, Vermont, USA
- **Ned Hettinger**, Professor of Philosophy, College of Charleston, South Carolina, USA

- **Oscar Horta**, Contract Professor at the Department of Logic and Moral Philosophy, University of Santiago de Compostela, A Coruna, Spain
- **Virginie Maris**, Chargée de recherche, Centre d'écologie fonctionnelle et évolutive du CNRS, Montpellier, France
- **Katie McShane**, Associate professor, Department of Philosophy, Colorado State University, Colorado, USA
- **Gregory Mikkelsen**, Associate professor, McGill School of Environment & Department of Philosophy, Montreal, Canada
- **Michael Nelson**, Associate professor, Duth H. Spaniol Chair in Renewable Resources and Professor of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy, Oregon State University, USA
- **Clare Palmer**, Professor of Philosophy, Texas A&M University, Texas, USA
- **Jeff Sebo**, Research Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Associate Director of the Parr Center for Ethics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA
- **Tatjana Visak**, Postdoc at the Department of Philosophy and Business Ethics, Mannheim University, Germany.



AXE EN ÉTHIQUE ET ENVIRONNEMENT