Doing animal health in a more-than-human world
First Conference for the Network of Veterinary Humanities

October 08th-09th 2020

Messerli Research Institute, University of Vienna, Medical University of Vienna, University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Austria

Call for Abstracts

In recent years, there has been an interest in veterinary science/medicine from the humanities and the social sciences. From this perspective, Veterinary medicine is not just applied science, but a complex and multi-contextual profession. The focus of this research looks upon the societal and cultural impacts of veterinary knowledge, technologies and practices. Furthermore, the ways in which Veterinary Medicine is shaped by cultural values, societal structures and social dynamics are investigated.

Specific to the approaches of veterinary humanities is that animals and human-animal relationships play a crucial role. Research into medical practice and knowledge production has to take animals into account, as agents and as part of a more-than-human society. At this first conference, we aim to further explore the implications of this perspective: How does veterinary knowledge translate into animal bodies and minds and render certain configurations of knowledge-based practice in society rational? And how is professional work in the field of animal healthcare situated in economic, political, spatial and socio-cultural contexts?

The conference will be held at the Messerli Research Institute, which focuses on human-animal relations. The facility is located at the Campus of the Veterinary University in Vienna.

We invite scholars to submit abstracts for presentations. Contributions can be based on empirical research as well as contain theoretical/conceptual work.

Possible topics (including but not limited to):

- Constructions of animal health and illness, medicalization
- Professional orientations, attitudes and veterinary ethics
- Interactions within the triad of vets, animals and clients
- Veterinary bio and body politics
- Social construction of animalities and humanity
- Politics, power and conflict (intra and interprofessional)
- Veterinary knowledge, technologies and practices
- Intersections of ecology, economy, control and care in veterinary medicine
- Veterinary Education/professional socialization
- Gender aspects
- Historical development and change in the profession (e.g. feminization)
- Cultural, medial and literary representation of veterinary practice

The conference will be a multidisciplinary event. Proposals from disciplines such as (but not limited to) Veterinary Science, Sociology, Political Science, Literature, History, Anthropology, Cultural and Media Studies, Philosophy, Geography, Art, Education Science, Gender Studies, Psychology and Law are welcome.
Unfortunately, we cannot offer any funding for travel costs and accommodation.

Please send your abstract with a maximum of 300 words before April 5th to veterinary.medicine.studies@gmail.com

We are looking forward to receiving your contributions.

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