

Anthrozoology Symposium

6-8th of November 2020, Iași, Romania • Gh. Zane ISER



Ethics

and the Non-human World

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
3RD EDITION

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Gh. Zane Institute of Social and Economic Research (Romanian Academy, Iași Branch)
Faculty of Biology (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași)
Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences (Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca)
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Ion Ionescu de la Brad University of Agricultural Studies and Veterinary Medicine, Iași)
Moldavia's History Museum ("Moldova" National Museum Complex)
Rural Development Research Platform



**The Anthrozoology Symposium
Ethics and the Non-human World**

Third Edition • November, 6-8, 2020 • Iași • Romania

Book of Abstracts

“Gh. Zane” Institute of Social and Economic Research
Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

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Moldavia’s History Museum
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Rural Development Research Platform

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6th of November

Session Administrators: Codrin Dinu-Vasiliu & Irina Frasin

09:30 – 10:30: Official Opening

Keynote speaker: Christine Olsen

What Does the «Fox» Say? Screening Animals for AAI (Animal Assisted Intervention).

10:30 – 12.00: Section I

Chair: Irina Frasin

Abu Bakar Siddiq

Familicide Expedites Your Death too –The Perils of Anthropocentric Approach toward Nonhuman Animals

Emilian Mihailov

A Non-speciesist Conception of Humanity

Bogdan Olaru

Can the Idea of Respect Serve as a Fundament for Specific Moral Obligations?

12.00 – 12.15: Break

12:15 – 14:45: Section II

Chair: Aurora Hrițuleac

Marco Adda

From Dogs Domestication to Covid-19: Reconsidering Human-Dog Co-Existence in the Anthropocene

Cătălina-Daniela Răducu

On Women and Other Primates: Nature and the Female Animal's Point of View

Alina Simona Rusu

We and Community Cats: Peaceful Coexistence through Education-based Solutions (Service-Learning)

Ioana Baskerville

The Dancing Horse. Animal Husbandry as Intangible Cultural Heritage

Codrin DinuVasiliu

Our Relationship with Pets during COVID-19 Crisis

7th of November

Session Administrators: Luminița-Iuliana Ailincăi & Liviu Adrian Măgurianu

09:30 – 12.00: Section III

Chair: Alina Simona Rusu

Liviu Adrian Măgurianu, Daniel Măgurianu

Animals that Defy Science

Ionuț-Alexandru Bârliba

On the Relationship between People and Animals. A Matter of Selfhood

Irina Frasin

Humanimal Bond. An Inquiry on What We Owe to Animals

Aurora Hrițuleac

Learning On Life And Death. Child-Pet Bond in Developmental Context

Corneliu Gașpar, Luminița-Iuliana Ailincăi

Euthanasia of Animals – between Ethics, Duty, and Necessity

12.00 – 12:15: Break

12:15 – 14:15: Section IV

Chair: Liviu Adrian Măgurianu

Valentina Marinescu, Mădălina Balasescu

Epizootics and Romanian Media. The Case of African Swine Flu in 2014-2017

Ecaterina Balica

Human - Brown Bears (*Ursus Arctos*) Conflicts in Romanian Online Media

Andrei Daniel Mihalca

Parasites: the Good, the Bad, the Ugly

Lavinia Andreea Codrea

Romanian Legislation on the Protection of Companion Animals

8th of November

Session Administrators: George Bodi & Ionuț-Alexandru Bârliba

09:30 – 12.00: Section V

Chair: Lavinia Andreea Codrea

Madalina Mincu, Dinu Gavojdian

Behavioural Reactivity Implications on Animal-based Indicators in Dairy Cows – Preliminary Results

Oana-Raluca Rusu, Luminița-Iuliana Ailincăi, Corneliu Gașpar, Gheorghită Vlad
Animal Welfare. Priorities in Ensuring Animal Health and Food Safety

Corneliu Gașpar, Luminița-Iuliana Ailincăi

Ethical and Legislative Considerations on the General Provisions for the Use of Experimental Animals

Corneliu Gașpar, Oana-Raluca Rusu, Luminița-Iuliana Ailincăi

General Ethical and Legislative Considerations Regarding the Procedures Used for Experimental Animals

Luminița-Iuliana Ailincăi, Corneliu Gașpar

Special Ethical and Legislative Considerations regarding the Use of Experimental Animals of the Rodentia Order

12.00 – 12:15: Break

12:15 – 13:45: Section VI

Chair: Ionuț-Alexandru Bârliba

Ramona Marinache, Valentina Marinescu

Horses in the Future of Mobility?

Adina Hulubaș

The Folk Perception of the Stork in Moldavia

George Bodi, Loredana Solcan

Archaeology in front of the Non-human Personhood. A Review

13:45 – 14:15: Concluding Remarks

What Does the «Fox» Say? Screening Animals for AAI (Animal Assisted Intervention)

- Christine Olsen (Norwegian Centre of Anthrozoology, Norway)

As the AAI field expands, more clients are offered some kind of intervention with animals, which means that more and more animals are exposed to close contact with unfamiliar people. But do we actually know how the animal feels about this, what the animal is telling us? How can we make sure that AAI can be of mutual benefit for both client and animal, ref. One Health?

Most professionals within AAI agree that animal welfare must be assured, and to do that, we need to screen the animal suitability to work in AAI. However, this mostly concerns dogs, not other species. It is a demanding job for animals to work in AAI, and we must therefore make sure they thrive at work. They should be safe, harmonious, and happy. Some animals are suitable for AAI, but many do not adjust. Placing an unqualified animal in active service as a therapy animal could have serious consequences. First, an unsuited therapy animal might fail to provide the proper assistance when needed. It may also react badly, if not aggressively, when in close proximity subjected to startling situations like being threatened or exposed to loud noises. Potentially, the animal could end up posing a danger to its client or other people. Equally important is the necessity of assuring the welfare of the animal.

Many animals try to tell us that they find it difficult to have unfamiliar people close-by, or that they are not comfortable during interventions. However, each individual uses a different wording, and it is often difficult to understand what they are telling us. It is therefore important to have an objective assessment of each animal's suitability.

Keywords: One Health; Screening; Welfare; Assessment.

Familicide Expedites Your Death too. The Perils of Anthropocentric Approach towards Nonhuman Animals

- Abu Bakar Siddiq (Department of Anthropology, MardinArtuklu University, 47200, Mardin, Turkey)

Anthropocentrism frequently promotes chauvinism which turns all other living and non-living natural elements into subjects of human species. Even advocacy of biosphere conservation and preservation often enhances the anthropocentric spirit since the motivations for a positive contribution to other species is mostly stimulated by a sense of 'noble obligation' of humans as superior species. In this way, although it can differ in many other cultures, the western philosophical thinking along with many religious traditions, actually helps deepen the roots of modern anthropocentric approaches in global academia.

For centuries, it has been commonly favoured the idea that the primary purpose of intellectual thinking and scientific research is to support a more sustainable human life. Therefore, only some disciplines (e.g., palaeontology) have shown equal importance to every species as an individual member of the natural world, while most disciplines (e.g., sociology, anthropology, zoology, animal science, or even animal welfare) have intentionally or unintentionally fed the 'anthropocentric plea'. Providing that the 'plea' does not agree with the status of human as a common citizen of planet Earth like any other species, it ultimately helps interpret the nonhuman animals as 'natural resources' which have been mainly created and nursed to be 'secure supplies' for the superior human race. Hence, the anthropocentric academic approach helps reinforce the destructive symbiosis and negative human impact on the natural world at a compound rate that is most likely to expedite the human extinction too.

However, far different from traditional academic schools, the recently developed discipline of anthrozoology takes a particular interest in studying the bilateral interactions and relationships between humans and nonhuman animals. Moreover, by emphasizing the inevitable inter-species interdependence, anthrozoology seems eager to break the 'superior-subordinate' perspective in our worldviews. Accordingly, this novel discipline can truly help reduce the negative impact of the Anthropocene.

This study aims to present the potential of anthrozoology in promoting the anti-anthropocentric pleas for a multi-species future world. Highlighting the urgency of egocentric and biocentric thoughts in academia, the study tries further to demonstrate how this discipline can help diminish our chauvinism towards other animals.

Keywords: Destructive symbiosis; Human chauvinism; Anthropocene; Human extinction; Anthrozoology.

A Non-speciesist Conception of Humanity

- Emilian Mihailov (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Bucharest, Romania)

Are human beings morally superior to non-human animals? Most of us share this belief. The main idea is that cognitive superiority grants a higher moral status. In virtue of their higher cognitive abilities, humans are believed to have more privileges than other animals.

In my talk, I will argue that cognitive superiority does not necessarily grant higher moral status. Higher cognitive abilities may, in fact, put a higher burden rather than have a greater importance to humans' interests.

Keywords: Speciesism; Duties; Responsibility; Humanity.

Can the Idea of Respect Serve as a Fundament for Specific Moral Obligations?

- Bogdan Olaru (Institute of Social and Economic Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch)

We expect people to respect each other because we think of respect in terms of moral obligation. However, some philosophers (A. Donagan, W.K. Frankena) explored the idea of respect as an unloaded requirement from which one could derive the rest of our (more specific) moral obligations. Is there any correlation of this concept of respect that could function in the relationships between human beings and non-human beings, namely animals?

People display various attitudes towards animals, which are similar, albeit not identical, to forms of respect that humans usually show in relation to other humans. People have shown, all along and probably across all cultures, admiration for the special features of some non-human beings, concern for their well-being, love, and spiritual reverence, even devotion, adulation, awe, and worship. Some might have strong beliefs about having special obligations for their beloved pets. Research on altruism in animal interactions might inspire the feeling that one should respect animals because of their alleged moral virtues.

If there is such a thing as „the unique moral status” of humans, it must rely on a kind of respect that nobody can reasonably expect to have towards other non-human beings. This special kind of respect must be clearly distinguished from all attitudes listed above. I will sketch the conceptual options for this fundamental form of respect, and the correlate difficulties of such an attempt.

Keywords: Moral status; Respect; General vs special obligations.

From Dogs Domestication to Covid-19: Reconsidering Human-Dog Co-Existence in The Anthropocene

- Marco Adda (Independent Researcher, AEC Anthrozoology Education & Canines)

Studies on domestication reveal the parallel evolution of dogs and humans. While free-ranging dogs may represent a window to the early stage of domestication, pet-companion dogs can reflect some essential consequences. The multiple debates, different perspectives, and difficulty of conjugating science to good practices has resulted in some critical confusion on the perception of dogs, and adversely impacted approaches to dog parenting, dog training, and dog behaviour assessment.

While many features of the dog domestication are still in a grey zone, we need to invest more resources in helping people and the community to understand their relationship with dogs from an evolutionary perspective, to support them reframing the value of dogs for human societies. Obviously, more efforts in conjugating knowledge on the parallel evolution of dogs and humans to good practices are required. Additionally, the recent Covid-19 pandemic and the massive lockdown have tremendously impacted the lives of people and animals worldwide, including companion dogs and free-ranging dogs.

Changes in the ecology and behaviour of free-ranging and wild animals have been observed, and notable gain for the environment occurred. The significant event re-directs the attention on the need to reframe and leverage the dog-human alliance, recalls the concept of rewilding, and fosters reconsiderations on the impact humans have on other species, the ecosystem, and the climate as well.

Keywords: Domestication; Dogs; COVID-19; Rewilding; Anthropocene.

On Women and Other Primates: Nature and the Female Animal's Point of View

- Cătălina-Daniela Răducu (Institute of Social and Economic Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch)

Does the presence of relatively more women in a certain science influence that discipline? In other words, is primatology a discipline influenced by the woman's point of view? As more and more women have entered the discipline over the past decades, a circumstantial case can be made on the fact that primatology has been influenced, if not transformed, by a feminine perspective.

The assumption underlying this hypothesis is that, due to their experiences and position in life, women are more likely than men to possess certain characteristics that enable them to better understand the complexities of natural processes. Characteristics such as: a sense of connectedness to nature, an integrative, holistic, contextual world view, a disposition to attend to details, complexities and interactions, a sense of patience and empathy, and a high valuation of pragmatic, experiential knowledge may have influenced the objectives and the results of scientific investigation in the field of primatology.

The goal of my presentation is to investigate this claim and see if and how women primatologists have shaped their discipline for the past four decades.

Keywords: "Feminine view" of science; Nature; Primatology; Women.

We and Community Cats. Peaceful Coexistence through Education-based solutions (Service-Learning)

- Alina Simona Rusu (Babeş-Bolyai University, Faculty of Psychology and Sciences of Education, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

This presentation offers an example of good practices of Service-Learning (SL, community-oriented pedagogy), that can be used in primary and middle school to address the problem of community cats in urban areas, by civically engaging the students.

The learning goals of the SL program to be presented here are the following: students will be able to enrich their curricular knowledge by communicating with experts and professionals in the fields of human-animal interactions; students will learn about behavioural data collection methods and how to use the data in the process of elaborating educational materials/ campaigns; c) students will be able to plan their own projects in relation to the identified needs and curricular content; d) students will be able to reflect in a meaningful manner on the significance of their actions and the impact upon people, animals, and environment. After mapping the area around their school for the distribution of community cats, children will be able to choose among a series of SL ideas and activities, such as: collecting stories from family members, friends, neighbours about the beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours surrounding the community cats in the area, invite veterinary students or professionals at school and learn about the trap - neuter - return process, why and how ear tipping is performed, observe the behaviour of cats in a local shelter and prepare a leaflet with information on feline behaviour, especially on aspects such as decrease of inter-individual aggression, hunting, and spraying behaviour in neutered cats. Reflection questions can be used in all the phases of the SL program, including the pre-Service planning and the closure.

It is expected that through this experiential and compassion-based type of program, children will become more aware of the importance of collaboration between community and professional helpers such as veterinarians in addressing the needs of community animals. Also, it is expected that children will learn to document and present factors that are associated with favourable attitudes of local people towards community cats: education, family values, experience of owning an animal, volunteering activities etc., and how can they use this knowledge and the new connections to create a positive change in the beliefs and behaviour of local people towards the community cats and other animals in similar conditions.

Keywords: Service-Learning; Community animals; Humane Education.

The Dancing Horse. Animal Husbandry as Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Ioana Baskerville (“A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, Iași, Romania)

From the economic importance of the working animal to the simple aesthetic appreciation and refined activities of equestrian sports, the horse has been a part of the human society for a lasting time. The Lipizzan purebred is one of the oldest and most admired horse breeds in Europe and allows therefore a detailed study of the substantial horse-human relationship. Gifted with intelligence and a strong character, Lipizzan horses used in classical dressage prove the exquisite results of a long time engagement of people and animals, demonstrating that their reaction towards humans expresses much more than purely instinctual responses, out of the regular obedience-training patterns, and aspiring towards the highest level of artistry. What is the intangible culture within horse husbandry, when the animal world is a definite part of our reality? Which are the unseen, hard to describe features that have turned the human-animal relationship into a meaningful bond across the ages? Are horses and therefore animals capable of having a culture, which supposes the sustained development of typical behaviour patterns socially learned and transmitted? What is the sophisticated cultural code that enables horse-human communication? Which are the available strategies to transform the acknowledgement of animal husbandry as cultural heritage of the humanity into taking active measures to ensure animal welfare? To these questions and many others will be answered in relation to the research undertaken by the author while writing a multinational document for the inscription of the Lipizzan Horse Breeding Traditions in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and finalized in March 2020. The topics under research are based on the author’s discussions and interviews with horse experts and owners from the participant countries to this candidacy (Romania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Croatia, Hungary, Slovenia, and Slovakia).

Keywords: Animal husbandry; Horse breed; Lipizzan; Classical dressage; Cultural heritage; UNESCO.

Our Relationship with Pets during COVID-19 Crisis

- Codrin Dinu Vasiliu (Institute of Social and Economic Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, Iași, Romania)

Which are the significant changes that occur in times of crisis in the relationship between we, humans, and our pets? The pandemic triggered by SARS-CoV-2 virus in early 2020 has registered a psychosocial impact on the relationship between the human world and animal realm.

Certain messages launched in the public space have ended up antagonizing the animal world, either by supporting the idea of a virus of animal origin, or by broadcasting information on how animals can pass the virus to humans. Even though there is insufficient scientific data to support such a theory, these types of discourses have affected emotionally this crisis relationship between the human world and animal world.

Starting from these circumstances, I have designed a questionnaire which aims at registering the behaviour of pets' owners towards their own companion animals during COVID-19 crisis. The present study presents the results of this research investigation.

Keywords: photography, imaginary, social media, representation, image.

Animals that Defy Science

- Liviu Adrian Măgurianu (Institute of Social and Economic Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, Romania)
- Daniel Măgurianu (Ensinstituut, Oostende, Belgium)

The vast diversity of the animal and vegetal world no longer impresses biologists today. Research in this area focuses on discovering new species and, maybe, on finding some applications in technology. Looking for the answer to “What is life?” came to an end, the moment we started studying the anatomical functions of organs and cells. Biologists have often stopped at this level of knowledge. Surprisingly, quantum physics brings more complex answers to explain, through rigorous experiments, the nature, universe, and life itself. If organs are made of cells and, in turn, they are made of molecules and atoms, it is expected that the laws of quantum physics would work for atoms that make cells. Erwin Schrodinger, winner of Nobel prize for physics, was among the first physicists who tried to explain the apparition and evolution of life on Earth using the laws of quantum physics, such as the principle on incertitude, the wave and particle function of the electrons, quantum inseparability or entanglement, electrons’ capacity to pass through any physical barrier when they find a form of wave, phenomenon known as tunnelling. Animals have an extraordinary capacity to adapt, a fact that biology cannot explain without the help of quantum physics. In the end, everything is connected at microcosmic and macrocosmic level, so dark matter and dark energy in the universe can be involved in the apparition and evolution of life in universe. We need all fields of science to be able to give a decent answer to the fundamental question “What is life?”

Keywords: Curious animals; Adaptation under extreme conditions; Quantum biology; Quantum inseparability.

On the Relationship between People and Animals. A Matter of Selfhood

- Ionuț-Alexandru Bârliba (Institute of Social and Economic Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, Iași , Romania)

The general aim of my presentation is to analyse animal rights through a discussion on selfhood - understood as a key concept to describe authentic relationships between beings regarded as selves. Throughout my presentation I will try to answer some questions such as: What does the interaction between people and animals tell us about selfhood? Do animals have a self? What would that mean? Is it only by language and discursive interaction that self connections (between beings) can be created? What do our interactions with animals tell us about the human self?

If we are to accept the idea of animal selfhood, we need to understand and approach animals not only as anthropomorphic objects, but as subjects (meaning that they have cognitive/mental activity), as (other) individuals. Leslie Irvine (2012) identifies several dimensions of subjectivity (agency, coherence, history, affectivity) present in (domestic) animals' behaviour in relation to us. Basically, subjectivity signals the presence of mental activity, and thus opens the idea of the existence of the animal self. Therefore, the dimensions of subjectivity mentioned above hold the premises to transform basic interactions with animals into (self) relationships.

From this point on I will focus on the structure of the interaction between people and animals as it should be, namely as a self to self relation. In this respect, I will take into consideration aspects such as our intentions when interacting with them, our care for their wellness, and so on. To support this analysis, I will look into Martin Heidegger's, Hannah Arendt's and some contemporary philosophers' understanding of self as defined mainly by the relationship with others (the social self).

Keywords: Animal rights; Anthropomorphism; Selfhood; Subjectivity.

Humanimal Bond. An Inquiry on What We Owe to Animals

- Irina Frasin (Institute of Social and Economic Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, Iași, Romania)

The love, compassion, and connection most of us feel with our companion animals has, most of the times, the power to make us the very best we can be. Sometimes the close bond we share with our animal companions reveals to us their emotions, feelings, and thoughts. This bond, far from limiting our ability to understand animals as they really are, facilitates our understanding of their behaviour and inner lives. This way, many of us have become aware of the enormous scale of animal exploitation that our modern society is built upon and come to question the foundations of our current way of living.

The present paper explores the connections and disharmonies between our way of understanding animals, and our way of treating them, the moral obligations we have towards animals, all the animals, regardless of the categories where we include them and the possibility of creating a brighter and fairer future for all of us (humans and animals alike).

Keywords: Humanimal bond; Moral obligations; Animals; Humanity; Compassion.

Learning on Life and Death. Child-Pet Bond in Developmental Context

- Aurora Hrițuleac (Institute of Social and Economic Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, Iași, Romania)

Surprisingly enough, not only digital devices are omnipresent in children's life. Pets are too. Developmental psychology pays increased attention to the impact of digital devices on cognitive, emotional, and relational children's behaviour. Is it the pet's influence equally addressed?

The literature review demonstrates that the child-pet interactions and their effects on children's development remain often disregarded topics. However, we still have a certain amount of significant research. The results are conclusive and emphasize the complexity and depth of the child-pet bond. In a context in which parents must struggle for "quality time" with their children, a pet can be a companion, teacher, and guide on matters of life and death.

My study re-visits the early stages of individual development through the child-pet pattern.

Keywords: Child; Pet; Developmental psychology; Loss; Grief.

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Euthanasia of Animals - between Ethics, Duty, and Necessity

- Corneliu Gaşpar (UŞAMV Iaşi, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Iaşi, Romania)
- Luminiţa-Iuliana Ailincăi (UŞAMV Iaşi, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Iaşi, Romania)

Euthanasia, in general, is a concept that has sparked, sparks, and will spark eternal controversy. Does anyone give us the right to kill animals? Do we have to do it? Why? How? Under what conditions? These are some of the questions that this paper will try to answer within rather narrow limits, of course.

Thus, the concept will be presented, as well as the general considerations related to the possibilities of performance, with respect to the animal victims, owners, and to the behaviour and ethics of humans.

Keywords: Euthanasia; Ethics; Animals.

Epizootics and Romanian Media. The Case of African Swine Flu in 2014-2017

- Valentina Marinescu (Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania)
- Madalina Balasescu (Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania)

Public health is constantly gaining media interest, be it human or zoonotic health (Poulson, 1996; Peters et al, 2006; Roche and Muskavitch, 2003). This is more noticeable in the latter category, when the disease reaches the so-called “Ebola standards” manifested through sensationalism, prominence, novelty, controversy, emotional appeal, signification, and proximity (Moeller, 1996). Meanwhile, little interest was shown in media coverage of epizootic (animal to animal epidemic) diseases and pandemics. African swine flu (ASF), a contagious and hemorrhagic disease affecting both domestic and wild swine and presenting a complex epidemiology (World Organisation for Animal Health, 2018a), manages to draw significant media attention. In Romania, the epidemic was first encountered on July, 31, 2017, spread rapidly to the point of identifying and eradicating a total of 1,164 outbreaks in 2018, 1,471 outbreaks in 2019, and caused the slaughtering of more than 500,000 domestic swine overall (Pig33, 2019). In October 2019, the exports of swine meat and derivative products to the European Union from 29 Romanian counties were restricted (Albu, 2019). In the same month, Romania was presented in international media as the European country with the highest negative numbers: over 1,160 outbreaks in 360 households, over 110,000 domestic swine sacrificed, and 19 commercial farms affected where over 380,000 domestic swine were sacrificed (Hopkins and Terazono, 2019).

This presentation deals with both general and specific aspects pertaining to the manner in which Romanian media covered the African swine flu epidemic crisis in the interval between January 1st, 2014 and December 31st, 2018, after investigating a total of 450 texts. The analysis is mainly based on the general rule of media framing (Entman, 1993, 2007; Iyengar, 1994; Semetko and Walkenburger, 2000). The tone in which media reported the ASF predicament complies with the three stages of crisis (pre-crisis, crisis, post-crisis) identified in the literature (Birch, 1994; Mitchell, 1986; Woodcock, 1994). Regarding Romanian media’s approach about ASF, we can discuss about two main media frames: economic consequences and leadership. Other two similar frames were used by Bardhan (2011) in relation to the way that the AIDS epidemic was reflected by international media. Thus, the ASF was presented as a medical and scientific issue, but also as a political and legal matter. Unlike other studies (Abbasi, 1998; Barlett, Sterne, and Egger, 2002) data do not confirm Barlett, Sterne, and Egger’s hypothesis which states that when confronting a public health crisis, mass-media selects and handles negative information in favour of the positive. At the same time, the way in which the epidemic was presented in Romanian media adheres to the distinction noticed by Thys (2019) between “carriers” in the case of inter-human diseases and “carriers” in the case of epizootic diseases.

This presentation delivers relevant aspects related to current changes in journalism. More specifically, the main media frames in covering epizootic diseases (economic repercussions, leadership, medical and scientific issues, political and legal matters) indicate a laid-back approach to the subject. At the same time, variations in the ties between text information and the formal properties of media coverage suggest the need for future development in the field of crisis communication concerning health risks, especially in the case of epizootics.

Keywords: Epizootics; Swine flu; Animal health; Mass-media; Frames.

Human-Brown Bears (*Ursus Arctos*) Conflicts in Romanian Online Media

- Ecaterina Balica (Institute of Sociology, Romanian Academy)

The issue of human-wildlife conflicts has been less tackled in the public space of Romania. However, the situation changed last year when there were heated discussions about the bears attacks on humans and the consequences of the bears' roaming urban and rural communities from certain areas.

Since the media articles seemed focused on presenting the bear aggressions against people, I have decided to analyse the way in which the bear-human conflict was presented in the online media from Romania. The research methodology includes the content analysis of the articles published in the period 2017-2019. Among the objectives of the research I can mention the following: 1) the analysis of the way in which the online media presented the human-bear conflicts; 2) identifying the topics associated with human-bear conflicts: risks for public safety, victimisation prevention measures, intervention of institutions of public order, educating citizens for preventing victimisation, inappropriate behaviour of citizens; 3) identifying types of tackled conflicts; 4) identifying the information sources used by journalists; 5) identifying the strategies of intervention and prevention in order to solve human-bear conflicts presented in the media.

The research emphasises the fact that most of the articles talked about bear attacks (70 %), where approximately half of them were against humans (54 %) and the rest against farms and households (16 %). The online media has frequently discussed about increasing humans' safety through measures of radical intervention, i.e. "picking up bears" and establishing some hunting borders. The activities focused on reducing factors that led to human-bear conflicts, while the victimisation prevention (by educating and informing both locals and tourists) was only secondly dealt with by articles from the online media.

Keywords: Human-wildlife conflicts; Online media; Brown bear (*Ursus Arctos*); Romania.

Parasites: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

- **Andrei Daniel Mihalca** (University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

Parasites have always been perceived in a negative way by people. People became first aware about their own parasites during the human self-domestication process and the development of self-consciousness. Later, within the hunter-gatherer societies and after domestication of animals, humans noticed animal parasites and slowly developed basic techniques to control them. With the scientific progress, the study of parasites emerged as a science, known as parasitology. Slowly, we realized the importance of parasites in natural ecosystems, their immense role in shaping the evolution of species, in regulating the size and structure of populations and in the sexual selection. Economic progress also advanced the development of disease control measures, eventually disrupting the natural evolutionary role of parasites, at least on humans and domestic animals. The impact is visible and ongoing, and it consists mainly of an unprecedented demographic growth.

On the other side, throughout history, parasites have greatly influenced the extent to which humans can invade natural habitats. The greatest geographic discoveries in Africa or other tropical regions, made by Europeans, came only after they were able to control deadly diseases such as malaria. Scientists estimate that more than half of the living organisms on Earth are parasitic, at least during one of their developmental stages. Most of them remain unknown and do not pose a threat to humankind but rather keep regulating the evolutionary processes for a healthy biosphere.

Keywords: Parasites; Evolution; Conservation; Biology.

Romanian Legislation on the Protection of Companion Animals

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A certain interest in regulating issues regarding companion animals have been seen in the Romanian space since the early 2000s. A few governmental pieces of legislation have been adopted in order to regulate the management of stray dogs and ownership of dangerous or aggressive dogs, mainly aiming at protecting the general population, less the animals subject to these laws. In 2004, however, the Romanian Law regarding Animal Protection (no. 205/2004) was adopted, showing a distinctive interest in the welfare of animals in general, including companion animals. Ever since, several issues have been subjected to the adoption and enforcement of specific state and local legislation. Law no. 205/2004 was itself modified multiple times, sometimes in accordance with European legislation and corresponding state obligations, sometimes in order to adapt its provisions to the national context or towards better enforceability.

Therefore, the present paper aims at providing an analysis of the Romanian legislation on the protection of companion animals as well as an overview of the main enforceability and institutional issues precluding its proper application.

Keywords: Animal protection; Companion animals; Law no. 205/2004; Owners' obligations.

Behavioural Reactivity Implications on Animal-based Indicators in Dairy Cows - Preliminary Results

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Dairy cattle (*Bostaurus*) have been undergoing human selection ever since their original domestication which occurred 10,000 years ago. At first, cattle selection was limited to the ability of tolerating close human proximity. However, in the last century, most of the selection programs have been focused on the genetic improvement of milk yields, with modern breeds being able to produce over 14.000 kg of milk per year, compared to the wild species, which produced 800-1.000 kg. The aim of the current preliminary study is to evaluate the effects of behavioural reactivity on animal-based indicators in dairy cows. Milking temperament of 47 Romanian Black Spotted lactating cows was evaluated using a 5 points subjective scale (scores 1 calm to 5 extremely nervous) by two independent observers. Cows were managed and fed under identical tight stanchion conditions at the Experimental Farm of the Research and Development Institute for Bovine Balotesti. Milking temperament of cows significantly influenced ($P \leq 0.05$) the milking speed, with calmer cows outperforming the nervous counterparts, having an average of 1.61 ± 0.10 kg/min and 1.16 ± 0.15 kg/min, respectively. However, temperament did not influence ($P > 0.05$) traits such as body weight (714.9 ± 17.5 kg vs. 730.3 ± 27.5 kg), body condition score (2.51 ± 0.18 vs. 2.36 ± 0.21), cleanliness of udder and cleanliness of hindquarter. Clinical mastitis and retained placenta were observed exclusively in calm cows, with an average incidence of 27.78 ± 8.56 % and 22.02 ± 7.03 %, respectively. Milking temperament assessment method is simple to conduct at farm level, and its use could be adopted by dairy cattle breeders' societies to allow selection for calmer temperaments or docility. Despite this, still relatively few published studies have described the relationships between milking temperament and animal-based indicators in dairy cattle. Further, the current biological mechanisms that underline these associations are not very well known.

Keywords: Animal welfare; Behavioural reactivity; Dairy cattle; Temperament.

Animal Welfare. Priorities in Ensuring Animal Health and Food Safety

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In recent years, consumers have become increasingly concerned about animal welfare and obtaining quality food. Consequently, the Member States of the European Union have focused on obtaining safe food for the consumers 'health by taking into account their needs in the so-called "farm to fork" approach. The guarantee of obtaining safe food for consumers in the Member States is supported from a legislative point of view, especially for certain product brands. A quality product will always be obtained from animals that have not been subjected to stress, have been properly cared for and fed, have not been deprived of liberty, have not been hit, starved, offended, etc.

Ensuring animal welfare in meat production focuses on the critical points, the most representative being: animal breeding, transport, more precisely the handling of animals during loading and unloading, as well as the procedure of stunning and slaughtering the animal. Globally, in addition to the legislative part, the treatment of animals and approach to their slaughter is also related to the training and instruction of staff involved in the care and handling of animals.

Keywords: Animal welfare; Consumers; Product quality; Slaughtering; Food safety.

Ethical and Legislative Considerations on the General Provisions for the Use of Experimental Animals

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The progress of modern veterinary medicine is largely due to experimenting on animals. They have been used for centuries, generally ill-treated, and often abused by research. In recent years, however, they have been protected by the national and European legislation within a well-defined legal framework represented by: Law no. 43/2014 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (updated, with subsequent amendments and completions), ANSVSA Order no. 97/2015, Order 106/2016 on the establishment of the National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific or educational purposes, and Directive 2010/63 / EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. This paper presents the general rules for animals used for scientific purposes, the species that can be used for such purposes, and the conditions for animal testing.

Keywords: Animals used for testing; Legislation.

General Ethical and Legislative Considerations regarding the Procedures used for Experimental Animals

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Although the procedural term is not the most appropriate one regarding the use of experimental animals, however, being legally enshrined, we accept it, and it will be used as such. In this sense, the paper presents the definition of experimental animals, the conditions for performing experimental procedures, the choice of methods that can be used, their severity, and the possibilities that lead to the elimination of suffering and pain of the animals used in experimental medicine.

Keywords: Experimental animals; Experimental procedures; Experimental medicine.

Special Ethical and Legislative Considerations regarding the Use of Experimental Animals of the Rodentia Order

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Rodents have been and are still, by far, the most used animals in research and testing because they are small-sized mammals, multiply quickly, and can be easily bred in captivity. The present paper presents some requirements for their proper care and welfare as well as their differentiated use by species: mouse (*Mus musculus*), rat (*Ratusnorvegicus*), guinea pig (*Caviaporcellus*), Syrian hamster (*Mesocricetusauratus*), Chinese hamster (*Cricetusgriseus*), Mongolian gerbil (*Merionesunguiculatus*), and rabbit (*Oryctolagusuniculus*).

Keywords: Rodents; Experimental animals; Welfare.

Horses in the Future of Mobility?

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Mobility is one of the fields of human and non-human life that is essential to the existence of life itself, since in its absence there would not have been access to food, water, knowledge, resources. Even historical and present societies would not have been possible in an immobile world as the world movement would have been restricted to a limited physical environment. Nevertheless, mobility happened, and throughout the history there were numerous mobile Deus ex Machina example (e.g. vehicles moved by animals) that played major roles in the progress of human societies and literally took them further.

Today we can see the world at another crossroad. We see the fast approaching peak of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, an age labelled as the 'age of great acceleration towards the general use of AI, augmented reality, 3-D printing, robotics – technologies that are used to put in place a post carbon world. The current world realities are exponentially advancing the coming of the post carbon world which, in the case of mobility, would bring a dramatic drop in the physical and special mobility as well as an increase in the virtual movement in the cyber physical space (for example, the reports on travelling and mobility from the World Economic Forum). The actual physical mobility of humans is set to take place in two ways 1) the essential travelling on longer distances will use the service of autonomous vehicle; 2) the rest of the mobility acts of will be done by travelling on foot and using bicycles, or by returning to traditional, sustainable means of travelling that use the power of natural elements and animal power. Regarding the second choice of travelling, humans would need to reconnect to the natural elements and with the non-human fellows and road partners. This possible future reality leads us to the following questions: how will these two ways of physical mobility coexist? How will animals (on the issue of the sustainable movement) interact with their road fellow – autonomous vehicles?

To come up with answers to all these questions, we have analysed the horses only and used data from the following sources, namely road histories from the Industrial Revolution and future scenarios of mobility compiled by sociologists. We will present our findings as scenarios of a non-human- robotic and AI future.

Keywords: Future of mobility; Autonomous vehicles; Horses; Non-human mobility.

The Folk Perception of the Stork in Moldavia

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In the Romanian traditional thinking, the house is protected by several zoological deities. Migratory birds, such as swallows and storks have been associated with sunlight and well-being, and, therefore, harming them is completely forbidden. Moreover, storks have received the function of baby delivery agents in numerous cultures. Data collected from The Folklore Archive of Moldavia and Bucovina will be brought into discussion for debating on the supernatural perception of these birds. Their portrayal varies from good luck omens to revenge figures. Although today, they rarely build their nest in house chimneys, the beliefs are still strong and often cause social agitation due to infringements.

Keywords: Magic thinking; Migrant birds; House deities; Construction rites; Solar symbol.

Archaeology in front of the Non-human Personhood. A Review

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Primarily, archaeologists deal with objects, be it artefacts, eco facts, or simply plain things. As a result, whenever the ethical implications of their research become the focus of the archaeological discourse, these are mainly focused on issues connected to heritage preservation, interpretation, and communication. Pushing it beyond these `natural` limits may result in terrible headaches and anxiety, as it was the case of one of the authors of this communication. It has also provided the occasion to explore uncharted opportunities for archaeological research and, thus, become more relevant to new fields of research and gain a voice in current social preoccupations. To mitigate the said headaches and anxiety, we will deal with this new opportunity in a remarkably familiar way.

We will assign various archaeological stances dealing with non-human personhood to neatly defined boxes constructed on the differences in meaning of terms such as anthrozoology, human-animal studies, and animal studies. We will then try to discover whether what is a very specific practice of anthropology may have a role to play in a discussion aimed at uprooting the dominating anthropocentric ontologies, and could actually impact, in any form, the shaping of attitudes towards non-human animals.

Keywords: Archaeology; Theoretical review; Non-human personhood.

Anthrozoology Symposium

Gh. Zane Institute of Social and Economic Research (Romanian Academy, Iași Branch)

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