

Call for presentations

LOVA Workshop, 17 January 2020 (all-day)

Feminist Canine Ethnography:

Unraveling human-dog relationships from a gender perspective

Dogs play important and unique roles in the lives of humans, and vice versa. These intimate human-canine bonds date back centuries and are dynamic through time and place. Fascinated by the contemporary phenomenon of dogs as family members in our own intimate circle and interested in the wider discourse of culture/natures or nature/cultures (Haraway, 2003), the idea of this workshop arose. By making 'feminist canine ethnography' the focus of exploration, this workshop - organized by Reinhilde König (Ruhr-Universität Bochum) and Irene Arends (CEDLA, Universiteit van Amsterdam) - departs from the question how gender notions both reflect and shape the ways humans perceive and engage with dogs.



'Human-animal studies' and 'gender studies' are both well-established fields of scholarship. With this workshop, we aim to bring to the fore the resonances that these two bodies of work have regarding canine-human relationships. Eco-Feminists have already pointed at the universal exploitation of wo/men, nature and non- human animals. And scholars focusing on the classification of species, argue that mechanisms of exclusion and power politics - that are all too familiar to race and gender scholars - are also deeply rooted in the hierarchical relations between human and non- human animals (Meijer, 2017). We believe therefore that it is important to look at the intersectionality of speciesism with gender and invite everyone who is interested in exploring this topic with us.

In this call for presentations we seek submissions on the topic of canine ethnography. We encourage submissions that theorize human- dog relationships from a gender and feminist perspective, and embrace experimental presentations in all forms, theoretical as well as practical. The workshop is

structured by roundtable sessions and topics might include (but are not limited to): Companion- and kinship; symbolism and social status; pet- and adoption culture; dog rights and activism; death and dying; funny dogs and social media representations; dog labor and learning; research with dogs; language and discourse regarding dog-human relationships.

We are very happy to announce our **keynote speaker Eva Meijer**, (animal) philosopher, artist, and author of several books, including: *De soldaat was een dolfijn* (2017) and *De grenzen van mijn taal* (2019).

Deadline for abstract submissions (250 words): **15 November 2019**. Notifications will be sent on 1 December 2019. Please indicate what form of presentation you prefer.

Visitor/auditor registration is required and free of charge. The fee for the (vegan) lunch is €10. Please register by sending your e-mail to: rkonig97@gmail.com and i.s.m.arends@cedla.nl.

We encourage local and environmental friendly modes of travel and please contact us if we need to provide for dog shelter. If you have any questions feel free to write us.