**Animal Minds and Animal Ethics**

**Fall 2023**

**Mondays, 9:35-11:25, location: 0.28 Streatham Court**

**Lecturer:** Dr Celso Neto (C.Alves-Neto@exeter.ac.uk)

**Office Hours:** Fridays 10-12 **(**online or in person) or by Appointment

**Office:** 1st Floor Byrne House, St. Germain Road

**Office Hours Zoom Info:** Meeting ID: 943 4179 9958 Password: 121634

# Course Description

How smart are non-human animals? In this module, we investigate this question by considering whether and how non-human animals exhibit consciousness, inferential reasoning, communication, social behavior, and moral norms. To examine these issues, the module brings together scientific and philosophical literature on both human and non-human cognition. This examination leads to another type of question, namely: how should we treat smart non-human animals? The module is highly recommended for interdisciplinary pathways, and it is suitable for non-specialist students interested in animal studies broadly construed, the philosophy of mind, and primatology.

# Learning Outcomes

* Understand key issues in the contemporary debate around the nature of animal cognition
* Articulate the connection between views about animal cognition and views about animal ethics
* Critically evaluate the central views concerning animal cognition and animal ethics

# Assessments

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| Task | Mark | Deadline |
| Reading Reports (5x) | 15% | The day prior to class via ELE 2 (individual report) and Dec 4 (all reports) |
| Presentation Recording | 25% | Oct 20 via ELE 2 |
| Essay Plan | 0 (formative) | Nov 17 via e-mail |
| Essay | 60% | Dec 11 in class (first draft)January 9 via ELE 2 (final) |

Reading Reports

Prepare 5 reports (100 words each) of mandatory readings throughout the semester. Submit the report one working day prior to the class that will cover that reading. Each report should contain: (i) a short question about the reading; (ii) an explanation of why the question is worth discussing*. Please consult the guidelines on ELE 2.*

Narrated Presentations

Form groups of 2 or 3. You must present a scientific paper on animal cognition related to one topic the module. The presentation must be recorded, contain slides, and have the duration around 5 minutes. *Please consult the guidelines on ELE 2*.

Essays

Choose one mandatory reading of the semester and write your essay about it. To submit the essay, first bring a complete draft to class on Week 11 (either in print or a computer). At least 3 students will provide written feedback to your essay and, similarly, you **must** provide written feedback to at least 3 essays. Failure to comply entails deduction of 10% of the mark. *Please consult the guidelines on ELE 2*.

# Topics and Readings

# Week 1: Introduction

# *No required readings*

# Suggested Reading: Andrews, K. (2020). Chapter 1. The animal mind: An introduction to the philosophy of animal cognition. Second Edition. Routledge.

# Week 2: Anthropocentrism

# Required Reading: Andrews, K., & Huss, B. (2014). Anthropomorphism, anthropectomy, and the null hypothesis. *Biology & Philosophy*, *29*, 711-729.

# Additional Reading: Andrews, K. (2020). Chapter 2. The animal mind: An introduction to the philosophy of animal cognition. Second Edition. Routledge.

# Week 3: Consciousness

# Required Reading 1: Tye, M. (2017). Do fish have feelings?. In *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Animal Minds* (pp. 169-175). Routledge.

# Required Reading 2: Gennaro, R. J. (2017). Animal Consciousness and Higher-Order Thoughts. In *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Animal Minds* (pp. 196-205). Routledge.

# Additional Reading: Andrews, K. (2020). Chapter 4. The animal mind: An introduction to the philosophy of animal cognition. Second Edition. Routledge.

# Week 4: Rationality

# Required Reading: Davidson, D. (1982). Rational animals. *dialectica*, *36*(4), 317-327.

# Additional Reading: Andrews, K. (2020). Chapter 5. The animal mind: An introduction to the philosophy of animal cognition. Second Edition. Routledge.

# Week 5: Communication

# Required Reading: Sievers, C., Wild, M., & Gruber, T. (2017). Intentionality and flexibility in animal communication. *reason*, *31*, 32.

# Additional Reading: Andrews, K. (2020). Chapter 6. The animal mind: An introduction to the philosophy of animal cognition. Second Edition. Routledge.

# Week 6: Culture

# Required Reading: Ramsey, G. (2013). Culture in humans and other animals. *Biology & Philosophy*, *28*(3), 457-479.

# Additional Reading: Andrews, K. (2020). Chapter 8. The animal mind: An introduction to the philosophy of animal cognition. Second Edition. Routledge.

# BREAK: NO CLASS ON Nov 6

# Week 7: Morality

# Required Reading: Andrews, K. (2020). Naïve normativity: The social foundation of moral cognition. *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *6*(1), 36-56.

# Additional Reading: Andrews, K. (2020). Chapter 9. The animal mind: An introduction to the philosophy of animal cognition. Second Edition. Routledge.

# Week 8: Speciesism

# Required Reading: Singer, P. (2009). Speciesism and moral status. *Metaphilosophy*, *40*(3‐4), 567-581.

# Additional Reading: Singer, P. (2002). Animal Liberation. New York.

# Week 9: Speciesism II

# Required Reading: Kagan, S. (2016). What's Wrong with Speciesism? (Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Lecture 2015). *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *33*(1), 1-21.

# Additional Reading: Singer, P. (2016). Why Speciesism Is Wrong: A Response to Kagan. *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *33*(1), 31-35.

# Week 10: Speciesism III

* Required Reading: Jaquet, F. (2022). What’s wrong with speciesism. *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, *56*(3), 395-408.

Additional Reading: Jaquet, F. (2021). A debunking argument against speciesism. *Synthese*, *198*(2), 1011-1027.

# Week 11: Feedback Session

* *No required Readings. Please bring your essay to class. Instructions available on ELE 2.*

# Suggested Reading

All students must read the texts listed above. The following introductory books and edited volume are highly recommended:

* Andrews, K. (2020). The animal mind: An introduction to the philosophy of animal cognition. Second Edition. Routledge.
* Andrews, K., & Beck, J. (Eds.). (2017). The Routledge handbook of philosophy of animal minds. Taylor & Francis.
* De Waal, F. (2016). *Are we smart enough to know how smart animals are?*. WW Norton & Company.
* Fischer, B. (2021). *Animal ethics: A contemporary introduction*. Routledge.

# Online Resources

* **SEP - Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy** (available through electronic library).
* **The Philosopher's Index**, searchable bibliography (available through electronic library**)**.
* **JSTOR**, searchable repository of scholarly articles (available through electronic library**)**
* **PHILPAPERS,** searchable repository of philosophical articles (online)

# Plagiarism and Misconducts

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. These and other acts of misconduct will not be tolerated by the instructor. Suspicious cases of misconduct will lead to an investigation and adequate penalty according to the Teaching Quality Assurance Manual ([12 - Academic conduct and practice - Teaching Quality Assurance Manual - University of Exeter](https://as.exeter.ac.uk/academic-policy-standards/tqa-manual/aph/managingacademicmisconduct/)).