



VIENNA ANIMAL STUDIES

Summer Lecture Series

- 12 March 2025, "Envisioning a Better Future for Nonhuman Animals" by Dr Doris Schneeberger (WU, 18:00-20:00).
- 8 April 2025, "Animals as Urban Problems and Solutions" by Dr Claudia Hirtenfelder (WU, 18:00-20:00).
- 14 May 2025, "Genetic Pain Surgery with Molecular Scissors?" by Dr Samuel Camenzind (University of Vienna, 17:00-19:00).
- 11 June 2025, "From Zoopticon to Democratic Spectacle" by Dr Carlo Salzani (University of Vienna, 17:00-19:00)

Find out more: www.viennaanimalstudies.com



Vienna Animal Studies

SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

One hour lectures followed by
discussion and networking

12 MARCH 2025

"Envisioning a Better Future for Nonhuman Animals: Towards Future Animal Rights Declarations" by Dr Doris Schneeberger (Auditorium D4.0.022, Vienna University of Economics and Business, 18:00-20:00).

8 APRIL 2025

"Animals as Urban Problems and Solutions" by Dr Claudia Hirtenfelder (Auditorium TC.4.05, Vienna University of Economics and Business, 18:00-20:00).

14 MAY 2025

"Genetic Pain Surgery with Molecular Scissors? Animal Disenhancement in the Context of Genome Editing" by Dr Samuel Camenzind (Neues Institutsgebäude, Universität Wien, Room, Hörsaal 3C, 17:00-19:00).

11 JUNE 2025

"From Zoopticon to Democratic Spectacle: Foucault Goes to the (Schönbrunn) Zoo" by Dr Carlo Salzani (Neues Institutsgebäude, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 17:00-19:00)



George, a rescued sheep, gazes into the camera as he relaxes inside his barn at Woodstock Farm Sanctuary. High Falls, New York, USA, 2024.
Jo-Anne McArthur / We Animals (WAM40072)

Envisioning a Better Future for Nonhuman Animals



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A resident pig, living safely at Farma Nadeje (Hope Farm) sanctuary, peers into the camera. Dobrovitov, Czechia, 2023. Lukas Vincour / We Animals (WAM40889)

We kick off the Summer Lecture Series for the Vienna Animal Studies Group with **Dr Doris Schneeberger** discussing her recently published book: *Envisioning a Better Future for Nonhuman Animals: Towards Future Animal Rights Declarations*. In this talk Dr Schneeberger presents an ethical discussion of the possible future Universal Declarations of Animal Rights. Such a declaration would improve human wellbeing by reducing the risk of zoonoses, encouraging sustainable agriculture and promoting responsible consumption. Of course, this would also have massive repercussions for life on land and life below water, the only two SDGs that explicitly mention animals. Dr Schneeberger touches on varied interpretations and justifications of animal rights, and argues that because (nonhuman) animals are individuals whose lives are intrinsically and inherently valuable, their goods and welfare ought to be protected. Dr Schneeberger claims that these rights should be protected in possible morally advanced societies of the future. One hour lecture in English followed by discussion and networking.

12 MARCH 2025

Vienna University of Economics and Business

Auditorium: D4.0.022

18:00-20:00



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Around 70 sheep live graze meadows on the Danube Island during the summer as part of an EU project, making a valuable contribution to the biodiversity of fauna and flora. / Picture: © Magistrat der Stadt Wien / PID / Christian Fürthner

Animals as Urban Problems and Solutions

In this talk, **Dr Claudia Hirtenfelder** discusses some of the ways in which animals become intelligible as problems and solutions in urban policy related to sustainable development. Animals are included in policy as problems to be managed and as solutions to mitigating the effects of climate change. In cities, mussels are used to combat pollution, insect hotels are built to bolster pollination, and ruminants are mobilized to graze on urban land and waste. Some municipalities even provide animals with urban infrastructure so they can better weather the effects of climate change: Cleverly designed bridges create new habitats for bats and public space is set aside for wildlife. How animals are included or excluded from urban imaginaries related to the future of cities is not only reflected in discourses related to cities but also in urban policy. Because animals remain underrepresented in conversations related SDG 11: "Sustainable Cities and Communities," Dr Hirtenfelder considers what opportunities and foreclosures are created for animals as subjects when they are constituted as solutions and problems in urban policy and design. One hour lecture in English followed by discussion and networking.

Claudia Hirtenfelder

8 APRIL 2025

Vienna University of Economics and Business
Auditorium: TC.4.05 Auditorium
18:00-20:00



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"A southern grasshopper mouse prepares to attack an Arizona bark scorpion"
picture by Matthew and Ashlee Rowe, National Geographic

Genetic Pain Surgery with Molecular Scissors? Animal Disenhancement in the Context of Genome Editing

The advent of CRISPR/Cas9 and other modern gene-editing technologies has opened up unprecedented possibilities for modifying research animals. Following this technological progress, the possibility of genetically disenhancing animals' ability to feel pain and pain-related suffering (hereafter referred to as "GPD" for genetic pain disenhancement) is currently being discussed as an innovative and potentially powerful solution to mitigate the ethical challenges of animal research, farm animal husbandry, and, ultimately, the suffering of wild animals. The idea of altering research animals and livestock to enable specific uses by humans emerged during the 1980s and 1990s. The fundamental concept is to adapt the phenotype of an animal so that it is better suited to life in the (otherwise harmful) conditions associated with specific uses, such as animal experimentation or meat production. With reference to the latest biotechnological developments and the advancement of genome-editing methods, **Dr Samuel Camenzind's** lecture will address the current state of research on the breeding of pain-free animals. It will also explore biotechnological, philosophical, and ethical issues that have not received sufficient attention in the current debate on GPD. One hour lecture in English followed by discussion and networking.

Samuel Camenzind



14 MAY 2025

University of Vienna
Neues Institutsgebäude (NIG), Hörsaal 2H
17:00-19:00



From Zoopticon to Democratic Spectacle: Foucault Goes to the (Schönbrunn) Zoo

www.viennaanimalstudies.com



Humboldt Penguin at Schönbrunn Zoo taken by Alfred Franz (Pexels))

In this talk, **Dr Carlo Salzani** analyzes the early development of the modern zoo using Foucault's models of power as a theoretical grid and the Schönbrunn Zoo as an example. In the chapter on the panopticon of *Discipline and Punish* (1975), Foucault famously drew a parallel between Jeremy Bentham's panopticon and the radial structure of the Versailles menagerie, the first "modern" zoo, arguing that both the zoo and the prison are expressions of the same disciplinary matrix. In the wake of this comment, many scholars have analyzed the zoo as a "zoopticon" (Ralph Acampora), a space of enforced confinement structured around visual regimes of control. Dr Salzani applies this analysis to the Schönbrunn Zoo, which was completed in 1752, almost a century after the Versailles Menagerie, when the French panoptic model was being challenged and gradually replaced by the new garden philosophy coming from England. In 1778, the zoo at Schönbrunn was opened to the public free of charge and soon became a very popular attraction for Viennese from all social classes, exemplifying the transition from the traditional menagerie (royal and private) to the modern zoo (public and open). Dr Salzani discusses these developments and transformations and what they meant for both the human spectators and the nonhuman inmates.



11 JUNE 2025

University of Vienna
Neues Institutsgebäude (NIG), Hörsaal 2H
17:00-18:30



About the Speakers:



Dr Doris Schneeberger is a Postdoctoral University Assistant at the Institute for Change Management and Management Development at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria. As part of her current research, she focuses on the role of nonhuman animals in organizations from a business ethics perspective. She has published her research in Business Ethics, Environment and Responsibility, and The Oxford Handbook of Animal Organization Studies. Doris is also the founder of [Transformations Austria](#).



Dr Claudia Towne Hirtenfelder is an animal studies scholar and podcaster. She has a PhD in geography from Queen's University, Canada, and is interested in urban animal histories and futures. Claudia is further interested in how creative and spatial methodologies offer opportunities to better position animals as subjects. Claudia is the founder and host of [The Animal Turn](#) and [Animal Highlight](#) podcasts. She is currently an external lecturer in Change Management at the Vienna University of Economics and Business.



Dr Samuel Camenzind is a postdoctoral researcher and APART-GSK fellow (Austrian Academy of Sciences, ÖAW) at the Department of Philosophy at the University of Vienna. He studied at the University of Zurich, the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, and New York University. As a member of the Swiss Federal Ethics Committee on Non-Human Biotechnology (ECNH), he advises federal authorities as part of an independent, interdisciplinary expert committee, providing ethical perspectives on issues related to non-human biotechnology and gene technology. See his [website](#).



Dr Carlo Salzani is Gastforscher at the Messerli Research Institute of Vienna and faculty member of the Paris Institute for Critical Thinking (PICT). His interests include animal ethics, literary animal studies, animals and politics, and biopolitics.





Vienna Animal Studies

Summer Lecture Series

In collaboration with



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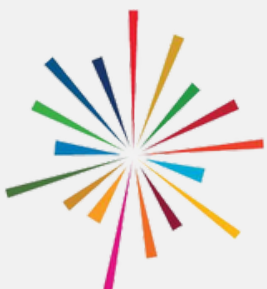
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