

## ★ Imagining multispecies worlds ★



A workshop exploring the margins of coexistence  
based on *just wondering...* video-essays



Is the present fixed, calling for just one future, or is it moving, as well, in many directions? How does our existence feel amidst the crises we are in (pandemic, climate, ecological, economic, and so on)? How are we situated, in relation to other animals? And does knowing stuff help with anything?

This workshop will draw from a mixed bag of theories, inspired by antispeciesism, posthumanism, critical animal studies, feminism and ecological thinking to think/act/create beyond a present that is dipped in crisis. We will do so not only through theory, but also by paying attention to different artforms, from literature, to film, music and the visual arts. Meetings will consist of screenings and discussions based on *just wondering...* videos.

Participants will research ideas theoretically, but also creatively and in practice. You do not need any prior creative skills to participate, just curiosity. The final outcome will be a video produced by *just wondering...*, with concepts explored with the students within the workshop, imagining multispecies futures.

The workshop consists of five online meetings and one screening in Venice, including a collaborative writing project with the final outcome of a video-essay.

The final meeting will be hosted by Teatro Ca' Foscari at Santa Marta. It will be open to the public, consisting of screenings, including the screening of the final video, followed by a discussion between Maria Martelli, Prof. Federica Timeto and Prof. Miriam De Rosa.



**Workshop coordinator:** Maria Martelli

**Video production:** *just wondering...* (Aron Nor, Mina Mimosa, M. Martelli)

**Workshop proponents:** Prof. Miriam De Rosa and Prof. Federica Timeto

**Online meetings** bi-monthly on Thursday, 17.30-19.30:

April on 14th and 28th, May on 12th and 26th, June on the 9th

**Live screening** at Teatro Ca' Foscari at Santa Marta:  
September, 2022, Date TBD

Maximum 15 participants.

Time allocated by participants:

12 hours in presence, 13 hours individual work



## Workshop outline

### WEEK I – Introduction. The context of education

We will do introductions, presentations and discussions regarding the workshop.

We will watch and discuss *Critical Pedagogy Beyond Humanism - After Paulo Freire*

<https://www.justwondering.io/critical-pedagogy-beyond-humanism/>

### WEEK II – Situating ourselves within the current crises

Reflection **A** due.

We will watch and discuss „*we fly, we crawl, we swim - a short film about climate justice*”

<https://www.justwondering.io/we-fly-we-crawl-we-swim/>

Helpful guides:

- Look and think about some of Hartmurt Kiewert’s paintings  
<https://hartmutkiewert.de/>
- Read the short story “She Unnames Them” by Ursula K. Le Guin  
<https://biblioklept.org/2014/10/17/she-unnames-them-ursula-k-le-guin/>
- Consider Silvia Moldovan’s object & video installation “Animal Armchair”



### WEEK III – Our bodies, other bodies. Ability and disability

Reflection **B** due.

We will watch and discuss *Animal & Disability Liberation - with Sunaura Taylor*

<https://www.justwondering.io/animal-disability-liberation-with-sunaura-taylor/>

Helpful guides:

- Listen to The Animal Turn - Re-Design with Michelle Westerlaken  
<https://www.theanimalturnpodcast.com/s3e9>
- Look and think about some of Sunaura Taylor’s paintings
- Read the short story “The great silence” by Ted Chiang



# Workshop outline

## WEEK IV – Multispecies political communities

Reflection **C** due.  
Letter **I** due.

We will watch and discuss *A political theory of animal rights - after Sue Donaldson & Will Kymlicka*

<https://www.justwondering.io/a-political-theory-of-animal-rights/>

*Helpful guides:*

- Read “Dear General John J. Pershing” by EvaMarie Lindhal  
[https://www.pi.lu.se/sites/pi.lu.se/files/exploring\\_the\\_animal\\_turn\\_hela.pdf](https://www.pi.lu.se/sites/pi.lu.se/files/exploring_the_animal_turn_hela.pdf)
- Listen to Beyond Species - Microsanctuaries  
(<https://beyond-species.simplecast.com/episodes/microsanctuaries>)
- Watch the film “Stray” by Elizabeth Lo.
- Think about the arguments in “Beyond speciesism, beyond humanism, beyond”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YetscA1JHTI>

## WEEK V – The past greeting the future

Reflection **D** due.  
Letter **II** due.

We will think about and work on the final text.  
We will watch and discuss *The wild things are coming*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5N2jWGvM5wQ>

*Helpful guides:*

- Read On being prey by Val Plumwood
- Listen to Children of Compost - Sofia Zadar  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBC5Ln6zMS4>
- Read The Camille Stories by Donna Haraway
- Watch “Making kin beyond babies - after Donna Haraway”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UtrXjE9gPQ>



## Assignments

Each meeting consists of a screening of one video and discussions around it and around the previous reflections assigned. *Helpful guides* are not mandatory, however they will help when checked prior to the meeting.

*Reflections A, B, C, D* will consist of written explorations based on class discussions and some independent research and reading. (400 - 1000 words).

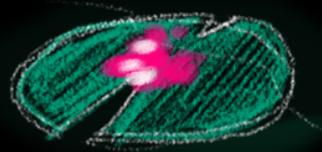
*Letters I and II* will consist of written and embodied explorations regarding human-animal relationships (200 - 500 words). These can be as creative and experimental as you wish.

*Final project:* We will be working together with the previous ideas and notes gathered to collate and edit a text (1000 - 2000 words) that will be made into an illustrated video-essay. Final version due on the 17th of June.

End of workshop live meeting: Screenings and discussions, open to the public.

## After the workshop, participants will learn to:

- ★ interrogate the human/animal divide
- ★ think with concepts such as “anthropocentrism”, “speciesism”, “multispecies justice” and intersections of oppressions
- ★ critically question given social categories (such as “animal”, “problem animal”)
- ★ reflect in writing on complex questions
- ★ collaborate on a text for a video-essay



## Ground rules

- ✓ Be present & listen to each other with care and respect.
- ✓ Present the context from which you are speaking - situate your knowledge.
- ✓ Be careful in your use of words (as body language is missing online).
- ✓ Keep the webcam open as much as possible, if not, participate in the chat.
- ✓ You can edit the name you want us to call you & add the pronouns you use.



## Extra Reading Explorations

*(not mandatory)*

- *Beasts of Burden: Animal and Disability Liberation* by Sunaura Taylor
- *When Animals Speak: Toward an Interspecies Democracy* by Eva Meijer
- *Zoopolis: A political theory of animal rights* by Sue Donaldson & Will Kymlicka
- *Ecofeminism: Feminist Intersections with Other Animals and the Earth* by Carol J. Adams (Editor), Lori Gruen (Editor)
- *Making Kin not Population: Reconceiving Generations* by Adele Clarke (Editor), Donna J. Haraway (Editor)
- *What Would Animals Say If We Asked the Right Questions?* by Vinciane Despret
- *Queer and Trans Voices: Achieving Liberation Through Consistent Anti-Oppression* by Julia Feliz Brueck (Editor), Z. Zane McNeill (Editor)
- *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- *Aphro-ism: Essays on Pop Culture, Feminism, and Black Veganism from Two Sisters* Paperback by Aph Ko & Syl Ko

