

# Compassionate Futures

Dismantling the Dynamics of Power  
and Violence in Human - Animal Relationships

International conference organized by the COMPASS  
Research Group - Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Call For Abstracts

**Barcelona**  
**17-18-19**  
**June 2025**



# Compassionate Futures

## Dismantling the Dynamics of Power and Violence in Human-Animal Relationships

International conference organized by the COMPASS Research Group  
Barcelona, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, **17-18-19 June 2025**

**Compassionate Futures: Dismantling the Dynamics of Power and Violence in Human-Animal Relationships** is a critical exploration of the multifaceted power structures that govern human-animal interactions and the ethical imperative to reimagine these relationships with compassion at the forefront. This conference will bring together scholars, professionals, and advocates from diverse fields to engage in a thorough examination of the social, political, economic, and cultural forces that continue to perpetuate the exploitation, oppression, and marginalisation of non-human animals (NHA hereafter).

The event aims to dissect the mechanisms by which humans assert dominance over NHA, from legal frameworks and economic interests to cultural narratives and institutional practices that sustain speciesism. In analysing these dynamics, we will interrogate how power operates to maintain the objectification and instrumentalization of NHA, often for human benefit, while reflecting on alternative pathways rooted in justice, empathy, and ethical responsibility.

Central to this conference is the exploration of how to distinguish between genuine ethical progress and superficial humane-washing. Humane-washing, often used to placate public concern, obscures the persistence of exploitative practices while allowing industries and institutions to maintain business as usual under the guise of reform. The conference will critically engage with the strategies and narratives that perpetuate this deception and, importantly, will highlight pathways to promote authentic, transformative change in how we relate to and treat NHA.

The conference also seeks to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on the intersectionality of animal oppression with other forms of violence and discrimination, such as racism, sexism, and environmental degradation, highlighting the importance of solidarity across social justice movements. By dismantling the dynamics of power and violence that structure human-animal relationships, **Compassionate Futures** envisions a world where NHA are recognized not as objects, but as subjects deserving of respect, dignity, and compassion.

Ultimately, this event invites participants to reflect, collaborate, and contribute to the creation of a more just and compassionate future for all beings, with a particular focus on identifying and overcoming the many strategies that simulate progress while obstructing real and transformative change.

### **Other themes**

The conference also welcomes papers focused on any topic critically addressing nonhuman animals' exploitation from a social science or humanities perspective, including but not limited to the following themes:

- Animal advocacy and activism
- Animal ethics
- Animal law
- Animal liberation
- Animal liberation as a social movement
- Animal oppression and intersectionality
- Animal rights
- Animal sanctuaries studies
- Critical animal and media studies
- Culture-Nature dualism and its criticism
- Ethology and social perceptions of animals
- Interspecies justice
- Multispecies politics
- Nonhuman animals and ableism
- Nonhuman animals and agency
- Nonhuman animals and capitalism
- Nonhuman animals and colonialism
- Nonhuman animals and communication
- Nonhuman animals and critical race studies
- Nonhuman animals and critical theory
- Nonhuman animals and feminisms
- Nonhuman animals and queer studies
- Nonhuman animals and oppression theories
- Nonhuman animals and political theory
- Nonhuman animals and social class
- Nonhuman animals and social justice
- Nonhuman animals and social theory
- Nonhuman animals, language and representation
- Normative aspects of animal liberation
- Vegan studies

The conference encourages the approach of critical animal studies and non-speciesist perspectives on all sorts of discrimination, oppression, and abuse towards animals used in farms, labs, fashion, and entertainment, among others, including animals living in nature.

## Important deadlines

Start of Abstract Submission: 15 December 2024

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15 February 2025

Decisions on abstracts will be notified by: 15 March 2025

## Submission guidelines

All abstracts must be written in English.

The abstracts should include:

- Title of 30 words maximum
- Text of 500 words maximum
- Must be anonymised (do not include name, surnames, contact details or bio in-text)

The number of submitted abstracts per author is limited to two.

**Abstracts must be submitted to:** <https://eventum.upf.edu/127952/detail/compassionate-futures-dismantling-the-dynamics-of-power-and-violence-in-human-animal-relationships-.html>

## Registration fees (all include breaks and lunch):

- With paper presentation: 150€
  - 100€ for unemployed people, students without grants and individuals with low income
- Without paper presentation (only attendance): 75€
  - 50€ for unemployed people, students without grants and individuals with low income

## Other information

All food provided at the conference will be vegan, with options available for those with food allergies.

For more information about the conference, please email the organizing committee at [olatz.aranceta@upf.edu](mailto:olatz.aranceta@upf.edu)

Conference website: <https://eventum.upf.edu/127952/detail/compassionate-futures-dismantling-the-dynamics-of-power-and-violence-in-human-animal-relationships-.html>

