

## Bovine Scholarship Workshop

30-31 March 2022

After the success of the first Bovine Scholarship Workshop hosted in October 2021, we are pleased to host the second Bovine Scholarship Workshop on 30-31 March 2022.

This workshop brings together scholars working in a variety of disciplinary and empirical contexts who ask questions of bovine relations from a multitude of historical, geographical, gendered, and phenomenological contexts. Bovines were domesticated over 10,000 years ago and are currently found across the globe, yet there remains much to learn about their variegated histories, geographies, and lives across a range of human cultural and social contexts. This is despite the centrality of bovine bodies to human pursuits of agriculture, colonisation, and capitalism, as well as their implication in the climate breakdown. As social research on bovines emerges from all continents, the Bovine Scholarship Workshop will allow for deeper reflections on how different bovine stories are connected and/or produce varied realities and knowledges.

This workshop consequently creates a soft infrastructure for researchers interested in bovine scholarship, enabling researchers to connect across institutional, international, and disciplinary boundaries. It gathers researchers with an interest in 'bovine scholarship' to share, learn, and engage in knowledge creation with one another. The workshop is meant to further a discussion around the following questions:

- How have bovine-human relations manifested in a variety of contexts?
- How does this disrupt or challenge the simple narratives of bovines as well as of the ways in which human-bovine relations have manifested?
- What value is there in focusing on a specific species for understanding human environmental and economic relations?
- How can scholars working on the same species but from different localities and disciplinary backgrounds learn from, complicate, and contribute to multispecies social science?

The workshop has a limited number of attendees mostly joining online, yet there is a social event arranged in Liège (Belgium) on 30<sup>th</sup> March for those attending in-person. There are a total of 22 people participating in the workshop, with only 8 presentations. Based on participants' research interests the workshop has been arranged according to 3 broad themes: 1) Being and Defining Bovines, 2) Bovine Economies and Technologies, and 3) Bovine Mobilities and Climate Change. Our emphasis is on discussion so in each of these sessions there will be ample opportunity to explore these topics and collectively generate ideas and points of discussion. On the second day we will also have a session that is dedicated discussion and reflection of these ideas.

Thank you for participating in this workshop. We look forward to getting to know you and having some great bovine discussions.

Kindest regards,

Claudia Hirtenfelder ([17ch38@queensu.ca](mailto:17ch38@queensu.ca)), Andrea Petitt ([andrea.petitt@gender.uu.se](mailto:andrea.petitt@gender.uu.se)), Adam Searle ([asearle@uliege.be](mailto:asearle@uliege.be)), and François Thoreau ([fthoreau@uliege.be](mailto:fthoreau@uliege.be)).

## Program Layout

### About *The Body Societal* ERC project

Genomics technologies promise to shape the ideal animal of the future. Thus far, the social sciences have mostly taken interest in the medical domain with the Human Genome Project and its aftermath. However, many fast-paced developments are occurring in livestock genomics. This has become a mundane genomics infrastructure, routinely used in late capitalist societies. This infrastructure offers to solve pressing societal issues, such as improving the health of animals and humans, lowering their environmental impact, and enhancing the biodiversity. Focusing on the case of cattle livestock, the BoS project aims to describe and analyze how societal values are being translated in bovine bodies. It asks the following guiding research questions: How are values such as health, biodiversity, and the environment incorporated in cattle selection and reproduction? Conversely, how are bodies transformed by these values, and through which techniques and practices? To answer those questions, the BoS project will provide a political anthropology of the genomic infrastructure in practices, contributing to the sociology of scientific knowledge, science and technology studies and the environmental humanities.

If the infrastructure is the mediator between the lab and the “wider world of social actors” (as the project puts it), practices are the genuine loci where this mediation occurs and the frictions that necessarily come with it. As the project has left this notion of practices undetermined, it opens multiple fields of investigation; “de-extinction” of disappeared breeds of cows, rewilding of or ferality dynamics with cows, enrolment of cows in boundary tracing (including scientific and epistemic boundaries), politics of multispecies production/reproduction, new markets creation and valuation processes, practices of methane reduction targeted to cows, and so on.

### Presentation Sessions

Sessions 2, 3, and 4 include presentations. In each of these presentations’ speakers will be given 15 minutes to give their presentation. Some of these involve work in progress and others are giving presentations on already developed ideas. We ask that speakers please speak for 15 minutes or less to allow more time for discussion. Following the presentations there will be 15 minutes for a panel discussion. The panel discussion will be an opportunity for the speakers and some identified attendees with an interest in these themes to have an open-ended conversation. This conversation will then open to the rest of the attendees for the final 10-15 minutes of the session. If there are any points that you wanted to raise but time ran out, please keep these handy for our discussion session on Day 2.

### Discussion Sessions

Sessions 1, 5, and 6 are primarily discussion sessions where all attendees will be engaged. Session 1 is focused on orientation, session 5 on a broader discussions and reflections, and session 6 is focused on the Bovine Scholarship Network. These will primarily be open-ended discussions and they will also involve break-out rooms. More instructions will be given at the workshop itself.

## Bovine Scholarship Network

At the first Bovine Scholarship Workshop we established the Bovine Scholarship Network. As we currently imagine it, the objectives of the network include:

- Knowledge sharing and networking: To create a space in which scholars working on similar subject matter but from different disciplinary backgrounds and social geographies can work with and learn from one another, charting a way for future collaboration and knowledge production.
- Capacity Building: To give scholars the opportunity to learn from and work closely with other scholars with similar research interests.
- Collaboration: To forge new avenues of collaboration between individuals, departments and universities.
- Knowledge Innovation: To expand and consider different ways of knowing and thinking about multi-species relations and stories.
- Knowledge Production: To work towards the creation of an edited volume, and to also develop some popular science content on the topic.

We discussed these goals at the first Bovine Scholarship Workshop and felt that the workshops themselves were already doing a great deal to achieving some of these goals. We decided, however, that before we start working towards edited volumes and the like that it was necessary to establish some more infrastructure for the group. To that end, we are trying to ensure that every workshop is hosted in collaboration with a different project or group (for Workshop 2 that is the BoS Project, see more below) and establishing a site on Humanities Commons. During Session 5 there will be an opportunity to discuss this project more as well as some time towards the development of the Network.

At the first Bovine Scholarship Workshop we unpacked and discussed what people would like from a Bovine Scholarship Network. Two main ideas emerged from these discussions: 1) Was to continue to facilitate these workshops; and 2) to start to build infrastructure that can ensure the longevity of the group.

### Humanities Commons

We have created a group for the Network on Humanities Commons and the next step in developing the network is engaging with the site and populating it with content. We are going to use one of the workshop sessions to begin this process by offering up some time in the program to write reflections about what you have learnt at the workshop. These can take many forms but the hope is that we can post some of these on the commons and continue to engage with each others' ideas beyond the workshop. Sharing papers is not a requirement of participating in this workshop but if you think others would benefit from seeing some of your stuff ahead of time think of uploading a discussion or some documents.

We will use the final session (Session 6) to think of what the next steps for the Network should be. Please also feel free to come to Session 6 with ideas for what you think would make the Network useful to you.

## Program

### DAY 1

DAY 1 – 30 March 2022 (13:00-17:00 CET)	
Session 1 (Introductions)	
13:00-13:10	Introductions and logistics (Chair: <b>Claudia Hirtenfelder</b> )
13:10-13:35	Ice breaker and discussion
13:35-13:50	About the BoS Project (Mention prompt)
13:50-14:00	Break
Session 2 (Bovine Economies and Technologies)	
14:00-14:10	Intro (Chair: <b>François Thoreau</b> )
14:10-14:25	<b>Nina Ferrante</b> and <b>Daniele Valisena</b> - Mistero and his legacy. Memory, Technologies, and Affections in the Italian Cattle Farming during the Green Revolution
14:25-14:40	<b>Taija Kaarlenkaski</b> - Visiting the Milking Robot: Multispecies Agencies, Technology and Gender in Contemporary Finnish Dairy Husbandry
14:40-14:55	<b>Thomas DuBois</b> - North China as cattle country: a history on four feet
14:55-15:10	Panel Discussion (Presenters, <b>Scout Calvert, Annika Lonkila, Megan Tracy</b> )
15:10-15:25	Plenum Discussion (Everyone)
15:25-15:45	Break
Session 3 (Being and Defining Bovines)	
15:45-15:55	Intros (Chair: <b>Andrea Petitt</b> )
15:55-16:10	<b>María Ruiz Carreras</b> - How the European Dairy Industry lobbies and think tanks normalize and naturalize the exploitation of nursing cows through their discourse
16:10-16:25	<b>Hannah Bradley</b> - Cow knowledge and cattle cartographies of the Head of Kachemak Bay, Alaska
16:25-16:40	Panel Discussion (Presenters, <b>Lucie Nayak, Simon Vanderstraeten, Michael Glover, Roxane Gabet</b> )
16:40-16:55	Plenum Discussion (Everyone)
16:55-17:00	Close
Evening social activity	
18:00-evening	Informal dinner in Liège for those able to attend in person:  Brasserie La Sauvenière Pl. Xavier-Neujean 12, 4000 Liège

DAY 2

DAY 2 – 31 March 2022 (13:00-17:00 CET)	
Session 4 (Bovine Mobilities and Climate Change)	
13:00-13:10	Intro and logistics (Chair: <b>Adam Searle</b> )
13:10-13:25	<b>Catie Gressier</b> and <b>Cameo Dalley</b> - Cattle, Country, and the Pursuit of Belonging in Australia's West
13:25-13:40	<b>Mark Moritz</b> - Interspecies Adaptation to Climate Change in Pastoral Systems
13:40-13:55	<b>François Thoreau</b> - The Body Societal: Unfolding Genomics Infrastructure in Cattle Livestock Selection and Reproduction
13:55-14:10	Panel Discussion (Presenters, <b>Jenske Bal</b> , <b>Camille Bellet</b> , <b>Hanna Wernersson</b> )
14:10-14:25	Plenum Discussion (Everyone)
14:25-14:45	Break
Session 5 (Bovine Discussion)	
14:45-14:55	Discussion Explanation (Chair: <b>Claudia</b> )
14:55-15:15	Breakout Rooms 1 (Prompt 1 – BoS Project)
15:15-15:35	Breakout Rooms 2 (Prompt 2 - Reflections)
15:35-15:50	Plenum Discussion
15:50-16:15	Reflection Writing
16:15-16:30	Break
Session 6 (The Future and The Network)	
16:30-16:50	Future of the Bovine Scholarship Network (Chair: <b>Andrea</b> )
16:50-17:00	Closing the Workshop

**Workshop Zoom Link:**

The link will be active for the full workshop. If you would like to ‘hangout’ and drink your coffee with others, feel free to do so. 😊

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://queensu.zoom.us/j/98806412623?pwd=SkR2SUtjVTIiNXIva0NncGRkZ2d5UT09>

Meeting ID: 988 0641 2623

Passcode: 044153

## Abstracts and Bios

In order of appearance in the program

### Session 2: Bovine Economies and Technologies

Nina Ferrante and Daniele Valisena (Presenters)

University of Liege

[antonia.ferrante@uliege.be](mailto:antonia.ferrante@uliege.be) / [daniele.valisena@uliege.be](mailto:daniele.valisena@uliege.be)

#### **Mistero and his legacy. Memory, Technologies, and Affections in the Italian Cattle Farming during the Green Revolution.**

The village of Lugo, sitting between the cities of Imola and Ravenna in the Northern-Italian region Emilia-Romagna, has long been one of the most important bovine markets of the Po Plain. There, in 1946, the winner of the annual bovine fair was Mistero, a magnificent exemplary of the once well-known razza romagnola, a local breed of cattle. Remembered in local stories because of its size and fame as prize winner, Mistero toured all the region as a breeding bull for years, contributing in re-affirming the fame of Emilia-Romagna cattle farming in the years that preceded Italy's Economic Boom. But what are the socio-cultural legacy of Mistero and his breeds to present-time cattle farming in Northern Italy? What kind of technological and socio-cultural structures complemented the modernization of the cattle breeding sector? Through the history of Mistero and his offspring it is possible to reconstruct the economic, social, and ecological transformation that characterized Italian cattle farming from the post-war to the Green Revolution years. By looking at family albums and cattle raising reports kept by the Pattuelli family, as well as through the combined use of archival, oral history materials, and visual analysis, this presentation aims at investigating the technological and socio-cultural structures and values, as well as the gendered and more-than-human relationships that characterized the modernization of Italian cattle farming in the Po Plain.

#### **Bios:**

Nina Ferrante is a queer transfeminist terrona activist and scholar. As a post-doc in the ERC The BOS project she will contribute to the critical perspective through the feminist, queer, postcolonial epistemologies, critical animal studies and other imaginaries. She holds a PhD in Cultural and Postcolonial Studies from the University of Naples l'Orientale and is co-founder of TechnocultureResearchUnit and Femminismi Futuri. As postdoc in University IUAV of Venice, she developed a project on the theoretical and technological composting of queer, performance and political ecologies practices and theories, that is about to be published in a book by Sossella Editore.

Daniele Valisena, Ph.D. in History of Science, Technology and the Environment. Since October 2021, I work as a post-doctoral researcher in environmental humanities at the University of Liège, Belgium, and as a part-time lecturer in history of migration and the environment at NYU Florence. From fall 2015 to June 2020, I worked at the KTH - Royal Institute of Technology within the KTH

Environmental Humanities Laboratory. My PhD program was part of the ITN – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Network ENHANCE. My research investigates the links between environmental history and human and non-human mobility, also touching upon circulation of knowledge, matter, and science. Currently, I'm part of the BoS - The Body Societal research group, working on the historical developing of the interplay between genomics, bovine bodies and breeds, and societal values.

### Taija Kaarlenkaski (Presenter)

University of Turku

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### **Visiting the Milking Robot: Multispecies Agencies, Technology and Gender in Contemporary Finnish Dairy Husbandry**

During the past fifty years, animal production, along with other branches of agriculture, has intensified and industrialized rapidly, resulting in fewer and larger farms and increased use of technology. For example, in dairy husbandry, technologies such as automated feeding systems and manure removal, as well as automated milking systems (AMS) have become more common during the recent decades. The first AMS, in which milking is conducted by a robot, were put into operation on Finnish dairy farms at the beginning of the 21st century, and by the end of the year 2020, nearly 24 per cent of dairy farms in Finland used AMS. There has been abundant research on AMS internationally, ranging from animal science to diverse approaches from social sciences. Nevertheless, questions regarding the gendered aspects of robotic milking have been scarcely explored. In this paper, I will discuss the technologization of dairy husbandry using material gathered by fieldwork on Finnish dairy farms using AMS, as well as articles published in a professional magazine of cattle husbandry (Nauta). I will focus on the questions of agency and gender: How are humans and cows perceived as gendered technology users? How does AMS affect the division of work on the farms and how is the technologized work distributed between male and female farmers? Due to the rather recent history of strict gendered division of work in dairy farming, the case of Finland provides an interesting field for exploring the entanglements of gender, technology and multispecies working environments.

#### **Bio:**

Taija Kaarlenkaski received her PhD in Folklore Studies at the University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu campus, in 2012. In 2013, the UEF granted her the Young Researcher Award for her dissertation. She holds the title of docent in Cultural animal studies at the University of Turku (2020). In her research, she has specialized in human-cattle relationships and the history and technologization of Finnish dairy husbandry. Currently, she works as a Senior Research Fellow in the research project Culture of Unsustainability (<https://sites.utu.fi/unsus/en/>) at the University of Turku. In this project, she continues her research on the contemporary technologized dairy farms, as well as examines the cultural, political, national and economic meanings related to milk and milk consumption in Finland.

## Thomas David DuBois (Presenter)

Beijing Normal University  
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### **North China as cattle country: a history on four feet**

Historical space divides around topography, trade, and culture. Understanding regional boundaries and structure provides insight into the flow of both material and cultural resources. In China, scholars have proposed different ways to define regions by climate, crops, and culture, but animals have been noticeably absent from their considerations.

This project seeks to define north China as cattle country, a region demarcated by husbandry, trade, use, and cultural interaction with a variety of native cattle breeds. To do this, we are currently parsing local records (gazetteers) from 200 counties to determine the geography of three overlapping criteria: boundaries and networks of cattle trade systems, the use of cattle labor in agriculture, and cattle-related customs, including beef consumption and the worship of a deity known as the Cattle King (niuwang), from about 1850 through the 1940s. Although the work is ongoing, initial data show that cattle trade traversed and linked pastoral and agrarian regions, but stopped at the boundary between wheat and rice agriculture, and that cultural representations in many places long outlived the actual presence of cattle.

Beyond a new understanding of Chinese geography, I think the eventual value of this approach will be to highlight the diverse types of human-cattle interaction, comparable to the insight derived from work on diverse “pig-human societies.”

### **Bio:**

Thomas David DuBois is a historian of modern China, and Professor of Humanities at Beijing Normal University. Based largely on fieldwork conducted in China, his work on China's cattle systems combines the perspectives of political economy, business history, and food studies (a course that he teaches at BNU). His publications are at <https://bnu.academia.edu/ThomasDavidDuBois>

## Scout Calvert (Panelist)

University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
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Scout Calvert is a research data librarian at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She grew up on a cattle ranch in northern Arizona, a settler descendent of farmers, miners, ranchers, and schoolteachers. Scout earned an M.A. in Information Resources and Library Science from University of Arizona, then a Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Cruz, in History of Consciousness, a distinctive interdisciplinary graduate program, focusing on science and technology in society. Her current projects trace the social aspects of data-centric knowledge

## 2<sup>nd</sup> BOVINE SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP: PROGRAM

production among genealogists, cattle breeders, and citizen historians. Dr. Calvert also investigates data infrastructure and practice in libraries and among academic researchers, informing data policy issues in academic libraries.

### Annika Lonkila (Panelist)

Finnish Environment Institute

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I am a Human Geographer specialized in Human-Animal Studies and Environmental Policy. I am currently finalizing my PhD dissertation, titled “Making invisible cows? Genomic knowledge and more-than-human agency in Finnish dairy breeding”. I work as researcher at the Finnish Environment Institute, where my research projects deal with sustainable food system transition and questions of justice. I am specifically interested in multispecies research ethics and multispecies care.

### Megan Tracy (Panelist)

James Madison University

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Megan Tracy is an Associate Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at James Madison University. Her previous research focused on the transmission of food safety standards and the governance of food and health risks amidst increasingly globalized food production and distribution. An earlier project, supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation, examined contestations over the meaning of transparency and food safety following several high-profile food safety scandals in China and focused on the implementation of internationally coordinated food safety standards and the expansion of accountability and transparency norms within China’s domestic dairy industry. Her current project examines the gendering of the bovine maternal microbiome and its impact on material and social relations of production.

### François Thoreau (Chair)

Université de Liège

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François Thoreau is Research Professor at the University of Liege within Spiral research Centre. He was awarded an ERC-funded Starting Grant for inquiring into the making of the bovine genome and its interspecific consequences, together with a great team of researchers. François teaches Ecology & Politics in the Master of Science & Technology Studies at U Liège and commits to several activist undertakings.

## Session 3: Being and Defining Bovines

María Ruiz Carreras (Presenter)

Lund University

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### **Discourse of the European Dairy Industry (EDI) lobbyists from an anti speciesist perspective**

The general objective of my Ph.D. research was to study the discourse of the European Dairy Industry (EDI) lobbyists from an anti speciesist perspective. To achieve this, the EDI was examined as an economic and influential actor, in order to identify the main companies and pressure groups, and the discourse that the latter construct with respect to the animals that the industry exploits, the cows, and to the nutritional recommendations that end up in the dietary guidelines. Through documentary analysis and critical discourse analysis, it was concluded that the dairy industry constitutes an economic and corporate framework that dedicates a great effort to exert influence on food recommendations. The analysis showed that the EDI interest groups have adapted their narrative to the current values of concern for science, health and even animal welfare, while contradicting them. Outstanding among the contradictions is the denial of the interests of animals exploited by their maternal segregations through a representation that objectifies them and obviates their capacity for sentience, autonomy and individuality.

### **Bio**

María Ruiz Carreras holds a Ph.D. in Communication; a MComm from Rey Juan Carlos University (Madrid, Spain); a Master in Translation and a Bachelor's in Advertising and Public Relations. She is currently looking for post-doc opportunities, while she works as an hourly lecturer at Lund University (Sweden) and a thesis supervisor at Malmö University. She is a member of the Lund University Critical Animal Studies Network.

Hannah Bradley (Presenter)

Princeton University

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### **Cow knowledge at the end of the Road: The Fox River Flats**

At the head of Kachemak Bay, thirty miles east past Homer, Alaska, the “End of the Road”, the Fox River Cattlemen’s Association runs four small herds of cattle on their state grazing lease. The lease is run through by three glacial rivers which serve to separate the herds, and overlaps the Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area in its entirety. The cattle graze here from May through October, wintering at the cattlemen’s ranches. The remoteness of the landscape, mostly far from human traffic, and its natural boundaries of ocean, rivers, and mountains, makes hands-off herd management during summer possible. Though cattlemen watch their herds in spring when the

bear-risks are highest, once the rivers rise with summer icemelt, the cows and their spring calves are on their own until the waters ebb enough for yearling beef roundup in fall. They must protect themselves from weather, insects, bears, and wolves, avoid the high tides and mudholes, and avoid poisonous plants. Cow-knowledge of the landscape is evident in their generational knowledge of trail crossings and routes home, their trails etched around obstacles on the flats, and the fact of their survival, though there are risks and losses. In spring, they are difficult to keep home once the grass starts greening, wanting to head for the ocean. In fall, they are apt to be found at the edge of the lease at the gate, already heading up the beach toward the homesteads themselves. By describing cow herds' techniques of mapping and learning the landscape on the Fox River Flats, I hope to better understand how cattle co-create their home landscape, and how cattle management here is influenced by the affordances of geography and by generational cattle knowledge.

### **Bio:**

I am a PhD candidate in cultural anthropology at Princeton University, soon to defend my dissertation "Managing Changing Landscapes in the 'Last Frontier'". My dissertation, which focuses on the aesthetic senses of place influencing knowledge politics and resource management, is based on fieldwork in my hometown of Homer, Alaska, and in the Fox River Valley, with landowners, cattlemen, and state land managers of the Fox River Flats' overlapping trail corridors, grazing lease, and Critical Habitat Area.

### **Lucie Nayak (Panelist)**

University of Liege, LASC

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As a sociologist, initially specialised in the fields of health, disability and sexuality, I have recently turned my attention to the study of relations between animals and humans. My doctoral thesis, obtained at the University of Paris Nanterre (France) and the University of Geneva (Switzerland), was devoted to the analysis of the social treatment of the sexuality of people labelled as "intellectually disable" in France and Switzerland. I then carried out a post-doctoral research (Inserm, Paris, France) dedicated to the access to health care of trans people. Currently, I am a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Liege (Belgium). My research project is entitled "An ethnography of "farm animal" sanctuaries in France and Belgium. Interactions and communication between species outside the context of exploitation". I am also conducting a qualitative research on the theme of "gender and veganism".

### **Simon Vanderstraeten (Panelist)**

University of Liege

[Simon.Vanderstraeten@uliege.be](mailto:Simon.Vanderstraeten@uliege.be)

I did two bachelor's degrees in political sciences and in philosophy at the "Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles", then I made my master's degree in philosophy at the "Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)". I'm now a PhD candidate at "ULiège" and work with a team of 6 people under the direction of François Thoreau. For my master's thesis, I tried to think and develop potential

connections between tracking techniques and the extinction studies using the concepts of trace, sign, presence and absence. My main interests and the topics that make me thrive concern the bodies – the way we define them, the ways we relate to them, the perceptions and worlds they create, the relations they build – classical philosophy, anthropology and ecology. I'm currently particularly into history, practice and philosophy of genomics and I'm also making a fieldwork in the French speaking part of Belgium among different actors dealing with white blue cattle.

### Michael Glover (Panelist)

International Studies Group, University of the Free State  
[hellomichaelspeaking@gmail.com](mailto:hellomichaelspeaking@gmail.com)

I research in the broad field of animal history with a focus on cattle in southern Africa. My primary research interests are cattle history, southern African history, colonial history, animal sentience, and experiential and emotional histories. My PhD was conferred via cotutelle through Leiden University and the University of the Free State in 2021, and was entitled 'Cattle and colonialism: an animal-centred history of southern Africa 1652 to 1980s'. I am currently a postdoctoral fellow with the International Studies Group, at the University of the Free State in South Africa, and am based in Cape Town. I have a BA (Hons) in Philosophy (Rhodes), a PGDip in Education Technology (UCT), and an MA in Economic History (UCT). I've published internationally in open education and open pedagogies, animal history, and philosophy. I'm a lifetime Associate Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. Presently, I'm working on an edited volume on animals' subjectivity in animal histories, adjusting my thesis into a monograph, and I'm writing papers on the etymology of cattle, a critique of decoloniality from an animal perspective, a methodological argument for species-specific and eudaimonic conception of animal agency, and a chapter on cattle's experiences of formal decolonisation in Botswana in the 1960s.

### Roxane Gabet (Panelist)

University of Liege  
[roxane.gabet@uliege.be](mailto:roxane.gabet@uliege.be)

Roxane Gabet is a PhD student currently pursuing her doctoral thesis as part of the ERC project « The Body Societal: Unfolding Genomics Infrastructure in Cattle Livestock Selection and Reproduction » led by Dr. François Thoreau. Following a BA in political science, she obtained a master's degree in anthropology at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). For her MA thesis, she conducted an ethnography of a voice hearers' group, articulating an anthropology of mind, relations to invisible entities, medical anthropology and Mad studies. Her research interests are situated at the intersection of pragmatic sociology and Indigenous studies. She has now turned to animal genomics, particularly bovine selection and reproduction, in a context of continued ecological damage. In an approach borrowing from critical animal studies, feminist STS and environmental humanities, she will be following scientists in their laboratory practices and trying to understand how their knowledge transform the bodies of cows, as well as those who care about them.

**Andrea Petitt (Chair)**

Uppsala University

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I am a post-doc researcher at the Centre for Gender Research at Uppsala University, where I have worked since I defended my PhD. Thesis in Rural Development in 2016. My main research interests focus on gender and human-animal relations in agriculture and I use multispecies ethnographic methodologies and creative methods for data collection. Previously I have worked with questions around cowboy masculinities in horseback cattle ranching in the Canadian west, women's cattle ownership in Botswana and the breeding of traditional Swedish Mountain Cattle. Currently, I am working in an international post-doc project financed by the Swedish Research Council (VR) on gendered human-horse-cattle relations around working horses and cattle ranching as well as equestrian sport and tourism focusing on cattle.

## Session 4: Bovine Mobilities and Climate Change

### Catie Gressier and Cameo Dalley (Presenters)

University of Western Australia

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### **Cattle, Country, and the Pursuit of Belonging in Australia's West**

Of Australia's early settlers, Mayes (2018, 5) points to the central role of livestock and agricultural production in "establishing moral and ontological proprietorship" and a sense of home on unceded and unfamiliar land. Today, there are as many cattle as people in Australia, and cows continue to play a key role in the legitimisation of settler nationalism and belonging, albeit in emergent, and often contradictory ways. Drawing on ethnography from the Kimberley to the Great Southern, we examine how social and ecological relations in Western Australia's diverse landscapes are mediated through and by cattle. We argue that cattle and conceptualisations of them continue to connect and divide Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, including in struggles over land justice. Cattle are also at the heart of conservation debates, through claims of their potential to destroy or, conversely, regenerate land. We describe how in their relational framing with humans, the treatment of cattle spans commodification to love and connection within farmers' variable value systems, and we seek to understand how settler-descended and more recently arrived non-Indigenous Australians make sense of their place in the contemporary nation via these interspecies relationships.

#### **Bios:**

Catie Gressier is an Australian Research Council (DECRA) Fellow in the Anthropology and Sociology discipline group at the University of Western Australia. Her research examines interspecies relations, foodways, health and illness, and settler identities in Australia and Botswana. Catie's current focus is rare and heritage breed livestock farming and conservation in Australia. She is a Director of the Rare Breeds Trust of Australia, an Editorial Board Member of Anthropological Forum, and the coordinator of the Ecology, People, Place (EcoPeoPle) research network.

Cameo Dalley is a settler descendant scholar and anthropologist at Deakin University's Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation. Her research explores intercultural relations, indigeneity, settler colonialism and belonging in Australia's north, and contemporary manifestations of pastoralism including live export and financialisation. Since 2006 she has conducted field research with Aboriginal people and settlers in Northern Australia, and since 2013 specifically in the Kimberley region. Her family run Brangus cattle in the Border Ranges region of New South Wales. To find out more please visit <https://www.deakin.edu.au/about-deakin/people/cameo-dalley> and tw @CameoDalley

## Mark Moritz (Presenter)

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### **Interspecies Adaptation to Climate Change in Pastoral Systems**

Pastoral mobility is a key adaptive strategy to spatiotemporal variability in resource distributions, but climate change will likely lead to greater variability and unpredictability, and this means that pastoralists will have to adapt their mobility strategies.

The question that we will examine in this project is: how do interspecies communities of herd and household adapt to climate change? Humans and cattle have both practical knowledge when it comes to adaptation to seasonal variability in resource distributions. Moreover, the practical knowledge of herders is shaped by the practical knowledge of the herd (and vice versa) – the knowledge is co-constructed. The decision-making about when and where to move is negotiated between herder and herd – the decision-making emerges out of an interspecies negotiation. The project would examine questions like: What practical knowledge do herd and herders have about adapting to climate change? How are herders “listening” to the herd (and vice versa)? How does the herd “speak” or communicate with herders (and vice versa)? What is the decision-making process like? What kind of interspecies democracy is at work? How successful are these intercultural communities at adapting their mobility patterns to climate change? There is a wide range of variation within and between pastoral systems – for all the questions listed above, we can expect variation in terms of interspecies democracy as well as adaptation to the impacts of climate change in drylands.

One of the questions is whether and how this adaptation of migratory patterns in response to climate change is any different from regular changes in migratory patterns.

#### **Bios:**

Mark Moritz is a professor in the Department of Anthropology at the Ohio State University. He uses a transdisciplinary approach to study complex social-ecological systems. His collaborative research projects with colleagues in the US and Cameroon have examined how pastoralists sustainably use common-pool grazing resources in a situation of open access, whether and how pastoral mobility affects the transmission of infectious livestock diseases, and regime shifts in floodplain fisheries.

## François Thoreau (Presenter)

University of Liège  
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### **The Body Societal: Unfolding Genomics Infrastructure in Cattle Livestock Selection and Reproduction.**

Genomics technologies promise to shape the ideal animal of the future. Thus far, the social sciences have mostly taken interest in the medical domain with the Human Genome Project and its aftermath. However, many fast-pace developments are occurring in livestock genomics. This has become a mundane genomics infrastructure, routinely used in late capitalist societies. This infrastructure offers to solve pressing societal issues, such as improving the health of animals, lowering their environmental impact and enhancing the biodiversity. Focusing on the case of cattle livestock, the BoS project aims to describe and analyse how societal values are being translated in bovine bodies. It asks the following guiding research questions: How are values such as health, biodiversity and the environment incorporated in cattle selection and reproduction? Conversely, how are bodies transformed by these values, and through which techniques and practices?

That abstract answers to an ERC-funded project whose research team has now been put together. This presentation aims at providing an overview of that research project as well as some of his main driving hypothesis.

#### **Bio:**

François Thoreau is Research Professor at the University of Liege within Spiral research Centre. He was awarded an ERC-funded Starting Grant for inquiring into the making of the bovine genome and its interspecific consequences, together with a great team of researchers. François teaches Ecology & Politics in the Master of Science & Technology Studies at U Liège and commits to several activist undertakings.

## Jenske Bal (Panelist)

University of Liège  
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Jenske Bal is a PhD student within the ERC-funded project "The Body Societal: Unfolding Genomics Infrastructure in Cattle Livestock Selection and Reproduction" under François Thoreau. Her research is focused on livestock reproduction and the use of genebanks in the Netherlands. In general, she is interested in topics concerning nature/culture, conservation, and biodiversity. After she finished a bachelor's in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam, she started with the research master 'Cultures of Arts, Science and Technology' in Maastricht. She interned at the Natural History museum in Berlin to research zoo animal breeding practices. After her master's, she participated for a year in the research project "Learning to dance with the virus: regional healthcare governance of COVID-19" by the Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management.

### Camille Bellet (Panelist)

University of Manchester

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I am a Wellcome Trust Research Fellow in Humanities and Social Science at the Centre for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, University of Manchester. I have a background in veterinary medicine and a PhD in Epidemiology and specialise in public health, animal farming and human-animal studies. My research sits at the intersection of medical humanities, animal studies, and science and technology studies. I study how knowledge and practice are constructed on farms and respond to particular sociocultural, institutional and organisational circumstances. Along with contemporary debates in public health and animal ethics, I am interested in the intersection of human-nonhuman animal relations, health and wellbeing in farming. I am currently developing research in the areas of digital sensing and cattle care in farming in France and the United Kingdom, looking at how different sensing devices emerge, are shaped, and impact on the way humans understand and care for cows, human-cow relations, and the ethics of cow care.

### Hanna Charlotta Wernersson (Panelist)

Gothenburg University

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Doctoral student at the School of Global Studies within the field of environmental social science. Her research explores human-animal relations in Western culture, economy, politics, and practice. Hanna's PhD project focuses on the human-animal relationship within the realm of food production and, more specifically, in cattle farming. Hanna has a MSc in socio-ecological resilience from Stockholm Resilience Center. Her work experience include working as a Course Coordinator at the Center for Environment and Development Studies at Uppsala University, Sweden, and as an Agricultural Marketing Specialist for the U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service in Canada. Wernerson also engages with non-academic spheres of action including her work with local food sovereignty through the Ottawa Good Food Box in Canada and the Swedish civil society organisation Stadsmissionen. She is also farming 12 hectares of land, exploring what regenerative farming might mean on the clay soils of western Sweden.

### Adam Searle (Chair)

University of Liege

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Adam Searle is a cultural and environmental geographer whose research broadly examines the relations between humans, other animals, and technologies. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Université de Liège in Belgium, researching 'postgenomic biopolitics' and the politics of genome editing technologies in livestock. This work explores the consequences of novel biotechnologies for environmental governance, and their ontological implications for biological concepts such as species, nature, and extinction. He cofounded the *Digital Ecologies* research group which examines the digitisation, mediation, and representation of nonhuman life.

Claudia Hirtenfelder (Chair of sessions 1 and 5)

Queen's University

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Claudia Hirtenfelder is the host of the award winning podcast [The Animal Turn](#) and is currently a PhD Candidate in Geography and Planning at Queen's University. Her project aims to understand how cows' relationships with cities (Kingston, Ontario in particular) change over time and the ways in which we can know historical animals. She has broader interests in the intersection of geography, urban studies, animal studies, history and power relations. Together with Dr. Carolyn Prouse, Claudia recently published a piece titled: [Milking economies: Multispecies entanglements in the infant formula industry](#). Claudia also has an MSc in the Social Studies of Gender from Lund University in Sweden as well as an MA in Tourism and Management, a BA(Hons) in Political Science and a BA in Journalism from the University of Johannesburg.