

# **Environment and Anthropology**

**By Prof. Marek Konarzewski**

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**Faculty:** Dr hab. Kalina Burnat; Prof. Paweł Golik; Dr Clive Hicks; Prof. Zbigniew Kloch; Prof. Marek Konarzewski (Head of the Section); Dr Monika Kujawska; Dr hab. Łukasz Łuczaj; Prof. Joanna Pijanowska, Dr Sebastian Szymański (Moderator of the Section), Prof. Marek Trippenbach

## **The goals that are to be achieved in the 2020/2021 Academic Year**

The seminar will build upon the topics considered in the year 2019/2020. However, the progress of PhD projects necessitates concentration on more focused areas related to each of the projects. Therefore the seminars of the year 2020-21 will be mostly dedicated to specific subjects proposed by the of the participating PhD students. The main goal will be to expose the participants to the chosen aspects of the PhD projects in order to gain fruitful feedback and cross-fertilization of the ideas. However, to avoid to overly separation of the PhD projects each third seminar will be prepared jointly by all PhD students on the topic bridging all PhD projects.

## **The means that will be used to achieve those goals**

There will be 6 seminars ( 3 seminars/per semester), 3 h each. Two of the three seminars in each semester will be chaired by a respective student. The third seminar in each semester will be prepared jointly by three PhD students participating in the seminar and dedicated to the topic uniting their PhD projects. Each seminar will consist of an introductory presentation by the assigned student or students (45 mins), then shorter interventions followed by general discussion.

## **Proposed dates:**

Thursdays, 12 a.m.- 2:30 p.m., on Nov 5, Dec 3, Jan 14, Feb. 4, March 18 and April 8

## **Evaluation policy**

Student's work will be evaluated based on an aggregated score of his/her performance as a chairman, activities during seminars and short essays prepared after each of the seminar. The essays are supposed to concentrate on the relevance of the subject of the seminar to the participant's PhD research project.

## **Topics of seminars**

### **Nov 5, 2020. Toni Romani. The evolution of beds: insights from our Great Ape cousins**

We will discuss how and why animals make their beds. A good bed can benefit in terms of quality of sleep and health. How important is nesting and sleeping in animals? Are all the beds the same? What are the advantages of sleeping in a good bed? How do animals choose the right materials to construct their beds? Although it is debated, nesting may be considered one of the first forms of tool use. Different neighboring communities can show difference in in

basic behaviors such as nesting and tool use. We will present preliminary results on how chimpanzees of the forest of Bugoma in Uganda are building their nests (or beds) both up to the trees and on the ground. What is this telling us regarding culture in non-human animals and what is its importance in human evolution?

**Dec 3, 2020. Aleksandra Brylska. Understanding the radioactivity. The uncertainty around the contamination of the exclusion zones in Chernobyl and Fukushima.**

The seminar will focus on discussion on the impact of the radioactivity on the environments in exclusion zones in Chernobyl and Fukushima. I would like to ask why there are so many uncertainties around this topic and so much inconclusive or even conflicting research on the toxic environments. The second part of the topic will consist of the question of roots of social mistrust in the scientific research on the radioactive contamination. I would like to analyze the official discourse concerning the level of toxicity and the public response to it. During the seminar, more than stating some thesis, I would like to discuss together the existing problem with radioactivity and the possible ways of overcoming it.

Proposed bibliography:

Kate Brown, *Manual for Survival: A Chernobyl Guide to the Future* [fragment], W.W. Norton & Company, New York 2019.

**Jan 14, 2021. Toni Romani- the Chair, in collaboration with Aleksandra Jabłońska and Aleksandra Brylska. How to study stress and welfare in wild and captive birds and mammals.**

During this meeting, we will discuss how we can identify stress and well-being among birds and mammals under natural and captive conditions. We will focus on the concept of natural habitats as the 'landscape of fear' for the residing animals. The Veissier & Boissy model will be also discussed. We will also analyse different methods of measuring animal welfare and stress. We will consider what factors influence the increase/decrease of stress and welfare.

**Bibliography:**

- Baker, B. I., Machin, K. L., & Schwan-Lardner, K. (2019). When pain and stress interact: looking at stress-induced analgesia and hyperalgesia in birds. *World's Poultry Science Journal*, 75(3), 457-468.
- Clark, F. E. (2017). Cognitive enrichment and welfare: Current approaches and future directions. *Animal Behavior and Cognition*, 4(1), 52-71.
- Costa, P., Macchi, E., Valle, E., De Marco, M., Nucera, D. M., Gasco, L., & Schiavone, A. (2016). An association between feather damaging behavior and corticosterone metabolite excretion in captive African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*). *PeerJ*, 4, e2462.

- Kolodziejczyk, K., & Cywinska, A. (2019). Oznaczanie metabolitów kortyzolu w kale jako metoda oceny stresu u dzikich zwierząt. *Życie Weterynaryjne*, 94(05).
- D. P. J. Kuijper, C. de Kleine, M. Churski, P. van Hooft, J. Bubnicki and B. Jędrzejewska. Landscape of fear in Europe: wolves affect spatial patterns of ungulate browsing in Białowież. a Primeval Forest, Poland. *Ecography* 36: 1263–1275, 2013.
- Veissier, I., & Boissy, A. (2007). Stress and welfare: Two complementary concepts that are intrinsically related to the animal's point of view. *Physiology & Behavior*, 92(3), 429-433.

**March 18, 2021. Aleksandra Jabłońska. Ornitotherapy – perspectives of mutual rehabilitation of birds and people**

During this seminar we will reflect on the perspectives of mutual therapy of people and birds. Research shows that forms of therapy such as dogotherapy or felinotherapy have positive effects in treating mental illnesses. On the other hand, animal therapies meet with great criticism from animal behaviourists. So far, ornitotherapy has not been conducted in the world. During the discussion we will consider whether a form of therapy that would be beneficial for both birds and humans is possible. We will also discuss the possibility of reliable research on ornitotherapy.

**Bibliography:**

- Aslan, L., Adizel, Ö., & Sancak, T. (2018). Treatment and rehabilitation of wild birds and mammals. *Indian Journal of Animal Research*, 52(4), 623-627.
- Boissy, A., Manteuffel, G., Jensen, M. B., Moe, R. O., Spruijt, B., Keeling, L. J., ... & Bakken, M. (2007). Assessment of positive emotions in animals to improve their welfare. *Physiology & behavior*, 92(3), 375-397.
- Cox, D. T., & Gaston, K. J. (2016). Urban bird feeding: connecting people with nature. *PloS one*, 11(7), e0158717.
- Wijker, C., Leontjevas, R., Spek, A., & Enders-Slegers, M. J. (2020). Effects of dog assisted therapy for adults with autism spectrum disorder: an exploratory randomized controlled trial. *Journal of autism and developmental disorders*, 50(6), 2153-2163.

**April 8, 2021. Aleksandra Brylska- the Chair, in collaboration with Toni Romani and Aleksandra Jabłońska. The phenomenon of dark tourism.**

During the seminar we would like to look into the phenomena of dark tourism in the case of Chernobyl and Fukushima. As the popularity of this activity is growing it is safe to assume that these tours are in part responsible for common perception of the both power plant failures. Therefore, it is important to analyze the discourse created by the touring companies, especially how they describe the both exclusion zones. During the seminar we would like to partially focus on theoretical reflection on the dark tourism as well as to

analyze the language describing the trips to Chernobyl and Fukushima, and some personal accounts of people who visited those sites.

Proposed bibliography:

Megan Good, *Shaping Japan's disaster heritage*, in: *Reconsidering Cultural Heritage in East Asia*, Ubiquity Press 2016, pp. 139-161.

Karena Kalmbach, *Radiation and Borders: Chernobyl as a National and Transnational Site of Memory*, "Global Environment" Vol. 6, No. 11 2013, pp. 130-159.