

Project Group (Number and Name):

77: Do Animals Resist? Conceptualizing Multispecies Solidarity

Comment

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Comment:

Do animals resist?

Creating a path to multispecies solidarity

Imagine walking through the streets and nearly getting run over by an elephant that escaped from the zoo, or trying to pet an animal and getting scratched.

These examples are no individual cases. Situations where animals are acting up happen every day. Digging deeper into the topic there are a multitude of examples of animals resisting these structures of oppression.

So the question is not if they resist but what these structures of oppression are and how to change them.

In our view the most pressing problem in the field of animal resistance is a necessary change in the relationship between humans and animals, so the current power imbalance can come to balance. It is of such urgency because humans still treat animals like objects and abuse them selfishly, even though it is proven that they have feelings and suffer. In our opinion, this problem results from traditional structures of power leading to oppression. This is crucial because the priority of human interests over animals' essential needs reinforces an anthropocentric view followed by catastrophic conditions (for example factory farming) that we are facing today.

A crucial problem in the field of animal resistance lies in transferring the right knowledge of activism. One should approach the topic with empathy.

It is important to find a way where activists and the people can communicate with each other about the topic of sustainable nutrition without conflicts which can lead to misunderstanding and anger. To differentiate between the choice of personal nutrition and the person themselves is urgent for a right communication.

This problem of lifting up human interests above everything else has many reasons, starting from historical and cultural and ending in capitalism and the ruthless desire for more and more.

We have to constantly discuss and talk with politicians and decision makers about the topic to keep it on their agenda. Politicians have to make decisions, for example aiming towards the rethinking of animal's rights. Achieving this could be managed by working in stages similar to the climate objectives. (e.g. coal exit in 2030) We have to consider that politicians are heavily pressured by corporations and powerful interest groups. Therefore a movement targeting animal rights has to rely on a broad support in society to gain attention and initiate change.

Possible points of leverage to that problem could be to raise awareness. However, when diving into them, one may not forget that this is a very emotional topic as many people might feel attacked when questioning their ways of living. Convincing people in an objective and respectful way, for instance by discussing together and not just forcing one's opinion on everyone else is essential. It is also important to appreciate small steps instead of judging. An efficient way could be asking questions, listening to the needs and fears of the person and letting them realize their own empathy to achieve more sustainable change. Regardless of current improvements and positive tendencies like the availability of substitute products, meat alternatives and a constant increase of awareness, the value of multispecies solidarity still faces a challenging future perspective. Even though it might look and feel overwhelming, with our visions and hope generally for a better tomorrow we can see a future that today seems unimaginable.

Video Information

Title of the Video:
„Multispecies Solidarity“

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