Call for Papers

Depending on their position in human society, animals are often categorized as either wild or tame. Although seemingly mutually exclusive categories, in practice, however, the borderline between wildness and tameness is ambiguous. The complexity and diversity of the phenomenon exceeds the limits of two clear cut categories and requires a more elaborate and nuanced examination.

What is more, categories of wildness and tameness are historically in constant flux, resulting from changing interactions of both humans and animals. No animal species, of course, has originally been “tame”, but their tameness results from the changing human-animal relationship, where wild may become domesticated or otherwise adapt to human presence. Alternatively, there are numerous examples of tame or domesticated animals becoming feral. Although grouping of animals according to their wildness and tameness eludes ontological reasoning, it nevertheless defines the way animals are perceived and treated in human societies as species and individuals.

We invite scholars interested in human-animal relationship to discuss the problems and repercussions of the concepts wild and tame.

Symposium will take place in University of Turku 30–31 May 2016.

Keynote lectures:

- Harriet Ritvo: Wanting the Wild
- Sverker Sörlin: Boundaries and Becomings – Contesting Concepts of Anthropocene Conversations

More detailed program in animalagency.utu.fi

The symposium is organized by the research project Animal Agency in Human Societies, funded by the Academy of Finland.

Possible approaches are for example

- Mutual adaptation to co-living
- Histories of wildness and tameness
- Possible futures of wild and tame animals in human society
- Feral animals
- Wildness of pets and domesticated animals
- Wildness/tameness as moral statements
- Legal perspectives on wild and tame animals

Abstracts

Please send max. 200 word abstract to Jussi Lehtonen, jussi.lehtonen@utu.fi by 29 February 2016. More information: prof. Taina Syrjämaa, taisyr@utu.fi, European and World History, University of Turku.