

OTTO LATVA

*Editor-in-Chief*

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*Guest Editor*

The current issue of *Trace* is remarkable in various ways. We got many submitted papers for this issue, which makes it the largest number published so far. Some of the articles and other writings published in this issue are tied to the theme of the annual conference of the Finnish Society for Human-Animal Studies. The theme of the conference this year is “Animals and Religion”. The conference will be organized together with the Finnish Society for the Study of Religion.

The idea for the conference emerged, when Otto Latva, the editor-in-chief of *Trace*, and Jaana Kouri, a scholar of the study of religion in Åbo Akademi University got an idea of this thematic issue of *Trace*. After this, Jaana has been coordinating the conference with both the above-mentioned societies since autumn 2020. As this current issue of *Trace* also follows the “Animals and Religion” theme, Jaana participated in the editing duties as a guest editor. We got few articles and other writings on the theme but also many texts dealing with more general themes related to human-animal

relations. This was expected as we also welcomed proposals that do not deal with the theme.

The writings focusing on the “Animal and Religion” theme, published in this issue, contemplate amongst other things the questions concerning the spirituality and soul of animals. In her article, Marjo Kaartinen studies the discussion of the immortal animal souls among British spiritualists in 1887. The spiritualist Anna Kingsford (1846–1888) appears in Kaartinen’s article and she is also the main character of the article “The Unfinished Business of Anna Kingsford: Towards an Enchanted Animal Ethic” by Mitch Goldsmith. His article concerns Kingford’s idea that animal experimentation is a type of malevolent sorcery – a demonic blood sacrifice. In addition to these articles, Michael Smith’s essay “The Animal in Pope’s *Essay on Man*”, examining how the relationship between humans and animals appears in Alexander Pope’s eighteenth-century poetry, also focuses on the questions concerning the souls of animals.

The current issue includes also various articles and writings dealing with more general themes related to human-animal relations. Tiina Salmia's article "Marcello the Dog and More-Than-Human Family in Elina Brotherus's Self-Portraits from the Series *Carpe Fucking Diem*" investigates how visual culture opens perspectives on interspecies relations. As the title of Kristine Hill's article "Happy Hens or Healthy Eggs: A Summative Content Analysis of How Hens Are Represented In Supermarket Egg Boxes Narratives" reveals, Hill's paper explores how hens are represented through eggbox imagery. In this issue, we are also proud to present the first Swedish article published in *Trace*. Sofie Strandén-Backa's article "Farliga vargar och bedrägliga maskhål" examines the discussion of wolves in the Finnish newspaper *Österbottens Tidning* in 2018.

In this issue, we also have two essays besides the one written by Michael Smith. Mikko Rosenberg's essay presents the idea of a multidisciplinary empathy that encourages people to converse on making their worldview more ethically, ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable. The writing by Gregory Tague is a hybrid between an essay and a book review, in which he discusses and compares Debra Rosenman's *The Chimpanzee Chronicles: Stories of Heartbreak and Hope from Behind the Bars* and Frans de Waal's *Chimpanzee Politics: Power and*

*Sex Among Apes*. In addition to all the above-mentioned articles and other writings, this issue contains a wide variety of book reviews. Overall, the current issue is a wonderful collection of writings from different disciplines written mostly in English but also in Finnish and Swedish.

This is also a good opportunity to thank our magnificent editors Helinä Ääri and Linda Tallberg and the editorial secretary Jouni Teittinen. We have worked a lot for this seventh issue of *Trace* and it is now wonderful to see it taking its shape. Our work has not included only the editing duties, but we have also developed the impact and visibility of the journal. For instance, from this year on, *Trace* is indexed to the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).