

Being the editor-in-chief for the first number of *Trace – Jälki – Spåret* has been a great privilege. First and foremost I would like to thank the Finnish Society for Human-Animal Studies for deciding to launch a new scientific journal. I would like to thank Outi Ratamäki for asking me to be the editor-in-chief for this first issue. A big thank you goes also to the editor Jouni Teittinen who has shared much of the work.

When I accepted this task I was mainly expecting an academically useful workload, but it turned out to be a more interesting journey. Non-human animals touch us. All the manuscripts were very interesting, even the ones we had to reject or ask to resubmit. The passion for this (academically still odd) subject of human-animal studies can be read between the lines. The texts that I have had the privilege to read were not boring texts from tired out academics chasing publication points. Thanks to all submitters and writers! Please keep the texts coming.

Believe it or not, searching for reviewers has been also fun. I was stricken by the benevolence of most of the scholars I asked to review a manuscript. We do peer-reviewing without being paid, and doing it for a new, unknown journal can't be taken for granted. Most of the reviewers accepted the task and were interested in our new journal. Thanks to all the peer reviewers!

From this side of the publishing table I was also able to see how easy it is to spot the problems in other people's texts and how hard it always is to spot them in your own. Despite the current discussions and experiments on renewing the review system in academic publishing, I think double-blind peer-review is still the best system to guarantee the academic quality of the publications.

As a researcher who has always been interested in communication and making an impact, I am proud that this journal is Open Access and online. I hope the readers, academic and non-academic, will find the journal interesting and useful.

Learning new things is never easy. The OJS publication system has been usually handy, but occasionally it has caused some problems. However, for any errors in the process of setting up this new journal the blame is on me. Thank you for your patience! I hope we will continue learning together about scientific publishing, writing and human-animal studies – also with the next editor-in-chief, Outi Ratamäki.

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