

OTTO LATVA  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Greetings to all of our readers!

We are living in exceptional times right now with the coronavirus affecting the entire world. The virus has revealed the fragility of modern societies, but it has also shown the important role of human-animal studies in the field of academic research. As it seems, the human interaction with animals was the origin of this virus pandemic. Thus, to investigate and understand the social and cultural phenomena related, for instance, to zoonoses, we need human-animal studies!

The challenges brought by the virus have also had an impact on the editing and publishing of this issue. For instance, we were not able to publish it in the yearly seminar of the Finnish Society for Human-Animal Studies, which has been a tradition during the previous five years. This is because the seminar had to be canceled due to the coronavirus.

Despite the challenges, the new editorial staff of *Trace* succeeded in editing the current issue. It is also the first issue published by this staff. Thus, a special *thank you* goes to the wonderful

and diligent editors Annika Lonkila, Linda Tallberg and Helinä Ääri, and editorial secretary Jouni Teittinen. The issue contains various interesting texts indicating that the human-animal studies truly is a multidisciplinary and fascinating field of study. It includes texts written in both English and Finnish. The research articles focus especially on the relationship between rodents and humans. In addition to these articles, the issue contains fascinating book reviews and two excellent *lectio praecursorias* by Saara Kupsala and Heta Lähdesmäki.

The current issue is also the first in which we have started to use the Creative Commons 4.0 license. The new license will increase the transparency of the journal even more than it has been in previous years. The plans regarding the next years' issue are also well underway and the CFP is soon forthcoming. Of course, one can submit manuscripts to *Trace* around the year (<https://trace.journal.fi/about/submissions>).

Have a nice summer! I hope that the situation with coronavirus will ease up soon! ■