

Social Ties in Animal Politics: Mutuality Beyond Humanity Conference Pack

8-9th September 2026

G05, Workroom 2, Diamond Building, 32 Leavygreave Rd, Broomhall, Sheffield,
S3 7RD

Organisers: Alasdair Cochrane (University of Sheffield); Steve Cooke (University of Leicester); Sara van Goozen (University of York); Josh Milburn (Loughborough University); Angie Pepper (Roehampton University); Matt Perry (University of Sheffield).

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2026 Animal Politics conference. We have two great keynote speakers and an exciting line-up of talks. The conference is kindly supported by the [Wellcome Trust funded Multispecies Mutualisms project](#) and a Mind Association Conference Grant. Below, you will find details of the conference schedule, catering, venue details, information on presenting, local information etc. A Google Map with local hotels, conference venue, train information, tourist spots, and meal destinations pinned can be found here:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/zujrz3rYpnrD9EHw8>



MIND



Funded by



Schedule

Day 1: Tuesday 08/09/2026

09:30-10:00: Registration and welcome including morning pastries, coffee and tea.

10:00-11:00: First keynote (Chair: Alasdair Cochrane)

Eva Meijer (University of Amsterdam): When Cultures Meet: Working Towards Social Change Beyond Species

11:00-11:15: Break

11.15-12:45: Panel 1 (Chair: Matt Perry)

Claire Hamlett (University of Roehampton): The right to home for nonhuman animals

Serrin Rutledge-Prior (University of Helsinki): Rootedness and Flourishing: Weil, Nussbaum, and the Needs of the Animal Soul

12:45-13:45: Lunch

13:45-15:15: Panel 2 (Chair: Angie Pepper)

Nicholas Charles Urich (Colorado State University): Non-Human Animal Contracting: A Hegelian Defense

Josh Milburn (Loughborough University): Do We Need to Justify Animal Rights?

15:15-15:30 Break

15:30-17:00 Panel 3 (Chair: Sara Van Goozen)



David John Holroyd (University of Sheffield): Navigating the Leviathan: A Skeptical Ethos for Animalist Politics

Hannah Battersby (KU Leuven): On the Possibility of Just Multispecies Co-Creation within Asymmetrical Relations

17:00-18:30 Drinks (location TBC)

18:30 Dinner at Maveli

Day 2: Wednesday 09/09/2026

09:30-10:00: Morning pastries, coffee and tea

10:00-11:00: Second keynote (Chair: Josh Milburn)

Frauke Albersmeier (University of Münster): Tolerating Animals: Probing the Lower Limits of Interspecies Coexistence

11:00-11.15: Break

11.15-12:45: Panel 4 (Chair: Steve Cooke)

Angie Pepper (University of Roehampton): Pet Keeping as the Linchpin of Speciesist Injustice

Thaïs Bird (Messerli Research Institute, Veterinary University of Vienna): The Centaur's Human Head: Partnership, Dissent, and the Limits of Interspecies Mutuality

12:45-13:45: Lunch

13:45-15:15 Panel 5 (Chair: Sara Van Goozen)

Georgie Newson (University of Edinburgh): Order from Instinct? Agency and Autonomy in Hive Societies



Funded by



Alfonso Donoso (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile): The Weight of Suffering in Disasters: Structural Injustice and the Limits of Interspecies Mutuality

15:15-15:30 Break

15:30-17:00 Panel 6 (Chair: Matt Perry)

Alasdair Cochrane (University of Sheffield): Speaking for Animal Others: In Defence of Activist ‘Counter-Representation’

Cara Clancy, Laura Kubasiewicz, Tamlin Watson, Jo Hockenhull (The Donkey Sanctuary): “It depends on whose shoes you’re standing in”: the importance of considering individuality and context in interspecies relations

End of conference (we may go for drinks and informal dinner again - TBC at the time).

Venue

The conference takes place in person in **G05, Workroom 2, Diamond Building** (ground floor). Unfortunately we are not able to facilitate hybrid participation. The building is located on Leavy Greave road, one street over from Glossop Road/West street and next to St George’s Church. It has diamonds all over the facade (you cannot miss it!). Google map link [here](#), campus map [here](#), and directions to get to the building are towards the end of the conference pack.

The building is wheelchair accessible and the room is equipped with a hearing loop. There are accessible toilets close to the room. More info is [available here](#). WIFI is available on campus to guests, including Eduroam. More information is [available here](#).



Conference catering

The conference will be fully vegan. Tea, coffee and snacks will be provided as well as a buffet lunch. There are water fountains and water bottle refill stations inside the conference venue, please bring your own water bottle to cut down on waste. Please inform us of any additional dietary requirements by **Monday 24th August** by emailing m.w.perry@sheffield.ac.uk.

The Diamond Kitchen cafe is on the ground floor of the Diamond building, near the south entrance, open 8-4. There is also an (almost fully) vegan cafe less than 5 minutes walk away called [Gaard](#).

We will go for a meal at a local restaurant ([Maveli](#)) on the evening of the 8th September at 18.30. The price of this meal will be covered for keynote speakers, but other speakers and attendees are asked to cover their own costs (unless we have confirmed otherwise with you already). If you would like to attend this meal but are worried about the cost (or have other concerns), please contact the convenors. Please confirm attendance at the meal by **Tuesday 1st September** by emailing m.w.perry@sheffield.ac.uk.

Presenting

Presenters have been allocated 45 minutes each. We recommend that your presentation be a maximum of 30 minutes in length so that you have plenty of time to take questions from the audience.

We will use the hand/finger distinction for questions. A hand represents a new question, and a finger represents a follow-up question or request for clarification that is highly relevant to the question/answer just given. Questioners should stick to one question per question! Follow-up questions are at the discretion of the chair.

If you plan on using PowerPoint or a handout, please email your presentation to m.w.perry@sheffield.ac.uk. If you plan to use handouts, please also email this



over and we'll get copies printed. All materials should be submitted by the morning of **Monday 7th September**.

Accommodation

There are many good accommodation options in Sheffield not far from the venue. However, University of Sheffield has a preferential rate with the Leopold hotel. To make a reservation, please visit www.leopoldhotels.co.uk and enter the promo code – **71140060**. This corporate agreement includes full buffet breakfast, Wi-Fi, and VAT. If the fixed rate is not available due to limited availability or blackout dates, you will be offered a 10% discount off the bed and breakfast package. Please note that a minimum stay of 2 or more nights may apply during high demand dates. All rates are based on single occupancy; a £15.00 supplement will apply at check-in for double occupancy.

Getting here

By foot: the conference venue is 1 mile from Sheffield train station. The route is fairly flat. Directions here: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/rrBod27ARbA4XAX9>

By tram: from the train station, take the blue line directly from the east end of the station (past platforms 7 & 8) going towards 'Malin Bridge'. The tram stops on West Street, just 400m from the venue. Payment for the tram is made when you board; the conductor will circulate and you can just tell them you are disembarking at 'West Street'. You can pay contactless. It costs £2.50 for a single or £4.20 if you purchase a day ticket.

By taxi: there is a Black Cab taxi rank in the station. Turn left when you leave the walkway from the platforms.

Contact info in case of emergency:



MIND



Funded by



Matt Perry; m.w.perry@sheffield.ac.uk / +447561094808

The conference is kindly supported by the Wellcome Trust funded Multispecies Mutualisms project and a Mind Association Conference Grant. We aim to make the conference accessible in accordance with the [BPA/SWIP](#) guidelines. If there is anything we can do to support your participation, or if you have any accessibility requirements that have not already been discussed with us, please speak to a member of the organising team or contact us at m.w.perry@sheffield.ac.uk.



MIND



Funded by

