

Spring 2012

Research Seminar (3-5 units)
Wednesday, 5:15 - 8:05 pm, bldg. 50-51B
Anthro 334A – FrenGen 334 - CREEES



Introduction to Multispecies Theory in the Humanities and Social Sciences

The course will focus on such problems as: the emergence of non-anthropocentric human and social sciences, “multispeciesism” in the rethinking of disciplines (for example multispecies ethnography), redefinition of the concept of life in the human and social sciences by including non-human subjects, animals and plants as others, rethinking the category of the social as a collective of humans and non-humans, nonintentional agency (as well as our understanding of vitalism and animism), animal holocaust, animal as witness, multispecies art and living organisms as media in art (bio-art), ethics of compassion and the problem of the dignity of the non-human (including recent interest in the dignity of plants). The problem of the current “paradigmatic gap” and shifts in dominant interpretative frameworks (from poststructuralist-representational to posthumanist) as well as a growing interest in so-called “flat alternatives” (new empiricism, new materialism, relational ontology) will also be discussed. This course may be of interest to anthropology, MLT and literature students working in the fields of ecocriticism and the environmental humanities broadly considered. Readings will include: Giorgio Agamben, Rosi Braidotti, J. M. Coetzee, Gilles Deleuze, Jacques Derrida, Donna Haraway, Bruno Latour, Emmanuel Levinas, Cary Wolfe as well as film screening of “Rabbit a la Berlin” (2009) dir. Bartek Konopka [CREEES film series].

First meeting: Wednesday, April 4th, 5:15 pm, bldg 50-51B

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