

# Workshop



## Arts of Coexistence: Care and Survival in the Sixth Extinction

**Time** 2-3 May 2019

**Venue** Tøyen Hovedgård, Botanical Garden, Oslo, Norway

**Conveners** Ursula Münster (University of Oslo), Sara Asu Schroer (FU Berlin/ University of Aberdeen), and Hugo Reinert (University of Oslo)

Workshop by the Working Group HOLB (Humans and Other Living Beings) of the European Association of Social Anthropology (EASA), co-organised by the Oslo School of Environmental Humanities (OSEH), University of Oslo, Norway

**Abstract** This workshop explores diverse forms of care across difference that people develop (or fail to develop) in the context of species disappearance. How are ways of coexistence threatened, erased but also still maintained in time of the sixth extinction? Specifically, we are interested in work that conceptualizes and explores skills, practices and ideas of care in multispecies, interspecies and more-than-human contexts. What forms of care are the chaos and violence of the present moment calling forth? What are their limits? What are their risks and dangers, their potential for destruction? How does care travel, how may it be transposed to novel objects, settings and domains? How is care undone, destroyed, eradicated – and how can it be restored? How can we as researchers root our practice, and our commitments, in forms of care that do justice to the future? What are the possibilities of more-than-human care?

## Thursday, 2 May 2019

**8.30– 9.00**                    **Arrival and Coffee**

**9.00–10.00**                    **Plenary I**  
**Welcome and Introductory Words**  
Sara Asu Schroer, Hugo Reinert and Ursula Münster

**10.00–10.30**                    **Coffee Break**

**10.30–12.00**                    **Parallel Session 1a: Mourning as Care**  
**Chair:** Andrew Whitehouse (University of Aberdeen)

**Michelle Bastian** (Edinburgh College of Art)  
“Whale falls and extinctions never known”  
Response: Aike Rots and Kate Marx

**Aike Rots** (University of Oslo)  
“Whales, sand, and ancestors: Ecological grief and mourning rituals in Japanese and Vietnamese coastal villages”  
Response: Andrew Mitchell and Michelle Bastian

**Kate Marx** (University of Exeter), **Andrew Mitchell** (Stockholm University), **Samantha Hurn** (University of Exeter, via skype)  
“Storied mourning and ‘infectious’ caring: Can the stories of individuals who care for rhinos elicit feelings of care in the people who witness them?”  
Response: Michelle Bastian and Aike Rots

**Parallel Session 1b: Caring for Landscapes**  
**Chair:** Maria Guzman-Gallegos (University of Oslo)

**Paul Keil** (Czech Academy of Sciences)  
“Elephants crossing with care: Negotiating space for local ways of life”  
Response: James Ormrod and Karen Syse

**Karen Syse** (University of Oslo)  
“Caring for the Arctic Char”  
Response: Paul Keil and James Ormrod

**James Ormrod** (Southern Illinois University, via skype) and **Matthew Adams** (University of Brighton, UK, via skype)  
“Looking, landscape, care and contradiction”  
Response: Karen Syse and Paul Keil

**12.00–13.00**                    **Lunch Break**

**13:00–14:00**                    **Plenary II at the Natural History Museum**  
**Thom van Dooren** (University of Sydney)  
“A world in a shell: The disappearing snails of Hawaii”

**14.30–16:00**

**Parallel Session 2a: Filming Multispecies Care**

**Chair:** Melanie Duckworth (Østfold University College)

**Sonia Levy** (London/ Iceland)

“For the Love of Corals”, film

**Felix Remter** (TUM Munich) and **Miriam Remter** (LUM Munich)

“Honeybee care regimes: From multiple to fractal bodies”, film

**Parallel Session 2b: Caring for Urban Ecologies**

**Chair:** Ana Maria Delgado Aleman (University of Oslo)

**Hsin-yi Lu** (National Taiwan University)

“Growing plants and making place: Bonsai care in an industrial zone in Taiwan”

Response: Diana Mincyte and Annike Flo

**Annike Flo** (Vitenparken Campus Ås)

“cocreat:e:ures”

Response: Hsin-yi Lu and Diana Mincyte

**Diana Mincyte** (New York City College of Technology, via skype)

“Diverging temporalities of care on urban farms: Negotiating productivity and responsibility in Post-socialist Lithuania”

Response: Annike Flo and Hsin-yi Lu

**16:30–17:30**

**Caring for Plants: Guided Tour through the Botanical Garden**  
(optional, please register)

**18:30**

**Dinner**

**Friday, 3 May 2019**

**8.30– 9:15**

**Plenary III**

**Chair:** Hugo Reinert (University of Oslo)

**Commentary on Thursday’s Sessions:**

Andrew Whitehouse (University of Aberdeen), Maria Guzman-Gallegos (University of Oslo), Melanie Duckworth (Østfold University College), Ana Maria Delgado Aleman (University of Oslo)

**9:15–9:30**

**Coffee Break**

9:30 – 11:00

### **Parallel Session 3a: Avian Care**

**Chair:** Thom van Dooren (University of Sydney)

**Leonoor Borgesius** (University of Oslo)

“Boulder Geese – On Birds as First Settlers of Emptied Lands”

Response: Helen Wilson and Christian Medaas

**Helen Wilson** (Durham University)

“Coexistence, Transgression, and the Tyne Kittiwakes”

Response: Christian Medaas and Leonoor Borgesius

**Thomas Jacobsen** (University of Stockholm) and

**Christian Medaas** (University of Oslo)

“Caring for, living with: Common Swifts in the Sixth Extinction”

Response: Helen Wilson and Leonoor Borgesius

### **Parallel Session 3b: Care in Conservation**

**Chair:** Marianne Lien (University of Oslo)

**Liana Chua** (Brunel University, London)

“The (e)valuation of care in orangutan conservation: politics, privilege and discomfiting ethnography”

Response: Anna-Katharina Laboissière and Rosie Sims

**Rosie Sims** (IHEID, Geneva)

“Caring for inconvenient others: Living with mosquitos in Medellín, Colombia”

Response: Liana Chua and Anna-Katharina Laboissière

**Anna-Katharina Laboissière** (Ecole normale supérieure/ Curtin University, via skype)

“Relational vulnerability, relational resilience: The violent care of the search for crop wild relatives”

Response: Rosie Sims and Liana Chua

11.00–11.30

**Coffee Break**

11.30–13:00

### **Parallel Session 4a: Caring For Communities**

**Chair:** Daniel Münster (Cologne University)

**Emily O’ Gorman** (Macquarie University)

“Weaving worlds: Postcolonial and multispecies politics of plants”

Response: Camelia Dewan and Tristan Partridge

**Camelia Dewan** (University of Oslo)

“Caring for dying rivers: Stories of hope and survival in an embanked floodplain of coastal Bangladesh”

Response: Tristan Partridge and Emily O’Gorman

**Tristan Partridge** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)  
“Urgent action for long-term futures: Indigenous community care for Páramo landscapes in Ecuador”  
Response: Emily O’Gorman and Camelia Dewan

### **Parallel Session 4b: Virtual Care**

**Chair:** Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay (University of Oslo)

**Laura op de Beke** (Leiden University)  
“Routines of care in the stillness of the wind and other farm games”  
Response:  
Hannah Fair and Siobhan Leddy

**Hannah Fair** (Brunel University London)  
“Orangutans in the Anthropocene: Enacting care and kinship via digital coexistence”  
Response: Siobhan Leddy and Laura op de Beke

**Siobhan Leddy** (Berlin)  
“Holobiont: Duties of care for what cannot be seen — microbes in the gut and on other planets”  
Response: Hannah Fair and Laura op de Beke

**13.00–14.00**                      **Lunch**

**14.00–15.30**                      **Plenary IV**  
**Chair:** Sara Asu Schroer (FU Berlin/ University of Aberdeen)  
**Commentary on Friday’s Sessions:**  
Thom van Dooren (University of Sydney), Marianne Lien (University of Oslo), Daniel Münster (University of Cologne), Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay (University of Oslo)

**15.30–16:00**                      **Concluding Discussion**  
**Chair:** Ursula Münster (University of Oslo)

**16:30–17:30**                      **Caring for urban bees** (optional)  
Moderator and Mediator: Felix Remter (TUM Munich)

## Abstracts and Bios

Thursday, 2 May 2019

### Parallel Session 1a: Mourning as Care

**Michelle Bastian** (Edinburgh College of Art)  
“Whale falls and extinctions never known”

Rewriting that most famous of conservation and extinction stories, this paper focuses on the deep sea consequences of whaling on whale fall communities. I seek to produce a denser and more ominous account of the fear of species loss that inspired the ‘save the whale’ movement, and to question how far our care for other creatures might reach.

Michelle Bastian is a Chancellor’s Fellow at the Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh. Her work crosses critical time studies and environmental humanities.

\*\*\*

**Aike P. Rots** (University of Oslo)

“Whales, sand, and ancestors: Ecological grief and mourning rituals in Japanese and Vietnamese coastal villages”

Drawing on theories of “ecological grief”, this paper introduces four cases of loss, mourning, and hope, expressed in ritual practices. These are cases from coastal villages in Vietnam and Japan, all of which concern humans, whales, and spirits. The paper explores how local ritual traditions can help mediate, and perhaps heal, human-nature relations.

Aike P. Rots is associate professor in Asian studies at the University of Oslo. He is the author of *Shinto, Nature and Ideology in Contemporary Japan: Making Sacred Forests* (Bloomsbury 2017) and the PI of the ERC-funded project *Whales of Power: Aquatic Mammals, Devotional Practices, and Environmental Change in Maritime East Asia* (2019-2023).

\*\*\*

**Kate Marx** (University of Exeter), **Fenella Eason** (University of Exeter, co-author), **Andrew Mitchell** (Stockholm University), **Samantha Hurn** (University of Exeter, via skype), **Alexander Badman-King** (University of Exeter, co-author)

“Storied mourning and ‘infectious’ caring: Can the stories of individuals who are for rhinos elicit feelings of care in the people who witness them”

Demand for rhino horn in Asia is fuelling a poaching crisis in South Africa, which is home to the majority of the world’s remaining rhinos. This presentation will explore the progress of a project which seeks to utilise the recently developed concept of ‘storied mourning’ on film, as a way of engaging millennials with the plight of rhinos.

The authors of this paper are members of a team funded by National Geographic through their call ‘Making the case for nature’ for a research project entitled ‘Assessing perceptions of rhino poaching amongst international students from countries which consume rhino horn’.

Kate Marx is an anthrozoologist and postdoctoral research associate with EASE. Her research interests centre around human perception and representation of nonhuman animals.

Fenella Eason (co-author) is an anthrozoologist and postdoctoral research associate with EASE. Her interests relate to trans-species biomedical collaborations in healthcare, and to multispecies' death, posthumous care and remembrance.

Andrew Mitchell's key research interests lie in the areas of human-animal relations, science and technology studies, archaeology and material and visual culture. Having worked in the British film industry as a director of photography, camera operator and stills photographer for many years, Andrew uses visual methods as part of his research practice, and is also the founding Director of the Visual Lab at the Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University, where he teaches Media Anthropology.

Samantha Hurn (via skype) is Director of the MA and PhD Anthrozoology programmes, and the Exeter Anthrozoology as Symbiotic Ethics (EASE) working group at the University of Exeter. Sam is an anthropologist who has been researching trans-species interactions in a range of contexts for nearly 20 years.

Alexander Badman-King (co-author) is a philosopher and postdoctoral research associate with EASE. Alexander's work mainly concerns animal and environmental ethics.

## **Parallel Session 1b: Caring for Landscapes**

**Paul Keil** (Czech Academy of Sciences)

“Elephants crossing with care: Negotiating space for local ways of life”

Landscape permeability is essential for the endangered Asian elephant. This ethnography will examine how trains become response-able, the labour required to maintain nonhuman passage in human-governed space, and how shared vulnerability informs an ethical response to local elephant ways of life.

Paul Keil is a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences. Keil conducted his Ph.D. on human-elephant relations in northeast India.

\*\*\*

**Karen Lykke Syse** (University of Oslo)

“Caring for the Arctic Char”

This paper will explore how we care for protected species in protected landscapes. The arctic char in Svalbard can be used as a living recorder for climate change. Their ear-stones, or otoliths, will trace the number of times each fish has traversed rivers of melted ice to reach the sea. How do we delineate and evaluate tradition, culture and nature in arctic landscapes?

Karen Lykke Syse is an agronomist, ethnologist and holds a PhD in cultural history. She works as an associate professor at the Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo. Her research interests pivot around environmental discourse and practice; agrarian and arboreal landscape studies; and social and cultural aspects of food.

\*\*\*

**James Ormrod** (Southern Illinois University, via skype) and **Matthew Adams** (University of Brighton, via skype)

“Looking, landscape, care and contradiction”

In this paper we report on pilot research with volunteer livestock checkers who are part of a conservation grazing project in the UK. Through 'go-along' interviews accompanying these 'lookers' we aim to use a psychosocial approach to explore the contradictions involved in caring for these animals.

James Ormrod is Principal Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Brighton, UK. His research interests are in social movements and in how humans relate to their environment and the universe in general.

Matthew Adams (via skype) is Principal Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Brighton, UK. His research interests are the social, political, cultural and psychological dimensions of human-nature and multi-species relations, climate crisis and Anthropocene.

## **Plenary II at the Natural History Museum**

**Thom van Dooren** (University of Sydney)

“A world in a shell: The disappearing snails of Hawaii”

While the Hawaiian Islands were once home to one of the most diverse assemblages of terrestrial snail diversity found anywhere on earth, the majority of these species are today thought to be gone. This lecture explores this larger context of loss, asking what it means and why it matters that so much of Hawaii's rich snail diversity is disappearing. It does so, however, through a focus on one very particular question: how did a global centre of terrestrial snail diversity end up out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean?

Thom van Dooren is Associate Professor and Australian Research Council Future Fellow (2017-2021) in the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies at the University of Sydney, and founding co-editor of the journal *Environmental Humanities* (Duke University Press). His research and writing focus on some of the many philosophical, ethical, cultural, and political issues that arise in the context of species extinctions and human entanglements with threatened species and places.

## **Parallel Session 2a: Filming Multispecies Care**

**Sonia Levy** (London/ Iceland)

“For the Love of Corals”, film

In the basement of the Horniman Museum in London, Project Coral has embarked on breeding corals in captivity. *For the Love of Corals*, is a cinematic inquiry into Project Coral, it focuses on the daily labour of caring for endangered beings to resuscitate them from their imminent human-induced extinction.

Sonia Levy is a French artist whose research-led practice considers new forms of engagements with nonhuman life forms. Her installation, sculpture, drawing and video works operate at the intersection of art and science, interested in redefining our relationship with the Earth.

\*\*\*

**Felix Remter** (TUM Munich) and **Miriam Remter** (LUM Munich)  
“Honeybee care regimes: From multiple to fractal bodies”, film

How can we take care of a being that is not offering clear boundaries and one stable position to care from? The crisis of beekeeping is bearing opposing care regimes. Being a super organism the body of the bee is not enacted as ‘more than one but less than many’. It is many and contains diverse arthropods, microbes and viruses forming multi-species bodies.

Felix Remter is a social and cultural anthropologist and multi-species ethnographer at the Munich Center for Technology in Society, and co-founder of Primate Visions Film and Media Production.

Miriam Remter is an audiovisual and sensory anthropologist and multi-species ethnographer at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, LMU Munich, and co-founder of Primate Visions Film and Media Production

## **Parallel Session 2b: Caring for Urban Ecologies**

**Hsin-yi Lu** (National Taiwan University)

“Growing plants and making place: Bonsai care in an industrial zone in Taiwan”

This paper examines the three types of care enacted in a bonsai garden near an industrial zone in Taiwan. Noting the resemblance in the conditions of being between bonsais and urbanites, I argue that the hybrid ecology within the garden demonstrates how plants and humans can coexist in a disturbed landscape amid industry-induced environmental damage.

Hsin-yi Lu is an associate professor of anthropology at National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan.

\*\*\*

**Anniko Flo** (Vitenparken Campus Ås)  
“cocreat:e:ures”

From a scenographic perspective, aspects of the Anthropocene can be read as a spatial event: Humans encroaching, infringing, even violating the spaces of non-humans. Our touch, sound, light, scent and materials permeate the planet. Consequently, can a new awareness of the other, decentering the human and an offering up of space, all be subversive and defiant acts to help us propel out of the Anthropocene? My aesthetic experiment and master production in scenography *cocreat:e:ures* tied together scenographer and the Oyster Mushroom in a trans-species alliance via disused spaces and waste materials at Vitenparken, campus Ås, (NO) in an attempt to conjure up new realities

Anniko Flo holds an MA in scenography from the Norwegian Theatre Academy (2018) and a BA in costume for performance (2010) from London College of Fashion (LCF), University of the Arts. After graduating from LCF she specialized in design for immersive and participatory theatre working for companies such as Secret Cinema, Punch Drunk and Immersive Cult, which she brings into her current artistic practice.

\*\*\*

**Diana Mincyte** (New York City College of Technology, via skype), **Aiste Bartkiene** (Vilnius University, Lithuania, co-author) and **Renata Bikauskaite** (Vilnius University, Lithuania, co-author)

“Diverging temporalities of care on urban farms: Negotiating productivity and responsibility in Post-socialist Lithuania”

Focusing on how urban farmers in Lithuania interact with local ecologies, our paper considers divergent temporalities of care, where the older generation of farmers follow productivist methods emphasizing intimate relationships to plants, while younger farmers pursue environmental visions of care for the global environment.

Diana Mincyte is associate professor of sociology at the City University of New York- NYC College of Technology. Her research focuses on self-reliance, citizenship, and environmental politics, particularly in the context of socialist and postsocialist Eastern Europe.

Aiste Bartkiene (Vilnius University, Lithuania, co-author) is an assistant professor in the Department of Medical History and Ethics in the Institute of Public Health at the Medical Faculty at Vilnius University, Lithuania. Her research focuses on ecological citizenship and its relationship to local and global environmental politics.

Renata Bikauskaite (Vilnius University, Lithuania, co-author) is an assistant professor in the Department of Logic and History of Philosophy at Vilnius University, Lithuania. Trained in social and political philosophy, she studies the ethics of care and gender politics.

**Friday, 3 May 2019**

### **Parallel Session 3a: Avian Care**

**Leonoor Zuiderveen Borgesius** (University of Oslo)

“Boulder Geese – On Birds as First Settlers of Emptied Lands”

I examine the role of the graylag goose as first settler in the creation of a Dutch new wilderness on reclaimed land; a dry seabed. I focus on the land’s proclaimed empty history, and how the needs of rare migratory birds intertwine with the creation of a pre-human, Pleistocene landscape.

Leonoor Zuiderveen Borgesius did an MA in Historical Studies at Radboud University Nijmegen (NL), and is now a PhD-candidate with a project on the temporalities of land-reclamation and its intellectual histories of empire at the University of Oslo.

\*\*\*

**Helen F. Wilson** (Durham University)

“Coexistence, Transgression, and the Tyne Kittiwakes”

Drawing on the case of the Tyne kittiwakes, the paper examines how precarious coexistence is achieved, materialised, restored, and threatened, in the cities of Newcastle and Gateshead in NE. England. It connects care in the city with wider concerns for climate change, overfishing, and warming seas.

Helen F. Wilson is an Assistant Professor in Geography at Durham University. Her research works across multispecies and multicultural contact zones, ideas of encounter,

and questions of embodied difference. She is co-editor of *Encountering the City* (Routledge, 2016) and her book *Robin* is under contract with Reaktion.

\*\*\*

**Thomas Jacobsen** (University of Stockholm, co-author) and **Christian Medaas** (University of Oslo)

“Caring for, living with: Common Swifts in the Sixth Extinction”

In this paper, the authors explore multispecies modes of responsibility, care, and coexistence between humans and Common Swifts, a species of migratory bird, in the context of the “6th Extinction”, including the construction of a specialized birdhouse to accommodate Common Swifts in the built environment.

Thomas Jacobsen (co-author) is a Ph.D. student at the Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Stockholm. He is currently researching chronic wasting disease among reindeer in Southern Norway, and is an avid birdwatcher.

Christian Medaas is a Ph.D. student at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo, currently researching practices of repair related to electronic waste. The two anthropologists studied together for their Master's Degree in Social Anthropology at the University of Oslo and share a longstanding interest in multispecies anthropology, environmental concerns, and more.

### **Parallel Session 3b: Care in Conservation**

**Liana Chua** (Brunel University, London)

“The (e)valuation of care in orangutan conservation: politics, privilege and discomfiting ethnography”

This paper examines the uneven (e)valuations of human-orangutan care in two conservation contexts—orangutan rehabilitation and orangutan pet-keeping. More reflexively, it advocates paying critical attention to anthropologists’ own politics, privileges, and (e)valuative practices in their programmes for multispecies care and coexistence.

Liana Chua is Reader in Anthropology at Brunel University London. She has long-term ethnographic interests in religion, ethnic politics, resettlement and environmental transformations in Borneo, and currently leads a large research project on global orangutan conservation.

\*\*\*

**Rosie Sims** (IHEID, Geneva)

“Caring for inconvenient others: Living with mosquitos in Medellín, Colombia”

This paper follows the making of a bioengineered mosquito released as a public health tool against diseases in Medellín, Colombia. Ethnography reveals the insectary as a space of fleshly encounters where life and death coexist in close proximity, and this paper explores the ambivalences in caring for and coexisting with an inconvenient other.

Rosie Sims is a Ph.D. student in Anthropology at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

\*\*\*

**Anna-Katharina Laboissière** (Ecole normale supérieure/ Curtin University, via skype)  
“Relational vulnerability, relational resilience: The violent care of the search for crop wild relatives”

This paper will examine the emergence of the Crop Wild Relatives Project in order to ask how this practice complicates the ex situ conservation of endangered wild species – by opening up possibilities for relational extinction mitigation, marginal forms of domestication, and temporal colonisation of speculative pasts.

Anna-Katharina Laboissière is a Ph.D. candidate at the department of philosophy of the Ecole Normale Supérieure, France and the Centre for Culture and technology of Curtin University, Australia. Her research focuses on the ex-situ conservation of wild species, and her interests include the history of conservation biology and gardening, extinction and counter-extinction, the philosophy of multispecies co-constitutions, philosophical ethology, and feminist and queer ecologies.

#### **Parallel Session 4a: Caring For Communities**

**Emily O’ Gorman** (Macquarie University)  
“Weaving worlds: Postcolonial and multispecies politics of plants”

This paper engages with contemporary activities by Aboriginal women at three wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin, Australia, as they use weaving of sedges and rushes to show both the importance of these places and in ongoing care for Country that has persisted through British colonisation and up to now.

Emily O’Gorman is an environmental historian with interdisciplinary research interests within the environmental humanities. Currently a Senior Lecturer at Macquarie University, her research focuses on how people have lived with other species, rivers, wetlands, and climates from the nineteenth century to today.

\*\*\*

**Camelia Dewan** (University of Oslo)  
“Caring for dying rivers: Stories of hope and survival in an embanked floodplain of coastal Bangladesh”

This paper will look at the stories of hope and survival in the moribund Ganges delta, where rivers and canals are seen to be dying in the wake of embankments that have stopped monsoon floods crucial for species co-existence and the health and vitality of its water bodies.

Camelia Dewan is an environmental anthropologist working on toxicity, food and rural livelihoods in Bangladesh. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow looking at shipbreaking on the 'Life-cycle of Containerships' project at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo.

\*\*\*

**Tristan Partridge** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

“Urgent action for long-term futures: Indigenous community care for Páramo landscapes in Ecuador”

This paper examines collective practices of conservation in communally-held areas of páramo land within the indigenous community of San Isidro in highland Ecuador – showing how these practices reflect a coming together of diverse, often conflicting, ideas about urgency, cooperation and the future.

Tristan Partridge is a social anthropologist and Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona focusing on environmental justice at the ICTA Institute of Environmental Science and Technology.

### **Parallel Session 4b: Virtual Care**

**Laura op de Beke** (Leiden University)

“Routines of care in the stillness of the wind and other farm games”

Care is a doing word. More than an attitude, it describes a practice. It's this practice of care that is at the heart of *The Stillness of the Wind*, a short contemplative video game about the end of the world. This paper analyses how habits of care are imbued with new meaning in times of extinction.

Laura op de Beke is a prospective Ph.D. candidate at Oslo University where she will begin working on the Lifetimes project in September (<http://temporalities.no/>). She has MA degrees in Literary Studies and North American studies from Leiden University. She recently defended her MA thesis titled *The Environmental Orientation of Videogames*, which analyses how video games are able to inspire empathy for virtual ecosystems.

\*\*\*

**Hannah Fair** (Brunel University London)

“Orangutans in the Anthropocene: Enacting care and kinship via digital coexistence”

I examine virtual orangutan ‘adoption’ as a form of digitally mediated care across distance, considering practices of interspecies compassion, de commodification and kinship building and explore how orangutans are enrolled in both hopeful and misanthropic narratives about conservation.

Hannah Fair is a postdoctoral researcher in Anthropology at Brunel University London, working on the Global Lives of the Orangutan project, and holds a PhD in Human Geography from University College London.

\*\*\*

**Siobhan Leddy** (Berlin)

“Holobiont: Duties of care for what cannot be seen — microbes in the gut and on other planets”

The enormity of planetary change and its entanglements mean that terms such as “unimaginable” have begun to creep into ecological discourse. How, then, can we care for those who lie beyond the threshold of visibility? Jenna Sutela’s short film *Holobiont* (2018) offers guidance, examining her relationship with the microbial *Bacillus subtilis*.

After completing an MA in Global Arts at Goldsmiths in London, Siobhan Leddy now lives in Berlin where she works as a writer, editor and independent researcher. Her interests include visual art, leaky bodies and unruly ecologies, and she is currently working on a Ph.D. proposal along these lines.



UiO • **University of Oslo**



**easa**  
European Association of Social Anthropologists