

Equines and humans share a long history in which diverse relationships have developed. Horses today are companions, (co-)athletes and working animals. They are used in research and entertainment or serve as status symbols.

Discussing Equine Ethics emerges from the current social context in which the issue of equine welfare has never been more central. In recent years, there has been a boom in critical attention toward equine cultures, driving theoretical research and bringing ethical concerns to the forefront of practitioners' minds.

But what exactly is equine ethics? Some philosophers believe that animal ethics is something we do rather than a set of theories and literatures alone. Bob Fischer (2021) reflects on doing animal ethics as navigating our relationships with nonhuman animals. This conference takes this view as its starting point and encompasses two key perspectives: (1) Theoretical perspectives: theoretically driven inquiries into building good horse-human relationships; and (2) Practical perspectives: reflections and studies on good horse-human relationships anchored in particular practices.

With the aim of joining forces, we invite scholars and practitioners involved with equine welfare and ethics to participate in this two-day international conference. Our goal is to engage in interdisciplinary thinking about shared concerns. How can we best understand and meet the species-specific and individual needs of horses? Can riding and use in sport be reconciled with the physiological and psychological wellbeing of the animals? What does a good (work) life look like for a horse, for example in the context of equine assisted therapy?

Registration:

Please register by 15.08.2022 - Registration Fees include coffee breaks, book of abstract and certificate of attendance for participants: 40.-/30.- (Students)

Location:

University of Fribourg
Room: MIS03 Auditorium C
Miséricorde
Av. de l'Europe 20
1700 Fribourg
Switzerland

Languages:

Presentations are held in English, with simultaneous interpretation for questions in French or German available

Organizers:

Dr. des. Maude Ouellette-Dubé, University of Fribourg and Dr. des. Friederike Zenker, University of Basel

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Photo: Helena Lopes

**Discussing Equine Ethics:
Taking Stock from Theory and Practice**

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

01.-02.9. 2022
University of Fribourg



Day 1: Theoretical Perspectives (September 1)

09:00 Registration
09:15 Welcome word

09:30 – 11:00
Nora Schuurman and Alex Franklin (University of Turku and Coventry University)
Becoming response-able: Interspecies care and agency in equine rescue and rehabilitation. Study on horse rescue yards

Maisie Tomlinson (University of London)
Prey-animal “mirrors” in equine-assisted personal development

Marion Novet (Agroscope CH)
Ethics and economics of leisure equid owners in Switzerland: the moderating effect of gender

Chair: Friederike Zenker

11:00– 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30–12:00
Mariessa Long (Messerli Research Institute, Vetmeduni Vienna)
Quality of life of aged and/or chronically ill horses: the importance of knowing the individual

Chair: Sarah Köglsperger

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break

13:30–15:00
Bianca Friedman (Edge Hill University)
Representing an equine’s point of view in films: reflections on ethics and War Horse case study

Anastasija Ropa (Latvian Academy of Sport Education)
Medieval Models of Equine Ethics: The Example of Jordanua Rufus
online

Marthe Kiley-Worthington (Centre of Eco-Etho Research & Education UK)
What is it to be a horse? Equine Epistemology: How do equines see/experience the world?
online

Chair: Maude Ouellette-Dubé

15:00–15:30 Coffee Break

15:30–16:00
Gala Argent (Eastern Kentucky University)
Can You Hear Me (Yet)? – Rhetorical Horses, Trans-Species Communication, and Interpersonal Attunement
online

Chair: Friederike Zenker

Short Break

16:15–17:45
Kendra Coulter (Huron University College at Western University)
Shifting Landscapes: Challenges and Possibilities of Ethical Engagement with and for Horses
Keynote Lecture

Chair: Friederike Zenker

Day 2: Practical Perspectives (September 2)

09:30 – 11:00
Dr. Vet. Stéphane Montavon (presenting for COFICHEV)
Ethical Reflections on the Dignity and Welfare of Horses and other Equids
Keynote Lecture

Chair: Maude Ouellette-Dubé

11:00– 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30–12:30
Furtado, T., Smith, R., Brigden, C., Perkins, E., Pinchbeck, G. (University of Liverpool)
The (equestrian) moral maze: exploring how leisure horse owners navigate their principles within horsecare practices
online

Sabrina Briefer Freymond (Agroscope CH)
Do owner-horse pairs have similar personality traits

Chair: Sarah Köglsperger

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00–15:00
Iris Bachmann (Agroscope CH)
Defining hyperflexion: An investigation of head and neck positions and behaviour of ridden elite dressage horses

Anne-Laure Maigrot (Agroscope CH)
How do horses express their stress: the effect of coping styles on subtle behavioural indicators?

Chair: Friederike Zenker

15:00–15:30 Coffee Break

15:30–16:30
Sese Ma (Kyoto University)
An Ethics of Friendship – Learnings From an Interspecies Horse-Human Community in Tamba, Japan

Amelia Cameron (University of Nottingham)
End-of-Life Decision-Making: Strategies and Challenges in an Equine Charity Setting

Chair: Friederike Zenker

Short Break

16:45–17:45
Petra Andersson (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences Uppsala)
Justified expectations on horses’ contributions in equine assisted therapy

Debbie Busby (Manchester Metropolitan University)
The Good Life? An Etho-Phenomenological Exploration of Sustainability and Wellbeing in the UK Horse Industry

Chair: Maude Ouellette-Dubé