

EDITORIAL

In recent years, the Humanities and Social Sciences have increasingly reconsidered the place of animals in historical and cultural analysis. Rather than treating animals simply as symbols or passive objects within human worlds, scholars have begun to explore how animals actively shape social relations, environments, imaginations, and everyday life. This special issue, *Lives in Motion: Animals as Historical and Cultural Agents*, contributes to these conversations through interdisciplinary approaches to multispecies agency, movement, and relationality.

The contributions collected here move across diverse geographical, historical, and imaginative landscapes. Together, they examine how animals participate in systems of mobility, sensory negotiation, cultural representation, political imagination, and ecological coexistence. In doing so, the issue highlights the importance of moving beyond anthropocentric frameworks toward more relational understandings of historical and cultural life.

Questions of movement and circulation emerge strongly throughout the collection. In “Animals in Transit: Archival Traces of Agency in the Deutsche Indien-Expedition 1955–58,” Radha Malkar explores how animal lives became entangled within postwar scientific reconstruction, diplomacy, and global exchanges of knowledge. The article also highlights how scientific institutions and international networks depended upon the movement and management of animal lives themselves. Claire Parkinson’s “Dog(s) Walking: Darkness, Agency and Sensory Negotiation” similarly focuses on movement and environment, examining how darkness reshapes sensory relations between humans, dogs, and space through everyday walking practices. By foregrounding movement, traces, and environmental effects, the article challenges anthropocentric assumptions about perception and agency.

Several contributions also rethink representation and participation through multispecies perspectives. Cheng Chen’s study of lion dance practices in Singapore examines how participatory co-design challenges fixed understandings of cultural heritage and redistributes who can “speak for the lion” within processes of cultural representation. In a different context, Surabhi Baijal’s “Feathers of Resistance: Avian Networks and Inter-species Agency in Tamora Pierce’s Trickster Duology” explores the distinction between agency and instrumentality through avian networks of communication, resistance, and care. Rather than functioning as symbolic extensions of human intention, the crows emerge as active political participants within the novels’ multispecies world.

The issue also highlights the methodological and conceptual diversity of contemporary multispecies scholarship. Peggy Bloomer’s “Becoming Amphibian: The Fowler’s Toad and the Planetary Ethics of Relation” combines philosophy, evolutionary theory, and Indigenous cosmologies to reconsider amphibian life as a relational form of becoming grounded in coexistence and permeability.

Taken together, these contributions demonstrate the value of animal-centered and multispecies approaches for rethinking culture, history, agency, and relationality. They also show the importance of interdisciplinary methods that bring together archival research, ethnography, literary analysis, philosophy, and creative practice. At a time of ongoing ecological and social transformation, the articles collected here encourage further reflection on the shared and entangled worlds humans and animals continue to inhabit together.

I would like to thank all contributors, reviewers, and especially our editorial staff whose work and support made this special issue possible. I hope this collection will encourage further conversations on animals as historical and cultural agents and inspire new interdisciplinary explorations of multispecies relations.

Assistant Prof. Dr. Kunyi Zou
Guest editor

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Faculty of Humanities, Chiang Mai University

Journal of Integrative and Innovative Humanities

To promote the importance of interdisciplinary studies and the coalescence between humanities and other areas such as the sciences—natural, social, or applied—economics, and business administration, the Faculty of Humanities, Chiang Mai University, is launching Journal of Integrative and Innovative Humanities. This peer-reviewed bi-annual journal aims to disseminate novel interdisciplinary studies and to bridge the gap between humanities and other disciplines, emphasizing the critical role of humanities in any field of study's discussion and innovation. Additionally, it is hoped that the journal will become recognized in international academic journal indexes, such as Scopus, within four years.

Objectives

To promote the importance of interdisciplinary studies and the coalescence between humanities and other areas

Journal Standards

To comply with the standards for academic journals in the Social Sciences and Humanities set by the OHEC and TRF, the editorial board consists of professors and doctoral experts who have been conducting research continuously. The editorial board members are mainly from external institutions and partly from internal institutions. All submitted articles are double-blind peer reviewed by at least two reviewers. The journal is published every May and November

Article screening policy

1. The journal accepts interdisciplinary articles that are written in English and that discuss any topics concerning the humanities in relation to other areas. The articles can be research articles, academic articles, review articles, or book reviews.
2. All submitted articles are reviewed by at least two reviewers in related fields and are approved by the editorial board.
3. Authors must comply with regulations and satisfy conditions set by the editorial board, and agree that for the final production phase, the articles' formatting can be modified or adjusted by the co-editors in chief.

Article review process

Authors register with Thai Journals Online (ThaiJo) to submit articles. The editorial team notifies authors upon receiving articles. The co-editors in chief preliminarily assess whether the received articles are within the scope of the journal. This process also includes the assessment of academic quality and contributions. Authors will be notified whether or not the articles will be sent out for review within 15 days. The editorial team sends qualified articles out for review. Each article will be assessed by at least two reviewers in related fields to determine its quality and contributions. The review process is double blind. It takes approximately 20 - 40 days. Based on the reviewers' comments, the co-editors may accept, ask authors for revision, or reject articles. Authors will be informed about the review results within 15 days after the editorial office receives the reviews from the reviewers.

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