

Constructing and contesting veterinary expertise: Professionals, publics and prospects

Tuesday 5 July – Thursday 7 July 2022
Online conference

Convenors:

Professor Pru Hobson-West, University of Nottingham

Dr Alistair Anderson, University of Nottingham

Professor Kate Millar, University of Nottingham



This is an online conference with speakers presenting via Zoom webinar. All times shown in UK time.

Day 1: Tuesday 5 July 2022

12:30-13:00 Welcome and introduction by convenors

13:00-14:00 **Session 1: How is veterinary expertise changing?**

This session will draw on topic examples in order to reveal the distinct historical trajectory of the veterinary profession, having regularly needed to demarcate and defend a territory of expertise and professionalisation. Papers will reveal how science and humanities approaches show veterinary expertise as an unsettled site of social and cultural interest, incorporating contested professional identities, complex interpersonal politics, and a plurality of constructions of health and illness. These aspects of veterinary expertise are shaped by a number of variables including veterinary education, the varied contexts of veterinary practice, the heterogeneity of gender dynamics within the profession's various contexts, and perceptions of societal expectation.

Speakers in this session will deliver 15-minute presentations.

Dr Angela Cassidy (University of Exeter)

Dr Ludek Broz (Czech Academy of Sciences)

Dr Nicolas Fortané (INRAE, Paris-Dauphine University)

Alison Skipper (King's College London)

14:00-14:15 Break

14:15-14:30 Chair reflections **Dr Robert Kirk** (University of Manchester)

14:30-15:00 Audience Q&A

15:00-15:15 Closing remarks **Professor Pru Hobson-West** (University of Nottingham)

15:15 End of Day 1

Day 2: Wednesday 6 July 2022

12:30-12:45 Welcome and introduction by convenors

12:45-13:45 **Session 2: How does veterinary expertise become contested?**

This second session will involve discussion of how veterinary expertise becomes contested. Veterinarians treat the companion animals of the general pet-owning public, work with farmers in agricultural businesses and scientists in animal research laboratories, and contribute to public health policies and interventions in government roles. As with the profession itself, these relationships are all historically contingent and contemporarily heterogeneous. Veterinary expertise often therefore involves contestation between veterinary professionals and other publics or novel technologies, but it can also involve contestation for professionals working across multiple jurisdictions or in socially-controversial areas. This session unpacks some of the various ways in which veterinary expertise becomes contested, and how social research can illuminate these contestations and the relationships that give rise to them.

Speakers in this session will deliver 15-minute presentations.

Dr Alistair Anderson (University of Nottingham)

Dr Jenny Vermilya (University of Colorado)

Dr Gareth Enticott (Cardiff University)

Professor Pru Hobson-West (University of Nottingham)

13:45-14:00 Break

14:00-14:15 Chair reflections **Professor Melanie Rock** (University of Calgary)

14:15-14:45 Audience Q&A

14:45-15:00 Break

Day 2: Wednesday 6 July 2022 *(Continued)*

15:00-16:00

Session 3: What ethical dilemmas emerge from contested veterinary expertise?

Session three will explore the significant ethical challenges that are created when veterinary expertise is contested. Veterinarians routinely deal with dilemmas and many of these are not commonly faced in human medical care, such as the euthanasia decision-making of conflicted pet-owners or the financial/welfare compromises of agricultural business. These decisions are further complicated by the triadic relationship between the veterinarian, their non-human animal patient, and their human client. The papers and discussion in this theme will reflect on how veterinary ethical dilemmas can be examined through insights from social sciences and humanities, and whether lessons can be identified for ethical challenges in the human medical field.

Speakers in this session will deliver 15-minute presentations.

Dr Svenja Springer (University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna)

Dr Franck Meijboom (Utrecht University)

Dr Carol Gray (Hartpury University)

Professor Kate Millar (University of Nottingham).

16:00-16:15

Break

16:15-16:30

Chair reflections **Professor Henry Buller** (University of Exeter)

16:30-17:00

Audience Q&A

17:00-17.15

Closing remarks, conference convenors

17:15

End of day 2

Day 3: Thursday 7 July 2022

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| 12:30-12:45 | Welcome and introduction by convenors |
| 12:45-13:45 | <p>Session 4: What are the prospects for social research into veterinary expertise?</p> <p>The fourth and final theme reflects on the implications of doing social research on veterinary expertise and the prospects for the development of the nascent field of veterinary humanities. By way of comparison, the medical humanities are well-developed as an interdisciplinary field with academic infrastructures and routes to impact. This session will challenge participants to consider whether and how the veterinary humanities could replicate these contributions, or indeed whether the veterinary humanities should have distinct aspirations from the medical humanities.</p> <p>Speakers in this session will deliver 15-minute presentations.</p> <p>Professor Jane Desmond (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)</p> <p>Dr Kerstin Weich (University of Vienna)</p> <p>Professor Henry Buller (University of Exeter)</p> <p>Professor Melanie Rock (University of Calgary)</p> |
| 13:45-14:00: | Break |
| 14:00-14:15 | Chair reflections Professor Abigail Woods (University of Lincoln) |
| 14:15-14:45 | Audience Q&A |
| 14:45-15:00 | Conference conclusion, convenors |
| 15:00 | End of day 3 |
| 15:15-16:30 | <p>Informal networking (optional)</p> <p>The convenors will host a separate online space for informal discussion and networking at the end of the conference. This will be optional and separate to the main conference event.</p> |