

# 18<sup>th</sup> Toronto German Studies Symposium

University of Toronto October 2-4, 2025

## Regarding Interspecies Entanglements: Conflict, Communication, Kinship

### Sponsored by:

*Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures*

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*Cinema Studies Institute (CSI)*

*Institute for the History of the Philosophy of Science and Technology (IHPST)*

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UNIVERSITY OF  
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**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst  
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## Thursday, October 2

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Media Commons Theatre (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), Robarts Library, 130 St. George Street

18:00

***Screening of Singing Back the Buffalo  
with Tasha Hubbard and Kyra Northwest***

Virtual introduction by **Kyra Northwest** (Montana First Nation) and post-screening discussion with filmmaker and University of Alberta professor **Tasha Hubbard** (Peepeekisis First Nation)

***Singing Back the Buffalo*** (dir. Tasha Hubbard, CA, 99 min)

A visually rich and compelling story of indigenous kinship with buffalo and how the latter's return to the Great Plains can restore sustainability and balance to wider ecologies.

## Friday, October 3

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Room 208N (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), The Munk School for Global Affairs, 1 Devonshire Place

9:00

***Opening Remarks***

Dr. Stefan Soldovieri, Chair, Germanic Lang. & Literatures.  
Dr. Angelica Fenner, Prof of German and Cinema Studies

9:15

***Figure and Ground:  
Landscape, Habitat, & Umwelt in the Visual Field***

Moderator: Dr. Tracy McDonald (History, McMaster University)

Dr. Jennifer Fay (Cinema & Media, Vanderbilt University)  
**The Age of Loneliness: The Zoo from Wiseman to Karmakar**

Dr. Inga Pollmann (German & Film, UNC, Chapel Hill)  
**Negotiating Modes of Being: Animalistic Media,  
Environments, and Moods**

Dr. Matthew Thompson (Film Studies, University of Regina)  
***The Garden Machine: Fantasies of an Artificially Intelligent  
Environmentalism***

11:15

Break

11:30

***Representing Relationality:  
Interspecies Communication and Play***

Moderator: Parth Pant (Cinema Studies, University of Toronto)

Dr. Susan McHugh (English, University of New England)  
**Filmmakers (not) Seeing Wild Animals as Communicative**

Max Weber (German, University of Toronto)  
**Scenes of Play as Metareflections on Literature and Ecology in  
Marlen Haushofers *Die Wand* and *Der Himmel, der nirgendwo  
endet***

12:45

Break

14:00

***Perspectival Framing Beyond the Human  
on Screen and Canvas***

Moderator: Dr. Rebecca Woods (IHPST, University of Toronto)

Dr. James Cahill (Cinema Studies & French, University of Toronto)  
**Of What Do Sleeping Dogs Dream? An Excursion with Velázquez**

Emilie Jacob (Cinema Studies, University of Toronto)  
***Killer POVs: Cross-Species Vision and the Anarchitectural Gaze in  
Dario Argento's Cinema***

15:30

**Screening and Discussion  
with Bonnie Whitehall, Artist (MFA)**

Moderator: Petra Totten (Cinema Studies, University of Toronto)

***The Beast in Me Manifesto* (2021, CA, 34 min.)**

A film manifesto interrogating the cinematic animal from a social, cultural and historical perspective to highlight the ways animals have been represented throughout the history of documentary film.

***The Sameness Approach* (2024, 4 min)**

This contemplative film asks whether older animals should be retired from zoo life, honoring their needs and their years of overexposure to the public. The film challenges viewers to reconsider the role of zoos,

confront the realities of captivity, and reflect on the ethics of keeping aging animals behind their walls.

## Saturday, October 4

Deluxe Theatre, Innis Room 222 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), 2 Sussex Avenue

10:00

### *Interspecies Performance*

Moderator: Dr. Stefan Soldovieri (German, University of Toronto)

Dr. Ina Karkani (Film and Theatre Studies, Free University of Berlin)  
**Animalizing Film Form. A Creaturely Approach to Film Aesthetics**

Ganga Rudraiah (Cinema Studies, University of Toronto)  
**The Film Song is Like a Horse with Wings**

Dr. Angelica Fenner (German and Cinema Studies, U. of Toronto)  
**Penguin Lessons: What Can We Learn from the Spheniscidae Media Mania?**

12:00 *Closing Remarks*

