

Unspeakable: The Law, Naming and Unique Wrongs against Animals

Since the 1970s, the animal rights movement has challenged the salience of the species divide between humans and other animals by emphasising their commonalities. This 'similarities approach' has been leveraged to critique widely-accepted attitudes and practices involving animals on the basis that similar attitudes and practices would be considered monstrous if directed towards human beings.

This paper will argue that, while the similarities approach is an indispensable component of the animal protection movement's advocacy, overreliance on this framework erases some of the unique wrongs experienced by animals in, for example, industrial farming systems. A failure to identify – and name – the unique wrongs experienced by animals results in *hermeneutical* injustice, the injustice of having some significant area of one's experience obscured from collective understanding. This paper shall consider the potential, challenges and limits of using the law to address this injustice.



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