

Interspecies Solidarity: From Moral Sentiments to Political and Legal Transformation

In both public and academic discourse, it is agreed that sentient non-human animals matter morally and that this constrains what humans may justifiably do to them. Despite this agreement, industrial animal agriculture, along with its associated harms, is expanding, rather than diminishing, and the loss of species of wild animals is intensifying. In response, many scholars have argued that positive moral sentiments toward animals are not enough: we need to recognise their legal and political status within our shared multi-species communities, for only then can we create institutions that robustly protect and allow them to flourish. But while there has been important scholarship on what these multi-species communities and their institutions might look like, much less consideration has been given to how they might be created and maintained. Put simply, considerable thought has gone into the kinds of worlds we should create, but much less on how we might move towards and sustain them. This paper tentatively proposes that that *interspecies solidarity* might be instructive here, given that solidarity refers to the commitment to take on obligations for others in the pursuit of collective projects. In other words, 'interspecies solidarity' offers potential to act as a bridge between our positive moral sentiments toward animals and legal and political transformation on their behalf.



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