

## **Challenging Anthropocentrism in Political Science: Gender, Race, Intersectionality, and the More-Than-Human**

*Call for Papers for the Politicologen Etmaal 2021 (3-4 June, online)*

**Political science is traditionally anthropocentric, focusing on human-related politics. Yet the challenges of our times include more-than-human topics, e.g. climate change or animal ethics. This workshop seeks to broaden the field's scope and stimulate innovation, by combining a focus on more-than-human politics with critical social theories (e.g. feminism, CRT, intersectionality).**

At the dawn of the Anthropocene, the category of the human (the “anthropos” of the new era) needs to be critically examined. This need goes against the dominant tendencies in political theory and science that, for the better part of their history, have been founded on the exclusive right of humans to convene a polis. Consequently, critical study of land issues, climate change, animals and tensions between wildlife and urbanity have remained niche endeavors within the field of political science. Yet current phenomena such as climate change, refugeeship, the COVID-19 pandemic, land struggles of indigenous communities, and the incremental success of European animal parties shows that our realities are comprised of more-than-human entities which translate into concrete non-human political urgencies that political science should not leave understudied.

Moreover, if political scientists do study the more-than-human, they rarely engage in dialogue with scholarship on gender, race, ethnicity and migration politics. Yet there are rich theoretical fields that have engaged the non-human from and gender, race or intersectional perspective, such as varies strands of political ecology, ecofeminism, critical animal studies, feminist new materialism and decolonial ecology. We therefore see a real and timely opportunity for political scientists to rise to the challenges of our times and push the field forward by engaging these cutting-edge theories in their study of more-than-human politics.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Please write an abstract of no more than 500 words and a short bio of max. 100 words and submit it through the online form on the website of Politicologenetmaal **before March 31 2021** via <https://politicologenetmaal.eu/workshop-list/#workshop2>. We will let you know by Friday April 15 if your paper has been selected for our workshop.

We take up the term politics broadly, as this may include topics that have captured the attention of local, national or European representative politics, social movements, political parties or general political debates. The more-than-human is also given a broad meaning, and may refer to nature as such, ecology, climate, environments, wildlife, farming, food, lands, rivers, viruses, technology, and so on. We welcome empirical studies and theoretical or philosophical essays. Ideally, the workshop hosts a mix of these approaches.

### WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS

**Mariska Jung**, PhD candidate at the Department of Political Science with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium and affiliated to RHEA, the university's research center on gender, diversity and intersectionality. Jung studies the dynamics between race, religion and animal politics in post/colonial Europe.

**Mihnea Tanasescu**, research fellow at the Department of Political Science with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium. Tanasescu specializes in political ecology as well as the rights and political representation of nature.

### QUESTIONS?

Please contact Mariska Jung via [mariska.jung@vub.be](mailto:mariska.jung@vub.be).

