

Tranimacies: Intimate Links between Affect, Animals, and Trans* Studies

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What are the possible, imagined and visceral moments of overlap between animal and trans* studies today? This special issue seeks to explore the “intimate links” of somatechnical entanglements between transgender experiences, animals and ugly/glorious affects. We hope to highlight lines of inquiry that forge new connections and alliances amongst the critical investigation of trans embodiment, animals and affective her/histories and futures. Recent scholarly interest in decentring the human subject and exploring interspecies relations can be traced to a variety of fields including but not limited to activism, new materialism, posthumanism, bio/necropolitics, critical race studies, object-oriented ontology, animal studies, actor network theory, disability studies, crip theory, affect studies, art, postcolonial and eco-critique and queer theory. Responding to this growing body of scholarship we invite submissions which explore the “animacies” (Chen) that shape transgender and animal studies discourses, activism, and art today.

Whether envisioned as a shared space in the knowledge production system, or as an ontological zone of humanimal becoming(s), “tranimacies” delve into complex entanglements and radical consequences of queering the nonhuman. With careful attention paid to the troubling histories of the human/nonhuman interface, shaped by colonialism, modern medical-scientific industry, capitalism, biotechnology, concerns over health, this issue critically links it to transness as a lived reality. By tracing “moments of taxonomic tensions” (Livingstone and Puar) we aim at complicating the ways in which trans* and animal meet and how they are inflected by the categories of race, ability, class, sexuality, geopolitical location, etc. By inviting contributors to challenge the symbolic labour and economic materiality of collapsing transness and animality, we hope to open up vibrant discussions that will radically politicize the contours of tranimacies.

Some topics that essays/contributions might consider:

- the politics of human desire to queer nonhumans
- tranimacies in art/visual culture and literature
- queer ecologies, interspecies encounters and transpecies embodiments
- new directions in scholarship on “animal transsex”, “animacies” and interspecies relations
- animographies and vitographies of trans* experience
- the place of affect in gendered technologies/somatechnics
- body/machine/animal/cyborg
- the politics and materiality of hormone/capital/knowledge flows
- biopolitical and necropolitical dimensions of trans*/posthuman experiences
- cross-species and cross-gender subjectivities
- animacies of racial embodiment in a larger-than-human world
- new zoontologies of gender diversity
- transdisciplinarity of affective approaches
- genealogies of affects inscribed in geopolitical concepts and bodies
- (de)racialization of trans* embodiments
- supernatural trans* animals (e.g. alien, ghost, monster, vampire, werewolf)
- transing capacity, debility, affectivity
- slow death, captivity, populations_species under threat of extinction

The intimate links between trans* and animal, their relevance to society and activism, and their impact on art make it necessary to consider them beyond the limits of scholarly research. Therefore we encourage traditionally academic submissions as well as visual materials, activist reports and other varying genres. Only previously unpublished (in English) work considered.

Submission guidelines:

Due **February 1, 2014** to tranimacies@gmail.com as word documents (.doc or .docx).

- Extended abstract of 500 words. Include a work plan that explains your work to-date on the topic and how your proposed article will address the concept of tranimacies.

- 1-page CV

*Notifications will follow March 1, 2014. Full submissions due July 1, 2014 for peer-review process. Publication date envisaged in Spring 2015.