

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



Equine Cultures in Transition Conference

Past, Present and Future Challenges
in June 22-24 2021



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Abstracts to be presented at Equine Cultures in Transition 2021

The abstracts are sorted alphabetically after the authors name.

Adelman, Miriam **What our horses can('t) do for us: analysis of discourses and practices in equine-assisted therapies in Brazil.**

The physical and emotional demands we place on domesticated animals, and on horses in particular, can be expected to grow during the post-COVID world in which diverse forms of human fragility and vulnerability - some 'new', some 'old' – have already shown undeniable signs of intensification. Forms of 'alienation', as well as genesis of therapeutic cultures and needs, have long been recognized and studied by sociologists - a recent landmark is Illouz' (2008) 'Saving the modern soul'. Our sociological analysis gives credit to needs generated within a complex society in which human connections of many types (to other humans, other species, nature) have been characteristically hampered, mutilated, commodified, severed – thereby producing the urgency for 'reconnections' in a variety of realms and modes. This phenomenon has been recognized by scholars who perceive that one of the most crucial roles of horses today is that of "healer" or even "therapist" - an empirical reality in which equines are actors or even protagonists in wide, diverse and ever-expanding field of therapeutically-oriented practices, ranging from those that have clearly biomedical goals to (perhaps at the other end of the spectrum) activities inspired by New Age philosophies, 'alternative psychotherapies' and esoterism. The present paper presents initial reflections on a proposal which is (at least) two-fold: we look at the contemporary therapeutic use of horses in Brazil with the intentions of examining therapeutic claims (placing them under critical scrutiny), while attempting to recognize, and understand, as Illouz suggests, "what these therapies actually do" for those who seek them out.

Almström Inger & Gajewska, Magdalena Anita **Title: HORSES FOR POLAND. Narratives about UNRRA horses and its educational potential**

We begun the search for the horses after Stockholm conference, reported some finds in Leeds and have continued the search. United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Association (UNRRA).

After World War II 30 000 horses were ordered from Sweden. Through UNRRA we thought. Those were the Swedish Ardenner horse and the North Swedish Horse trotter version. Polish archives state Swedish registration and Polish numbers. These valuable horses fared well and some lived to a high age. The Polish buyers understood the horses they bought. Army horses with papers and horses aimed for riding schools without were payment.

The Zoophilologica 2019 by The University of Silesia in Krakow have published the story of Broken and we hope for reactions. In this presentation, we want to present the pedagogical dimension of horse stories from UNRRA, what role these stories have played in shaping attitudes towards horses. The stories of these horses are kept in Polish and Swedish families. They prove that horses were members of the family, that most of them were surrounded by the respect that comes from the cooperation they realized with man. By analyzing narratives about horses from UNRRA we want to show what values the interaction with horses has brought into people's lives. What is the educational potential of these stories and why should we continue to tell them.

Andersson, Petra; **Equine assisted therapies and activities in Sweden – availability and sustainability**

Sassner, Hanna;
Yngvesson, Jenny

Our aim was firstly to put together a current overview of professional providers of Equine Assisted Interventions in Sweden and secondly to gain an understanding of their sustainability.

From September 2020 to March 2021, we carried out a survey mapping the availability and focus of facilities for equine assisted physio- and psychotherapy (EAI), equine assisted learning (EAL) and equine assisted activity (EAA). Our study replicated (and partly expanded) on an earlier survey (Håkansson et al 2008) which did not include EAL or EAA. When comparing the new results with the older ones, some patterns are visible. Results indicate an unstable or immature industry with high turnover of business and many new, small and less established companies. Most alarming is perhaps the risk that there are uncertainties regarding what kind of activity some of the businesses actually offer. As far as we can see from the results, there is a tendency to name equine assisted activities as equine assisted therapy, despite the fact that there are no licensed healthcare professionals in the staff. In our analysis, we point out welfare risks for the horses and safety risks for clients and the need for improved guidelines to ensure horse and human welfare.

Further studies are needed to understand how to increase the quality and sustainability of Equine assisted therapy and activity establishments.

Asklund, Helen; **Intersectional Perspectives on Horse Stories. Pia Hagmar's Series on Millan**

Manderstedt, Lena;
Persson, Ann-Sofie

This paper focuses on horse stories as depictions of identity formation within equestrian cultures. The material used is Pia Hagmar's three books on Millan, published 2012-2014. In these stories, the construction of girlhood interconnects with the becoming of a person used to handle the large and potentially dangerous animal, which is the horse. In Susanna Hedenborg's study of the horse story genre (2013), she shows the image of a non-traditional girl, used to hard and dirty work, but also a classical fearful and shy girl outside of the interaction with horses. In Helen Asklund's study, the investigation uncovers a construction of girlhood in contrast with antagonistic characters (Asklund 2013). This paper uses an intersectional perspective to explore how the main characters in Pia Hagmar's series about Millan and their identities are shaped by their interaction with both horses and fellow humans of both sexes within equine cultures, a milieu which allows re-negotiations of what being a girl implies. Adults are positively portrayed as caring providers of knowledge about horses or as facilitators of the riding interest through financial support, or negatively as dysfunctional persons unable to act as adults. Boys of similar age and with an interest in horses are portrayed as good friends, sometimes more, but the girls are, first and foremost, interested in horses. Between girl characters, there are often conflicts and jealousy. The study aims at mapping out the formation of identity by highlighting power asymmetries such as gender, age, species, class and sexuality.

Asklund, Helen;
Manderstedt, Lena;
Persson, Ann-Sofie

Horse Stories and their Readers (proposed panel)

The horse story is a well read and highly loved genre for a great deal of readers. Despite its importance to generations of young (female) readers, the genre has attracted very little attention from researchers. This panel seeks to explore horse stories from the point of view of readers as well as from the standpoint of literary scholars. Placed at the intersection between the real-life context of equestrian centers and the equestrian cultures at play in the literary depictions, this investigation will shed light on the social and pedagogical role the horse plays in both arenas. The papers included in the panel address questions of challenges the genre and its readers face. For instance, readers of horse stories mention the difficulties of acquiring these books, and how they have helped the readers to overcome problems encountered at equestrian centers. The ecocritical readings analyze the challenges of reading the horse from its behavior, whereas the intersectional analyses highlight power asymmetries between characters.

Bergman Bruhn, Åsa;
Andersson, Ing-Marie;
Lindahl, Cecilia

The double-sided nature of lifestyle-oriented work in the Swedish equine industry

The equine industry faces problems in terms of recruitment and retention of employees when it comes to fostering decent working conditions and sustainable employments, despite the obvious advantage of offering a lifestyle-oriented work with the privilege of personal leisure interests. The overall aim is to gain knowledge of how employees in the equine industry – here including riding schools and trotting stables – experience their work and work environment. The study is part of two larger research projects, financed by the Swedish-Norwegian Foundation for Equine Research and AFA Insurance, where the purpose is to, in close collaboration with the equine industry, identify and implement methods and tools for a systematic work environment management. The study includes data from a questionnaire, individual interviews and observations. The results showed that the employees considered their work as one of the most important things in life, that they primarily worked for self-realization and good quality of life and that they perceived their current work both attractive and meaningful. Love of horses, passion for the sport, practical work in an outdoor setting, significant, stimulating and varied tasks as well as workplace relations, are the most important factors for the attractiveness and meaningfulness of the work. Nevertheless, imbalance between work and leisure time as well as high physical workload and lack of adequate equipment challenges the experience of an attractive, meaningful and sustainable work. The experiences differed somewhat between the two groups examined, i.e. employees in riding schools and trotting stables.

**Boonstra,
Wijnand**

(Re)turning to horses. Retro-innovation for small-scale and regenerative farming.

In the face of climate change, growing societal demand for sustainable food and ecosystem services Swedish farmers are searching for technologies that both sustain ecologies, and build resilience in respond to economic and climate volatility. While agribusiness typically promulgates high-tech/high-cost solutions to these environmental problems - such as the use of robots, drones and satellites – small-scale farmers often opt for different solutions by reintroducing, reinventing and innovating farm techniques and machinery that are sustainable and can be operated against low costs. The re-introduction of on-farm horsepower is illustrative of these efforts, and has gained increasing attention as a way to make farming regenerative. Advocates claim that working with horses reduces carbon dioxide emissions, prevents soil compaction, and lowers the maintenance and operating costs of farming. Yet, a (re)turn to horses comes with a profound transformation of farm operation and organisation. It will require completely different quantities and qualities of on-farm labour. Moreover, there also remains debate over the sustainability gains that can be made with horsepower. The aim of this paper is to review the sustainability advantages of farming with horses; what the (re)introduction of horsepower on farms require of the farmer in terms of skill, knowledge and farm organisation. The analysis is used to discuss under what on-farm social and ecological conditions horsepower becomes a workable choice for the development of sustainable farming.

**Bornemann,
Darcy**

Why Do People Own Horses: A theory of horse ownership.

Horse ownership is simplistically defined as the possession of a horse. However, it is understood the human horse relationship is more complex than mere ownership of an object. When investigating the relationship, horses receive more attention than the human. Missing from the knowledge base is the underlying motivation of humans to own horses, which could inform behavioural change techniques. Using an inductive, qualitative approach twenty-one dressage horse owners ranging in age, experience, and professional affiliation with horses were interviewed. Two core themes emerged. The core theme ‘Getting Into Horses’ explained people’s initial attraction to horses and how they became horse owners. The core theme of ‘Horse-Human Interaction’ explains how horses are motivating through acts of caregiving and using the horse. These themes come together to form a novel theory of horse ownership motivation. The horse ownership theory introduced in this study is explained by utilising four other theories. Biophilia explains the initial attraction to horses. Self-determination theory explains how horse ownership is fulfilling of humans’ basic psychological needs of autonomy, competency, and relatedness. Attachment theory and achievement goal theory work in conjunction with self-determination theory to further explain why human-horse interactions are fulfilling of relatedness and competency needs. In conclusion, horse ownership is motivating because of the autonomy that possession of the horse facilitates. The autonomy provides humans with the ability to control the decision-making regarding the horse, which motivates humans through a sense of competency and perception of a relationship. Thereafter, ownership protects the human-horse relationship.

Brandt-Off, Zoocialization in Practice: Visual tidbits from the field

Keri & Petitt,
Andrea

At the Leeds conference two years ago, we introduced the concept “zoocialization” in our effort to theorize how horses, cattle, and humans learn together to move together in the conjoint activity of herding. We argued that the three species are socialized by each other - *zoocialized* - to learn to engage in a shared community of communication where they develop a sense of timing and ‘feel’ of the others to enable their directed movement together. This presentation is an exploration of zoocialization in practice, through videos and images collected in our research. We visually illuminate the multispecies process of learning to communicate through enacting and performing appropriate bodily displays and behaviors that are necessary for cohesive and safe interactions. We argue that zoocialization is a practice in which all species are feeling and knowing subjects who are simultaneously teaching and learning, each offering their specific and embodied “situated knowledges” (Haraway 1988) to the collective experience.

Broms,
Lovisa

Equine Cultures Online – A study about the Swedish Equestrian Federation and social media

It’s evident that social media is a part of many people’s lives, 72% of those living in Sweden are active on social media. Average time spent on Social Networking Sites (SNS) is 1 hour and 49 minutes per day (Global state of digital in 2019, 2019). Recent research has shown that group affiliation is more important than evidence-based facts and science. This leads to that personal opinions are not seldom prioritized over evidence-based knowledge within group discussions on SNS (Hine, 2014; Klintman, 2019). There is limited research regarding human-horse relationships in connection to social media use. The existing research shows that social media is an important forum for equestrians and the narrative about the relationship between horses and humans (Byström et al., 2015; Dashper, 2017; Broms et al., 2020). There is a clear need for the equestrian federation to take social media into account when working with education material towards riding clubs and members as well as tackling with issues in regard of the welfare of horses. This study aims to investigate how the Swedish Equestrian Federation positions itself in connection to challenges related to Social Media and digitalization. The following questions are raised: What self-proclaimed challenges are the equestrian sports movement facing today in connection to social media? How does the equestrian sport movement relate to the concept? What is the role of digitalization and social media for the development within equestrian sport? The method is based on observations online (netnography) as well as interviews with representatives from the Swedish Equestrian Federation.

Buchmann, Annæ **“I hope you have learned your lesson” - Emotions in Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation**

This explorative study examines the role of emotions in equine emergency preparedness and evacuation, especially as related to the catastrophic 2019/20 bushfires and 2021 floodings, with these events heralding what the climate crisis will unleash in Australia.

This presentation starts with lessons learned during the Gospers Mountain fire in NSW that would evolve into a 500,000 ha mega-blaze threatening multiple communities over a time period lasting more than four months. The unprecedented scope, duration, and ferocity of multiple fire fronts asked for novel and, in many cases, improvised responses by local residents as well as emergency services. The talk concentrates on describing stages of evacuation and details lessons for agencies and communities in planning for future preparedness. Specifically, the role of emotions and especially notions of 'shame' will be interrogated. This line of inquiry will then be further illustrated by the experiences of the 2021 Eastern Australian floods that saw thousands of horses directly affected by the rising floodwaters. Furthermore, preparedness and evacuation efforts played out on national, state, regional, and local levels and were partially documented and discussed on social media.

Busby, Debbie **The Good Life? A phenomenological exploration of sustainability in the English speaking horse industry**

The horse industry in Britain is a lucrative economic sector representing communities including sport and leisure riders. Since humans learned to control horses, horse riding has been embedded in interspecies power relations in which the agency of the horse is constrained and equal co-creation of a human-horse community is excluded. Now primarily practised for sport or leisure, questions around the sustainability of horse riding, and how this might provide a ‘good life’ in terms of animal welfare, arise from the perspective of interspecies social justice in which horse riding poses ethical questions of power, exploitation and welfare. As members of an interspecies moral community, both horses and their riders and caregivers should be included in attempts to define and provide a ‘good life’.

However the horse training principles which underpin the ability of riders to engage in equestrian activities are poorly understood in application, and scant research has attempted to understanding whether focusing on horses as individuals, telling their stories of lived experiences, or the meanings made by humans in their interactions with horses, contribute to interspecies construction of a good life. This presentation will explore how the various constructs of horse riding impact on both horse welfare and a sustainable and publically granted licence to operate within the horse industry. Multispecies methodologies including etho-phenomenological, etho-ethnographic and eco-phenomenological techniques will be discussed to the extent that they may facilitate in-depth exploration of human-horse relationships, the perspectives of both species who share these encounters and the sustainability of currently-practised equestrian activities.

**Camphora,
Ana Lucia**

The use of horses in antibody production: An equine history of modern medicine

Over the last 120 years, countless numbers of horses have been systematically inoculated with the venom of snakes, spiders and scorpions, the bacterial toxins of diphtheria, tetanus and botulism, as well as the Rabies, Ebola, Zika, and Covid-19 viruses. This study introduces a still largely unknown history of the past and the present use of horses and other equines for the production of antibodies. Early (and current) medical responses to treat deadly diseases have been literally obtained from the blood extracted of horses. Developments in the industrial production of equine hyperimmunized plasma dates back to the late 19th-century, when the first immunizations of animals for therapeutic purposes were performed in the Pasteur Institute, France. Currently, Brazil is one of the largest producers of equine antibodies in the world. Shifting our attention turning away in time, early Brazilian snake antivenoms manufacture were carried out in the Institute of Serumtherapy, renamed Institute Butantan, founded in 1901. The history of animals in the modern medicine is a research topic that has thus far attracted little attention within the vast field of interspecies studies. In this pioneering exploration, horses emerge as much more than a mere supply of raw materials, moved from the periphery to the center of narratives on scientific negotiations. The early outcomes on these trajectories in which different actors, individual and collective, human and non-human, were evolved in the paradoxes of modern and contemporary issues are developed from a de-centered perspective in the light of ethical dimensions of human-equine studies.

**Carlsson,
Catharina**

Equine-Assisted Social Work (EASW) - Social Relation and Emotional Work theory provide access to an elusive form of tacit knowledge

This paper aims to explore the central features of Equine-Assisted Social Work (EASW) using the concepts of Goffman's theories of Social identity and Hochschild's theories of Emotional work. By analyzing in-depth interviews, video-recorded human-horse interventions with nine female self-harming clients aged 15-21 years and eight staff members, led to the conclusion that the horse counteracts impression management and allows for situations where the participants do not have to adjust to their inner stage-manager. Not exercising impression management interpreted as a shift from surface acting frontstage where emotions have exchange value, to deep acting backstage where emotions have utility value. The boundaries between frontstage, where we present our public self and backstage, an area where we display our private self are fluid. Of importance seems to be whether the horse is related to as a subject out of empathy or respect. The participants were able to show their actual social instead of a virtual social identity. In conclusion, the triads consisted of different liaisons, and depending on whether the participants acted backstage or frontstage the emotional work was affected. There was not a spatial movement between the scenes; instead, it was about participants relating differently to each other depending on whether they acted frontstage or backstage. The results indicate that the staff members are regarded more like fellow humans than professionals acting backstage, resulting in less distance to the clients. Further research is needed to investigate these processes when it could change the purpose as well as the effects of EASW.

Carrington-Farmer, Charlotte **Slavery of the Draught: Trading Horses and Sugar in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World**

This paper is not about slavery or sugar, it is about horses. But, it is difficult to tell the story of slavery or sugar in the British West Indies without acknowledging its connection to and dependence on non-human animal lives and labour. Equines were central to ensuring sugar plantations functioned, and their jobs ranged from the “slavery of the draught” powering the sugar mills to transporting people and goods. As the eighteenth century progressed and sugar plantations burgeoned, a parallel industry of equine breeding emerged in New England to meet the demand for non-human animal labour in the West Indies. It made economic sense for planters in the British West Indies to import equines, as most planters did not want to waste valuable acreage and time raising equines when they could import mature work-ready equines from New England. If the animal turn in history has been controversial in other contexts, then it is particularly so in (former) “slave societies.” Horses were raised by enslaved peoples on plantations in New England, and then traded directly for sugar, molasses, and chattel slaves. If they survived the perilous ocean crossing to the West Indies, the horses then toiled alongside enslaved peoples crushing sugar on the plantations. In some instances, enslaved peoples only got meat in their diet when a horse died. By examining the relationship between enslaved peoples in New England and the West Indies this paper offers an innovative way to examine historical horse-human interactions.

Coulter, Kendra **The Future of Horses’ Welfare and Wellbeing in the Global North: Enforcement and Prevention**

This presentation revolves around horses’ wellbeing and offers a critical, comparative analysis of what is being done (and not done) to promote horses’ physical and psychological welfare. I will concentrate on the role of protective and welfare enforcement strategies, with a particular focus on countries of the Commonwealth in the global north. I will first provide a brief overview of the dominant approaches to welfare in these countries, considering their scientific, sociopolitical, and ethical underpinnings. Next, I will synthesize what the primary equine welfare documents in these countries establish as the priorities and minimum standards for horses, what they emphasize, and what they omit. To contextualize these documents and how they are put into practice, I will outline the public and nonprofit enforcement and prevention regimes used, identifying the key strengths, weaknesses, and, crucially, areas of potential.

**Deelen,
Evelien**

From Outlaw to Athlete: Emic Perceptions on Human - Horse Relations in American Rodeo

This paper presents the results of an ethnographic study into human-horse relations in North American rodeo. Rodeo has been an intrinsic part of the Western U.S. culture for over a century. What started out in the late 19th century as an informal pastime for cowboys, quickly grew into a multimillion-dollar industry in which countless humans and animals are involved. The pivotal event in rodeo is bronc (or bucking horse) riding; a 'rough-stock' category in which a contestant rides a fiercely bucking, 'rough' horse for eight seconds. The purposeful systematic engagement with a 1000-pound animal that is celebrated for its seemingly wild and uncooperative behavior, seems to contradict the normal cultural model for human-horse interactions in other contexts. I explore this seeming paradox in my study. Through semi-structured interviews, systematic observation, and a self-administered online survey, 81 self-identified rodeo associates (participants, organizers, and fans) from the Western United States were questioned about their relationship with bucking horses. My results illuminate that over the last few decades a perceptual shift has occurred in the rodeo culture. In the past, rodeo associates perceived bucking horses as the outlaws of the equine domain because the creatures ended up in the rodeo circuit after being deemed unsuitable for normal riding purposes. Unlike their predecessors, modern-day broncs are the result of systematic breeding programs. Rodeo associates perceive these animals as athletes, and as respected partners the cowboy competes with, rather than against. The study concludes that rodeo's shift in animal procurement created a means for the animals to reposition themselves in the human cultural construction of rodeo. They hence pursue their phenotypic predilection to buck attempting riders and earn spectator respect, future pastoral freedom and breeding, rather than punishment or contempt as inherently bad animals.

**Deneux - Le
Barh,
Vanina;
Régnier,
Patrice**

Equestrianism and violence(s): evolution and situation of equestrian practices in France from the perspective of the civilising process

The historical study of equestrian practices and a review of the treatises on its evolution allows us to see these activities through the prism of Norbert Elias' civilising process. Following the example of the arts of the table, the evolution of the relationship with horses shows at the same time a softening of morals, as well as an important role of these practices in the formation of the gentleman. Riding has long been considered to permit to train the elite. According to various authors, there is a parallel between mastering a horse and commanding troops, governing a people. The equestrian arts academies and after that the riding schools had thus allow the social reproduction to be ensured over several generations. In the 19th century, horse riding in its competitive practice and racing underwent the same process of sport's codification as others. With the golden years, horse riding became more widespread, opening up to the middle classes and mainly to women and children. The horse is once again taken up in its role of educating people to respect and property. The federalization of equestrian sports has promoted educational projects based on competitive events. These last years have seen the emergence of a new animalistic sensibility which questions the capitalist and competitive aspects of the equestrian practices. The development of animalism constitutes a new moralization of society by rethinking the life, work and relationship with horses and more widely with animals, enjoining professionals to modify their practices.

Diemberger, Yancen **The horse as a “sentient being”: a cross cultural perspective from Tibet to Argentina**

In my undergraduate research I worked on a Tibetan manuscript on horse breeding and medicine (an illustrated compilation tentatively dated to the 18th century, which includes texts from as early as the 9th century). In Tibetan, the horse is classified as a “sentient being” and is referred to as having a “principle of consciousness” similar to humans. These attributions are bound to substantial ethical implications that are profoundly linked to the surrounding sociocultural context. Rather than suggesting a monolithic, ontologically different horse culture, this concept highlights tensions in the different equitation practices of the Himalayas between instrumentality and intersubjectivity. Similarly, several branches of equitation in Argentina also recognize horses as communicating subjects while others perceive them mainly as instrumental objects, i.e., as ‘tools’ to an end. My research explores how the different cultural dynamics within which the horse is embedded reflect on equitation practices: all over the world there are strong tensions arising out of where people place horses on the spectrum of subjectivity, agency, cognitive ability and ethical responsibility. It also provides a deeper understanding of embodied knowledge, practices, and skills involved in human-horse connections. Setting out from my experience in different cultural contexts I explore how the different perceptions of horse sentience inform and influence practical elements of equitation as described in different bodies of literature and as having a direct effect on horse welfare. More generally I see my exploration within the framework of “multispecies multi-sited ethnography” in the context of a wider rethinking of human-animal relationships.

Ekholm Fry, Nina **Perspectives on Free-Roaming Horses in the United States: Social, Economic, and Environmental Intersections**

The issues surrounding free-roaming horses in the United States, driven by public opinion and action, policies, and laws, in a country with systematic inequality and large socio-economic, health, racial and gender disparities, are complex. The free-roaming horse, no matter their physical location within the U.S., cannot be separated from the systems and settings that also impact humans and general human-horse interactions. Through the presentation and analysis of two cases involving both Mustang and non-Mustang free-roaming equine populations in the United States, these complex social, economic, and environmental intersections come to light and are considered in a necessary, polyvalent manner. The unavoidable collisions and points of contact with industries such as mixed crop and animal agriculture, mining, human wellness and recreation, and land reclamation, are discussed. By exploring misconceptions around terms such as “wild”, “feral”, and “mustang”, it becomes possible to deconstruct the perceived concept of “wild horse” with direct implications on handling and training when the horse is no longer free-roaming. When a horse is considered wild, training and handling techniques that are not aligned with learning theory are often employed, causing high stress and trauma, with suffering and wastage as possible outcomes. These methods are often endorsed by prison horse training programs or at “Mustang Makeover”-style competitions. Through understanding the complicated reality of the free-roaming horse in the U.S. today, more ethical and effective solutions can be found for the future.

Ekström von Essen, Ulla & Alm Bergvall, Ulrika **Academisation of equitation in Sweden - art, biology or sports?**

In Sweden the academisation of the equitation started 25 years ago. From 2010 the equine science programme is a three-year Bachelor's education at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). However, traditionally horse-practices does not have any relation to academic research and education. Therefore, our aim is to scrutinize the academisation of equitation in Sweden. More specific, we want to shed some light on if equitation is presented as a sport or an art or both. We will also investigate the ethical implications and discuss if the horse is presented as a biological or cultural creature, or as a sport equipment. How is *the essential horse* formed in different discourses of knowledge which have its place in the education? In this part of the project our objectives are to examine which fields of expertise are represented in the literature for different courses during the education. We scrutinized the study literature on horse riding, handling and pedagogy included in the equine science programme. We used a hermeneutic approach to interpret how the ideas of the *horse* (its nature, its learning capacity, its rights and its obligations) and how the human is supposed to interact with the horse in an ethically acceptable, or desirable way. We analysed how the human-horse interaction is described and if an athletic, scientific or an artistic discourse was used. We combined the above described method with a quantitative comparison to assess the number of pages and type of study literature in the courses.

Fahlin, Marie

On Centauring

In my artistic research project, *Moving through Choreography – Curating Choreography as an Artistic Practice*, I've been researching dressage as a “found choreography” and an expanded choreographic practice, and how the use of the concept *Centauring* has both formed and informed the work. In the research I've made use of concepts and notions from dressage, its terminology, practices and aesthetics, and through the format of expositions presented my research as a curatorial and choreographic artistic work. In this proposed presentation, I would like to share, through video, images, sound and text, excerpts from some of the major expositions (exhibitions, performances, books) *Centauring*, *Manège*, *Anlehnung* and *Geraderichten*, that constitute the dissertation. The research, as a whole, is a multifaceted and entangled body of work where the factual and the poetic collide, coincide and converge, exposing the relation between choreography, objects, humans and text in ways that take into account the internal as well as the external, form and practice of dressage.

Flynn, Jane **“To Cure and not to Kill” Major-General Sir John Moore, The Royal Army Veterinary Corps, and the Disposal of Horses on Demobilization, 1918-1919.**

When Sir John Moore reflected on the Royal Army Veterinary Corps' recent activities in France and Belgium it was with both pride and regret. As the Director of a service that had been 'practically untried' in 1914, he had seen the RAVC grow to meet the increasing demands imposed upon it. At the War's end, its focus turned to Disposal on Demobilization: the options being disposal for food and by-products; sale to local populations; or repatriation. In France and Belgium, the Disposal on Demobilization in 1918 and 1919 was later heralded as a 'triumph' of 'humanity, efficiency and economy' and a consolidation of all the RAVC had learned over four years of war. There was nevertheless regret when Moore remembered the difficult choices that war had forced upon a service whose aim was 'to cure and not to kill'.

Friedman, Bianca **Between images and fairy-tale: prescriptive and coercive visions on animality in *Crin Blanc***

In the history of cinema there have been thousands of films with animals playing the role of main or supporting characters, as well as countless movies featuring horses playing an important role. Generally, these types of movies are conceived and produced for children. But what ideas do these movies convey about horse-human relationships? I will concentrate on the pedagogical impact of *Crin Blanc* by Albert Lamorisse (1953), by applying part of Harvey Sacks' work on Membership Categorisation Analysis, of Carmen Dell'Aversano's research on animal queer and of Frans de Waal's studies. These methodological approaches will allow us to understand that the repressive nature of the imposition of human categories can operate at different levels of the same human artistic product, especially in a film conceived and produced for children. *Crin Blanc*, in fact, is particularly interesting because it *appears* to be sharing positive values and a revolutionary message on the relationship between humans and horses, by telling a story in which a horse is one of the two main characters. My analysis investigates how the representation of the animal character is handled and, therefore, how *Crin Blanc* proves to be a problematic pedagogical example. I will try to demonstrate that, as a violent cautionary tale, *Crin Blanc* actually strengthens binary opposition of identity categories and anthropocentric hierarchies.

Furtado, Tamzin; **A culture clash: the complex welfare implications which have arisen from our changing relationships with leisure horses**

Perkins, E;
Pinchbeck, G;
McGowan, C;
Watkins, F;
Christley, R

Leisure horses and ponies in Western societies are increasingly considered “companion animals” or “pets”. Despite the care lavished upon them, numerous preventable welfare problems proliferate, including inadequate nutrition, obesity, unresolved stress, and delayed euthanasia. This study explored the relationship between humans and horses and how this affects the welfare and management of horses.

This paper reports on qualitative data including 29 in-depth leisure horse owner interviews, 19 equine professional interviews, and two focus groups. These data were analysed using a grounded theory approach.

The data showed that horse owners have sought new ways to relate to their horses, moving away from the horse as a “work” animal, toward the horse as a “friend”. As a result, leisure time spent with horses was often occupied by giving what was perceived as optimum care to the horse, and in seeking ways to build strong horse-human relationships. Therefore, many horses received little physical exercise, but received commercialised feeds, rugs and other accoutrements aimed at providing comfort. However, physical spaces such as stables and fields which are occupied by many UK horses have remained largely unchanged in recent decades, though they were originally intended for working animals to rest following hard physical exercise. As a result of this clash of cultures, horses’ basic welfare needs, such as the need to socialise and perform natural behaviours sometimes go unmet. This study explores this issue, and considers options for resolution such as new approaches to equine management which utilise group living and enrichment for equine residents.

Gajewska, Magdalena Anita **“Horse Mumy”. The role of the “motherhood” on women relations with horses in the sociozoological researche (Poland 2018-2020).**

Within the framework of sociozoological studies, combining the results of research on human and non-human ethnographics with the results of studies on inter-species interactions, I am trying to understand the processes of mixed code formation, in which we experience synchronicity and intra-relativity, in which we cross the framework of species alienation. An encounter between a horse and a human cannot be treated as an encounter between two horses or two representatives of the human species. However, there is still an opinion among many equineers that the social roles of horses can be transferred to human-horse interactions. This includes the expectation that these animals will react to humans as they do to other horses. What about the transfer of social roles from the human world? In Polish stables there is a very popular metaphor of Mother and Child, which describes the relationship between horse and woman. Do mums bring delicacies, do they clean horses and their blankets? Not only. They care about something MORE. A positive relationship with the horse is a basic value for them. Horses and humans are species that share the fact that they are herded species, for which synchronicity and coherence are the survival force in this woman and horses are similar. In my speech I want to show how socially defined “motherhood” of women is expressed in their behaviour and attitudes towards horses and how horses respond to these behaviors.

Gustavsson Marie & Lundgren Charlotte **Able to Ride – horse related sports and leisure activities among persons with intellectual disabilities**

In this paper, we present a new project investigating the meaning of equine related sports and leisure activities in the life of persons (children, young and adults) with intellectual disabilities (ID). We seek to understand and problematize the complex interactions between the participants involved; persons with ID, instructors, other staff, accompanying assistants/parents and horses.

The rationales for studying this field are strong. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), article 30, state that persons with disabilities have equal rights to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sports. In relation to equine related activities, this has traditionally been a concern for researchers focusing on rehabilitation/habilitation. Equestrian sports have a long tradition of inclusion of persons with disabilities (including ID) – but research on this subject is lacking. In the broader field of human-horse relations research, accounts of how horses have become important co-athletes and playmates have so far primarily dealt with the experiences of able-bodied persons, and not included the perspective of persons with disabilities.

We use participant observations, video recorded interactions in stables and riding arenas, audio recorded semi-structured interviews and Photovoice to gain insights into the participants' experiences of what is going on, and to make it possible to analyse the actual interactions per se. The project is based on theories of symbolic interactionism, experiences of everyday life 'from the inside' and interspecies interaction.

In this paper the first preliminary results will be presented and discussed in relation to experiences of participation, self-determination and inclusion.

Halden-Brown, Sue **Coaching as the catalyst for change in equestrian education**

This interactive presentation will explore the extent of the 'fit' of traditional equestrian coaching with the demands of our current equestrian culture. Who *is* the digital rider and what are their learning profiles...? Where is their digital coach, and what do *they* need to learn...? And who's safeguarding the horse's wellbeing, in this highly competitive environment?

We'll expose traditional coaching principles which threaten to become stranded in an educational vacuum, in the face of advances in technology, educational theory and the sport sciences. We'll explain why our military pedagogy, rooted in values and attitudes from another era, is still widely used and may remain embedded in increasingly out-dated practices, unless we develop alternative pedagogical solutions more relevant to the sport and riding demographic of our time. We shall explore why coaches find this situation personally challenging, and retain these practices while being at the fore-front of equestrian education.

These matters would benefit greatly from interdisciplinary discussion. Accordingly, whether as researchers, coaches, riders, or as other valued members of our equestrian community, you're invited to share your views and experiences of equestrian education, in a lively and productive workshop segment. Your first-hand contributions will help to lay the foundations of a new learner-centred equestrian pedagogy. Your suggestions may trigger imaginative and practical ways to enrich or update equestrian education in general – and coach education in particular. Join us! There's no better way to identify the learning needs of the equestrian community, than to share the learning experiences of our equestrian colleagues.

Hammer, Monica; **Horse keeping in transforming cultural landscapes: searching for the roots to build a sustainable future**

Bonow,
Madeleine;
Dahlin,
Johanna;
Petersson,
Mona

The rapidly increasing number of sport horses for leisure in urban and peri-urban areas provide cultural ecosystem services for human well-being including recreational and aesthetic services. At the same time, the role of and views on human-horse relations and what constitutes horse welfare is changing. Horse keepers and owners have varied levels of knowledge and understanding of horses' needs and the ecosystems supporting them, affecting their choice of husbandry and management practices. Horse keeping in peri-urban areas is also an illustrative example of the interlinkages between different landscape images. In the peri-urban region, historic small-scale agricultural areas are being transformed from production to recreational landscapes, with horses as a major grazing domestic animal. This development conserves many of the rural landscape features seen as part of our cultural heritage, also important for biodiversity and green infrastructure. We argue that sustainable horse keeping needs to include both equine welfare aspects as well as an understanding of the challenges and possibilities regarding horses as providers of ecosystem services. Efforts to develop systematic assessments for horse keeping include equine welfare assessment protocols and quality certifications for horse facilities. In this study, we discuss current and future possibilities and challenges for implementing a horse keeping that combines environmental sustainability aspects and horse welfare. We focus on Stockholm County, Sweden as a case study. The empirical material is based on field visits to horse facilities, interviews with stakeholders and analyses of municipal documents for physical planning, equine welfare assessment and horse keeping quality certification documents.

Heldt, Tobias **Investigating equine daily spending and use values –competition vs. leisure**

& Al Musleh,
Azhar Sabah

The recently developed socio-economic model for the horse industry in Sweden (<https://hastnaringen-i-siffror.se/>) estimates the turnover of the horse industry to 31,3 Billion SEK for 2016 (Heldt et.al 2018). The model enables an estimation of the impact for the national level as well as a decomposition to regional levels. Current data in the model is based on fairly crude estimates of average spending on horse-related goods and services, (e.g. boarding, veterinary services and horse equipment).

The purpose of this paper is to estimate daily spending and daily use values a horse owner spend and place on their horse depending on relationship. Data for the study was collected using a social media survey carried out during 2020/2021 inspired by citizen science in cooperation with the Swedish Equestrian Federation. The paper estimate spending patterns on various horse-related goods and services as well as daily use values, i.e. the value a horse owner places on the daily use of their horse for its intended purpose, which could be for pleasure riding, horse showing, or competition.

The preliminary results indicate that there is a huge difference in spending depending on relationship to the horse as well as noticeable regional differences in spending and use values. The results from this study can be used to extend the socio-economic model for the Swedish horse industry as well as inform service providers on values and willingness to pay related to horse-related goods and services.

**Hellström,
Mia**

The challenge of making knowledge about horses visible on the internet

Since 1970 it has been a large increase of horses in Sweden which has led to many new horseowners as well as stakeholders in the horse industry. This has created a need of general competence enhancement. At the same time the digitalization in the modern society has made it easier to find information but more difficult to decide if the information is based on knowledge. On the other hand it is difficult to reach out on the web with knowledge based on research. The website HästSverige was established in 2011. HästSverige is a digital encyclopedia containing information based on research and proven experience regarding everything from veterinary medicine to the horse's influence in the community environment. HästSverige contributes to horses' welfare, which will provide for continuing keeping horses healthy and sustainable in the modern society. HästSverige is also displayed on Facebook and Instagram. The purpose with this paper is to examine peoples search behavior on the web and social media. Statistics is presented about how people are using platforms containing information about horses on all levels. Analyzes has also been done regarding visitors and search behavior on the website and the social medias of HästSverige. The challenge for HästSverige is to reach out to the public and compete with other sites and channels on the web and social media. There are a lot of digital platforms which makes it difficult for an individual to sort out true information from false. There are also many advantages with the digital development, it makes it easy, fast and flexible to publish present research.

**Hurn,
Samantha**

“You can't just keep her alive for yourself”: exploring notions of selfish anthropomorphism, egomorphism and entangled empathy in caring for ‘Psyche’ at the end, and not quite the end of her life.

Psyche, a Welsh cob mare who had been in my care since 2000, suffered a life-threatening injury to both hind legs in 2012. After three operations performed under general anaesthetic at an equine hospital where she was an in-patient for three months, followed by over a year of intensive care at home, she was finally well enough to live out her retirement at liberty. Things went well until early 2019 when she became intermittently lame. X-rays revealed significant deterioration in the joints of both hind legs, and severe rotation of the pedal bone in her right hind. Our vet's advice was euthanasia. However, Psycheshowed no signs of having given up, and consistently demonstrated high quality of life and an ability to adapt to her disability. Accusations of selfishness and anthropomorphism are often levelled at human companion animal guardians who are hesitant when it comes to euthanasia. The paper is a reflexive foray into my relationship with Psyche which attempts to interrogate the factors involved in pursuing treatment options and care practices aimed at extending the extent and quality of her life. Psyche's status as an active, minded patient invested in her own wellbeing and able to communicate much about her condition, needs and preferences was instrumental. Through a focus on this specific trans-species case study, the paper raises broader questions concerning the ethical and logistical complexities of caring for elderly, ailing but very much alive nonhuman dependants at the end, or not quite the end of their lives.

**Innergård,
Helena**

Equestrianism, Consultant Skills and Competent Guidance

What can technical consultants learn from the equestrian world? The paper will deepen the concept of competent guidance from a praxis-centered view upon professional skills. It is done by investigating what analogies from equestrianism and equestrian sports can tell us about competent guidance in the profession of technical consultants. As a technical consultant, it is expected that you practice leadership, or what I in this paper call *competent guidance*. Using examples from the equestrian world is a way of pinpointing and isolating aspects of competent guidance, that appear more explicitly in the art of riding a horse than in the profession of technical consultants. But the equestrian world can also gain from widening the concept of competent guidance, and make use of experiences competence intensive practice of consulting.

The Norwegian philosopher Kjell S. Johannessen has from the late works of Ludwig Wittgenstein developed a theory of knowledge for professional skills. The concept of praxis plays a vital role. Johannessen also points out competent guidance as crucial when developing (professional) skills. Both showing and verbal tuition of a person's seeing is necessary. Competent guidance seems to play an important role when it comes to development of professional skills. At the same time, the personal guidance is an often overlooked element in the educational context.

The paper is based on the findings in the PhD thesis by "Ridkonst, konsultmannaskap och kunnig vägledning" (eng. "Equestrianism, Consultant Skills and Competent Guidance") (Innergård, 2019).

**Johannessen,
Crispin**

Past, Present and Future Ways of Seeing Horses

Humans have been looking at and making representations of horses for over 30 000 years. A shift came in the 1870's when Muybridge produced photographic images of horses in motion, though with little detail.

Photographing contemporary horses in sports I became increasingly aware of horses facial expressions that in my opinion showed resistance and pain. Publishing this material seemed to provoke two responses 1) There was distrust of photography as valid documentation as the camera recorded with great detail expressions and postures otherwise not seen by the naked eye. 2) Audiences did not agree on how to interpret the photographic images in relation to what the horse may be expressing, and the cause of this expression.

A recent study at the Equine Behaviour and Training Association in the UK showed that 85% of equestrians, regardless of experience, failed to recognize signs of negative emotions in horses. In 2019 an ethogram of equines in motion, under rider, was published to assist in identifying pain

related behavior, presented as being a scientifically valid tool. This, and a few other recent ethograms, could also be used to review both current and historical representation of the horse. However, one should perhaps have a critical perspective of how our way of seeing horses in the past and currently may be constructed by political, economic and ethical interest, and that the scientific ethograms being developed may be constructed and used in different ways to inform our ways of seeing horses.

For the conference I propose a visual presentation of equine representation from cave paintings up until my own photography of contemporary equines. These images will then be related to current ethograms. The technological assistance in seeing far more, and better, than previously, combined with ethograms interpretations of what we see, encourages and challenges our ways of seeing horses from an ethical perspective.

**Kieson,
Emily**

Using Knowledge in Horse and Human Affiliative Ethology to Improve Horse-Human Relationships: Analysis of Affiliative Behaviors in over 600 horses and Overlaps with Human Social Bonding Behaviors

Horses and humans use different species-specific behavioral strategies to create and maintain social bonds with conspecifics and a better understanding of overlaps in affiliative strategies may create greater opportunities to understand and develop stronger horse-human relationships. A behavioral analysis of over 600 horses in large and small domestic and feral herds in the U.S. and the UK resulted in a collection of affiliative behavioral strategies in horses that are used to create and maintain bonds between two or more conspecifics. Equine conspecifics who have created social bonds demonstrate preferences for close proximity and visual range, mutual movement, mutual touch, guarding, and language creation. Human affiliative strategies also include proximity, shared activities, and specific types of shared language and a building of trust through consistency and predictability of interactions. Humans often use touch in specific ways to initiate and maintain bonds, but these do not always align with how horses socially bond. Potentials for increasing human-horse social bonding may include incorporating mutual engagement in movement and touch and eventually shared activities that build on relationship theories of trust and connection. Specific types of interactions like touch, movement, and proximity should align with both species in order to study and build interspecies social bonding.

**Lajkó,
Gergely**

The tradition of horse-breaking in Hungary

This presentation reflects to the changes of Hungarian horse training methods and to the social stratification of equine cultures throughout the tradition of horse-breaking. Horse breaking is a universal cultural phenomenon. Beside the Hungarian historical traditions it is also a common activity in other countries where people keep horses in extensive great pastures. This horse training method goes against with the official or mainstream training techniques of nowadays and also raises questions about animal welfare, that is why it is worth to get to know deeply the horse-breakers' motivation. The historical and anthropological approach gives an opportunity to interpret human-horse relationships and animal abuse within different cultures and social systems. The research uses Hungarian sources from the 19th and 20th centuries. It tries to introduce the constantly changing equine society throughout the confrontations of people from the elite (nobles and military officers) and from the lower strata (shepherds, peasants).

Lawe, Kari The China ceremony - The horse as symbol of a country

For thousands of years the horse was a symbol of status. During the Middle Ages, it even became a feudal tribute and symbol of a country - the Kingdom of Naples. In 1265, Charles d'Anjou got papal investiture on Naples. As a tribute for the country, he should yearly pay the pope an elegantly attired white horse, the China and 8000 once. The horse should be presented to the pope in Saint Peters on the feasts of the apostles Peter and Paul. The China ceremony lasted in ceremonial form till 1776, and as a monetary obligation until 1855.

The ceremony reached its greatest magnitude from about 1550 to 1776, when it not only was the most impressive ceremony of the papal monarchy, next to the *Possesso*, but even one of the greatest feasts of the courtly Europe as a whole. The celebration included a magnificent cortege which accompanied the horse from the Roman palace of the Neapolitan Grand Master of the Stables to Saint Peters. Along the road, grand temporary structures were erected in honor of the pope and the king of Naples. After the presentation of the horse elaborate festivities followed in Rome ending with the most splendid of all contemporary fireworks, *La Girandola*.

The pope in his turn, could present a China - horse to very prominent persons. For example, Queen Christina got a China-horse from Alexander VII. On this horse, she not only made her formal entrée in Rome. It became even symbol for her strive to become queen of Naples.

Leconstant, Charlene & Spitz, Elisabeth The Integrative Model of Human-Animal Interactions applied to Horse-Assisted Therapy

The use of the horse in therapy is popular, but we are not yet able to evaluate the true impact of the horse's presence in therapy and therefore to accurately assess the benefits it brings.

Jaak Panksepp studied the animal model to shed light on the fundamental sources of affective experiences in humans. He shows that all mammals share many brain palaeosystems which always serve as a base for human's affective dispositions. For Panksepp, animals have internal feelings that can be called emotions. There are 7 basic emotional systems: Panic-Grief system, Care system, Fear system, Rage system, Seeking system, Play system and Lust system. We believe that these emotional systems constitute a common basis between humans and horses and that as such they can be applied to interspecies interactions.

From this knowledge, we have developed the "Integrative Model of Human-Animal Interactions" that allows to model the emotional processes taking place during horse-human interactions.

The idea that the horse is a reflection of our emotions remains popular. But we believe that the emotional processes taking place during the interaction between human and horse are much more complex.

Thus we suggest to present the model of Panksepp, its application to humans and horses, and the modeling of inter-species interactions in the context of Horse-Assisted Therapy (HAT). We will illustrate the applications of this model with different examples of triadic interactions between horse- patient-therapist and show how this new knowledge can improve our practices in HAT.

**Lerner,
Henrik**

Risk evaluation of equine assisted interventions – a checklist

One problem in equine assisted interventions as well as in other animal assisted interventions is neglect of the risks. To safeguard both horses and humans in interventions one needs to properly make a risk evaluation in order to minimize risks. This presentation is based on a recently published book chapter where present risks in equine assisted interventions are analysed, weighed according to their relevance and solutions to minimize the risks are discussed. In line with the view that horses are co-therapists in equine assisted interventions risk identification and evaluation is based on an ethical view that both human and animal welfare and health must be respected, which also is in line with for example present Swedish legislation. In the future proper risk evaluations are supposed to be one of the pieces of information that will facilitate the choices of suitable offered equine assisted interventions within human health care.

**Lindahl,
Cecilia**

Improving work environment and safety within the Swedish equine sector through novel methods and tools

The work environment in horse stables is known to be characterized by low mechanization, high physical workloads and high injury risks. The Swedish Work Environment Authority has also reported a lack of knowledge in the systematic work environment management and risk assessments as well as shortcomings regarding work environment and work conditions in the Swedish equine sector. The aim of this study was to identify, adapt and implement methods and tools for systematic work environment management, with emphasis on characteristics to stimulate motivation and commitment at work, in order to improve the work environment in the sector. The study had a participatory action research approach, and was conducted at four workplaces, two riding schools and two trotting stables, in Sweden. The employees were guided to identify the challenges in their work environment, both physical and organizational, through a combination of methods including surveys, interviews and observations. A workshop with the employees was then organized to discuss and prioritize actions needed to improve the work environment based on the identified needs, resulting in an action plan. The project group were coaching the workplaces through the action phase, including e.g. support to managers in the systematic work environment management, changing working routines and equipment, improving work ergonomics, and improving communication and information with digital aids. Preliminary results indicate that this approach can help to create involvement and motivation and to provide valuable insights on how to improve health and safety.

The project was funded by the Swedish-Norwegian Foundation for Equine Research.

**Lundesjö
Kvart,
Susanne**

Teaching equestrian feel in a changing world

Previous research has shown a historical development in equestrian sport. At Swedish riding schools the teaching during riding lessons is influenced by the military tradition. Riding lessons in Sweden are often given with groups of students. There is an increased demand from students for more individual teaching methods. Riding includes a body-to-body communication and collaboration between horse and rider, sometimes referred to as equestrian feel. The aim of this paper is to explore how riding teachers work to make that feel available for learning.

The data are based on interviews with riding teachers and video observations of riding lessons with students in groups or on-by-one. Activity theory is used to analyze the riding teachers' understanding of their practice. The video observations were analyzed using an ethnomethodological and conversation analytic perspective.

Results show that old traditions and regulations prevent the teachers from developing their teaching but most teachers wish to develop their teaching towards more student collaborative methods. The teachers consider the horse as a colleague and they are eager to learn their students to take care of the horse and communicate with it. The analysis of the video recordings shows how the participants collaboratively work to make the equestrian feel public and available for teaching and learning. The teacher molds equestrian feel through instructions and acts as an interpreter between horse and student. As the voice is an important resource, new technology with speakers and earphones give new opportunities for riding teachers' pedagogical practice.

**Lundgren,
Katarina
Felicia**

Rhythms of Relating – A Common Window of Rhythm for Horses and Humans?

How can a client repair early life experiences of relational ruptures and broken attachments by having corrective experiences of relationship building with equines in equine assisted psychotherapy? How can a client fill in emotional and cognitive gaps in their developmental trajectory? One way of looking at it is through the Window of Rhythm.

Rhythm is a governing factor in everything a human do, from breathing, to eating, talking, walking, thinking to the speed of emotional effect. Our human window of rhythm ranges from 0,16 Hz to approx. 20 Hz, which starts just below our window of hearing (20 Hz to 20 kHz). Horses window of hearing overlaps with humans (14-25 kHz), which means their window of rhythm is likely to overlap in the same way). Current research supports vibrations in horse movements, producing specific rhythms, staying within the human window of rhythm, are leading not only to physiological benefits, but also psychological (e.g via the EMDR protocol for reprocessing of traumatic memories) emerging research now also indicates there are cognitive benefits. Different horse breeds and horse individuals produce different amount of overlaps with the human window of rhythm, and therefore not all horses will give the same effect. Using rhythm as an important factor in teaching and developing emotional, social, physiological, and cognitive skills in relationship building needs to be explored in both un-mounted and mounted work in equine assisted psychotherapy and therapeutic riding.

Manderstedt, Lena; **Riders as Readers. A Pilot Study on the Horse Story Genre and its Readers**
Lena; This paper presents the results of a pilot study including a questionnaire and semi-structured interviews with riders about their reading of horse stories. The data has been collected at an equestrian center in Sweden. The informants are active at the riding center and thus of various ages, although approximately 75 percent are 20 years old or more. They have been asked questions on their reading habits when it comes to horse stories, at present or at earlier stages in their lives. Interviews are ongoing but results are expected to come in the next couple of months. The purpose of the interviews is foremost to enter more deeply into the informants' reading of horse stories.

Persson, Ann-Sofie;
Asklund, Helen

Tentative results show that 80 percent of the informants read horse stories in the age between 8 to 12 years. 75 percent of the adults report that they used to read horse stories either every day or between one and three times per week in that particular age. 60 percent state that horse stories were important for them since they got the opportunity to dream away, identify themselves with the characters and relate to their own experiences from the equestrian settings, to learn new things about horses and riding and, finally, as a reaction to the fact that they could not spend as much time in the stable as they would have preferred. In addition, a majority of the informants suggest that horse stories could be used at equestrian centers, for both educational and relaxational reasons.

Maurstad, Anita **Horses' emotional work – 'miracles of attunement'**

Recent research into the horse human relationship shows that humans find great pleasure in riding, being and becoming with horses. 'Fun', 'enjoyment' and 'therapy' are often given as reasons for why people ride. A century ago, horses were ridden less. More often they were draught animals, performing jobs where men, fewer women, were deciding what jobs to do and how to perform them. Studying texts and museum photographs picturing Polar activities in the early part of the last century, I find that a loving engagement also characterized these male and work-related activities with horses. To horsey people, this may come as no surprise. I find, however, that this is an important and underexplored point in studies of horse human relationships. There is something with the horse that engages human emotions – in various activities, at various historical times. In order to better understand horses' impact on cultural history – horses physical work as draught animals and their mental work on human becoming – we need a fuller understanding of the emotionalities of these engagements.

**McKee,
Tamar VS**

Joining Up: exhibiting the history of equines in Colorado one critical community engagement at a time

What happens when the historical society of a major western American state, Colorado, embarks on developing an exhibition about the history of equines within its modern-day borders from the pre-Columbian / indigenous era to contemporary, COVID-19 pandemic times? This paper will explore the just-concluded efforts by History Colorado (formerly known as the Colorado Historical Society) to coordinate an all-virtual, public programmatic series for the purpose of building relationships with socio-culturally diverse communities of “horse people” (Cassidy 2007 / McKee 2014) to then represent their knowledge and relationships with equines in the context of “Colorado” in a co-creative museum exhibition. From our first program highlighting *charro* culture and bilingual programming motivated by language justice praxis, to a raw storytelling session with Southern Ute tribal elders and members, to holding space for the cancelled 2021 National Western Stock Show through a (too?) triumphant focus on the history of horses associated with the 16-day livestock-and-then-some exhibition, to amplifying the deep history of African Americans in Colorado and the personal and socio-economic empowerment gained by working with horses – and more, this paper will present an au courant heartbeat of where equine culture stands in the 21st century American West as indexed by the case study of Colorado as enabled by the museumizing institution of History Colorado. Special focus in the March 2021 History Colorado program (and therefore within this paper) will be paid to wild horses in Colorado and museum artifacts related to the Canon City Correctional Facility’s program on mustang / inmate gentling in order to call attention to the legacy of Karen Dalke.

Minten, Eva

***Hippomania!* Horses in everyday life in ancient Greece. Representations of practical use of horses and horsemanship on black- and red-figure pottery.**

Passion for horses, *hippomania*, was a vital part of the ancient Greek culture. Equine representations are found throughout ancient Greek art, literature, myth, and practical life. Horses were revered as symbols of wealth, power and status. The aim with my paper is to scrutinize how horses are represented on Greek painted pottery, both black- and red-figure, to understand the use of horses and the role horses played in everyday life in ancient Greece. Representations of scenes of combat and of mythology are frequent but I intend to put these two categories of equine representations aside. My focus will be on all the other representations, as for example those connected to sports, pulling a carriage, civil riders, horse racing and feeding. The combat and mythological scenes I will use as a complementary to reach a more solid picture of the use of horses but also to understand what aspects or themes of equine life and horsemanship that were chosen and represented on the pottery.

Oja, Lena **The difference between art and the art of riding**

I want to discuss the difference between art as generally understood by contemporary professional artists and art world and the often used phrase “the art of riding”. Why riding itself may not be art but the use or exploration of riding can become art.

I will not discuss the adjacent field of Practical Knowledge but instead focus on the shaping and reshaping of an agreement between the material (understood as process) and the art practitioners defined space-, process- or visual-specific room that is contemporary art.

I will do so by showing a series of examples of art where this agreement is very visible and thus might help to understand the significant difference between art and art of riding.

**Ouellette-
Dubé, Maude** **Beyond abolitionism: for a caring account of horse-human relations**

Situating horses within the broader *animal question* is both pressing and challenging. To make progress regarding this question, I suggest that we start elsewhere than with animal rights theory, the prevalent approach in contemporary animal ethics. Not because horses do not have rights, but because humans relate to them in a significantly different way than they relate to most other animals. Horses are generally seen, if not as partners or companions, then at least as athletes or workers. Situating them within the landscape of animal ethics asks that we consider how these various roles contribute to the different ways in which horses and humans form relations. Moreover, considering the growing concern, both in theory and practice, to recognize horses as subjects (Bornemark, Andersson, Ekström von Essen, 2019), we need an ethical framework which can both give credit to this recognition and address ethical concerns between humans and horses, now and in the future. I suggest that the ethics of Care, which analyses fair and unfair treatment through the lens of “caring relations” (Held, 2006) can guide this inquiry. The concept of “caring relations” aims to account for both attitudes and practices which ensure that an individual’s needs are recognized and met. An analysis of the treatment of horses through an ethics of Care should not only provide a framework within which to recognize our responsibility to them, but also provide grounds from which to recognize abusive relations and improve their welfare.

**Pergament
Crona,
Nicole**

Ecce Equus! A Study of Egalitarian Equine Communities' Acknowledgement of the Horse as Subject

Within human animal studies (HAS), as well as within the posthumanistic field in general, it has been pointed out that we still lack knowledge of how animals can be recognized as subjects and agents with the possession of cognitive and social abilities. At the same time, we see a re-evaluation of the human anthropocentric boundary between Man and the Beast – in the academic world as well as in the practice of everyday life. One example is how the prevalent ways of relating to and handling with horses – our traditional equine cultures – are under transition. Norms, attitudes and practices – not least those relating to equestrian sports – are changing; some people even believe in a “paradigm shift”, while others predict a future “horse revolution”. This ethnological contribution to the field of HAS aims to study the acknowledgement of the horse as subject, how it is being expressed and practised by egalitarian communities within the Swedish horse society, and what the implications of that acknowledgement are, for both human and horse. Consisting of interviews and participant observations and seen through the lens of a phenomenological HAS-perspective, the empirical material shows that the egalitarian approach implies ethical and practical consequences. Not only does it entail considerations regarding such things as horse keeping, riding style, competitions, training and conditioning methods – for some individuals it may also implicate a personal change, as they discover the horse’s message of presence and authenticity.

**Persson,
Ann-Sofie;
Asklund,
Helen;
Manderstedt,
Lena**

In the Company of Horses – Girlhood in Pia Hagmar’s Series about Klara

This paper deals with the literary representation of the relationship between human and horse, in parallel to the main character’s construction of identity as a girl. The material used will be Pia Hagmar’s series on Klara, which consists of eighteen books published between 1999 and 2008. Previous studies (Hedenborg 2013; Asklund 2013) have focused on the identity construction of the horse girl in relation to norms, hard work and her peers. This paper will take a slightly different orientation, concentrating on the relationship Klara develops with different horses along the series, and their impact on her identity as a girl. The main theoretical framework will be ecocriticism and its entanglements with posthumanism and animal studies. From an ecocritical standpoint, the anthropocentric perspective dominates human discourse about other beings, and within this logic, a way of understanding the animal other is to impose anthropomorphism, assigning human traits to it, explaining its behavior via words, feelings and explanatory models proper to humans. Within posthumanism and animal studies, there is a questioning of traditional dichotomies, such as nature-culture, suggesting the upheaval of anthropocentrism and working towards a greater equality between human and nonhuman animals. Donna Haraway’s notions of *companion species* and *significant otherness* will be used to talk about the interspecies relationships developed within the series. Identity formation in relation to another species is what is at stake in this paper, where the aim is to show how Klara’s identity formation is interconnected with the horses that she encounters.

**Petitt,
Andrea**

Multispecies methods in immersive ethnography: the working cowhorse

At the intersection of ethology and ethnography, participant observation among the human-horse-cattle triads of the American West engages three species. The working cowhorses of the American West are at the centre of this analysis, approached through their interactions with humans and cattle. Building on the works of Karen Barad and John Hartigan, this paper advances a multi-method ethnography as a way to analytically de-centre the human without speaking for the horse. Using video recordings as well as field notes that include embodied auto-ethnographic accounts captured in drawing and rhyme, I will discuss the interpretation of intra-and interspecies sociality and zoocialization through a thorough conceptualisation of the multispecies triad. The paper shows how a methodology that de-centres anthropocentric rhythms of time and space at the very core of auto/ethnographic data collection contributes to the possibilities to understand and communicate that which is primarily non-verbal yet social.

**Pihlgren,
Victoria**

An issue of “passability”: Veterinary- and Horse Activity at a Swedish Hussar Regiment (*Livregementets husarer*) in the late 19th Century Sweden

The aim of this presentation is to exemplify and analyze, mainly in a qualitative manner, a specific context of veterinary- and horse activity taking place at a Swedish hussar regiment (*Livregementets husarer*), in the late 19th century. The military horses were part of the military allotment system (*indelningsverket*) and were owned by farmers (*rusthållare*). These horses served during a time influenced by a fundamental shift in understanding disease as well as an intensified public debate about animal and horse welfare. The study integrates a history of veterinary medicine perspective with an animal history perspective. Conventionally, an interest in technology has dominated the academic field of military history, but as has been shown previously (Singleton, 1993, also see further discussion in Flynn, 2016) technology has been interpreted as something different than the use of horses for logistics. Norton Greene (2008, p.4) has demonstrated a parallel in civil society where horses have been used vastly as “biotechnology”, but historians have not often identified it as such. In this study, the ordinary military veterinary horse practice (in peacetime) is linked with an interest in the military horses themselves as far as the sources allow. The administrative frames indicate *per se* much of the military veterinary perspective. The sources consist of the veterinary office’s documents (including the formulas from the veterinary horse inspections), and different sick rolls of the military horses. This offers a relatively unique source situation influenced by military meticulousness. Examples are drawn from narrative, longitudinal, individual and aggregated data.

**Regnier,
Patrice**

Human-horse interactions: a high potentiality of possibilities

Relations between horses and humans are traditionally seen from a domination point of view by a lot of people, even by specialists themselves. However, we assume that human-horse interactions are not especially realized in this way. During the thesis (2014), as explained in an opus (2016), we observed that the relationship between the two species can be held in other ways. The inquiry took place in four equestrian centres, from a competitive one to a Natural horseman-ship one, including two non-competitive clubs. It permitted to held for three years an ethnographic book, including participant observations. We also realized fifty interviews of professional horse-riders, writers, competitors and teachers.

If domination is still a mean used by a lot of horse-riders, it appears that it is far from being the only point of view. In fact, the teacher's ethic, the horse-rider way of thinking influence the verbal and corporal interactions during the practice. Horse-riding activities can be seen, like martial arts, in a sort of a continuum of practices extended from equestrian arts to equestrian sports. In this continuum, we can observe all the anthrope-quine relationships. This study also allows us to define three types of relations between horse-riders and horse-riding, all the three of them are independent but can be shared by a same actor: competition, technic and relationship (with others, horses or personified nature). This work offers a new look to equestrian activities.

**Rood, Alison; Taylor,
Sienna &
Williams,
Jane** **Can equine-assisted activities benefit people living with dementia: Two case study examples**

As the number of people living with dementia continues to rise, globally increased emphasis is being placed on improving their quality of life (QOL). Equine-assisted activities (EAA) may be beneficial, yet research in this field is limited. Case studies (n=2) were used to explore what effect EAA had on the QOL of participants diagnosed with dementia compared to a greenspace activity.

Method - The QOL-AD measure was used pre and post completion of four interventions: walking (greenspace), stroking, grooming and leading (horse). Individual's mood was self-rated by participant and their carer immediately before and after each intervention.

Interventions were filmed and analysed using an ethogram. Frequency and duration of 13 behaviours were recorded. A dementia care professional also commented on participant QOL.

Results – The QOL-AD found no overall improvement pre and post interventions. However, participant mood improved after EAA but not after the greenspace session. Grooming the horse was undertaken for the longest duration whilst conversation was the most frequent behaviour. Leading the horse produced the most laughing and smiling behaviours. Excitement, enjoyment of the stable environment and horses, and increased confidence were reported by participants and carers. These positive findings were confirmed by the dementia care professional.

Conclusion – The results of this preliminary study found EAA, when compared to the greenspace session, seemed to have a positive impact in these dementia patients, with grooming found to be the most beneficial activity. However, further research is required to fully explore the wider benefits of EAA for people with dementia.

**Ropa,
Anastasija**

Horse Riding as a Form of Tourism and Recreation During and in the Aftermath of Covid-19 in Latvia

The outbreak of Covid-19 has influenced the patterns of tourism and active recreation of people all around the world. With travelling opportunities abroad restricted or prohibited and certain recreational activities, e.g., those taking place indoors, likewise limited, people started to seek alternative opportunities for active leisure and recreation. In this paper, I analyze the recreational activities available at different tourist destinations in Latvia, arguing for the a surge of interest in outdoor sports, in particular nature sports. I examine the concept of nature sports and different activities that come under this umbrella term, arguing that horse riding is one of the few perennial activities that is particularly well adopted for the present circumstances. It can be undertaken outdoors and in natural environments throughout the year, under almost all weather circumstances, and it can be practised in both sports and recreational modes. Albeit the number of amateur and hobby level riders has been growing steadily, little has been done on the institutional level to standardize the legislation regulating horse riding as recreation and promote it as a tourist activity. Riding as a tourist and recreational activity is offered at multiple destinations across Latvia, including mini-zoos, national parks and guest houses as well as private yards. In the final part of the article, I discuss the challenges and solutions to making horse riding safe, available and attractive, as well as suggesting certain activities that are adopted for riders with various level of skill, physical characteristics, ages and interests.

**Rosén,
Annika**

Swedish pony riding schools, ideology and solidarity, then and now, TPK – a case

Introduction & aim

Equestrian sport is one of the largest sports for girls/women in Sweden. It's offered by riding schools and riders attend lessons once a week in groups lead by an instructor. Many riding schools offer riding for pre-school children and equestrian sport has gone through childification (Lindroth 1991). Yet, there are few studies of sport activities for young children (Hedenborg & Fransson 2011). The aim of this project is to increase knowledge about activities for young children in equestrian sport and to study what ideological guiding ideas that influence riding schools for young children.

Theory & Method

The material consists of one deep interview with the founder of one of the first riding schools in Sweden using ponies, nine semi-structured interviews with Swedish riding school managers, three semi-structured interviews with parents of riding pre-school children. The interviews are analyzed using content analysis (Neuendorf 2019) and concepts to explain the equestrian sports/stable environments (Henderson 2018; Thorell & Hedenborg 2015); the sociology of childhood (Dewey 2004).

Results & discussion

The managers and parents today discussed the importance of reaching children from 2-3 years, with activities stressing the role of play in learning and relationships. This prepares them with horse/stable/communication knowledge for further riding. Here we can see a difference in ideological guiding ideas influencing the pony riding school during the sixties where solidarity with under privileged and poor groups seemed important. Other results are the developed idea of horse-handling and the horse/pony as an important subject of its own.

Schuurman, Nora **Encountering police horses in relational networks of memory**

Mounted police units around the world have entered social media, with the aim of bringing the police closer to the public. In this paper, I analyze the Facebook page of the mounted police in the city of Helsinki. I ask how horses become embedded in relational networks of memory that cross the boundaries between the virtual and the real, and how these are interpreted, communicated, and performed on social media. The data consists of postings by the mounted police and comments on them by the followers of the site. Relating to animals and encountering them are often experienced emotionally and lead to the accumulation of memories. Remembering events experienced in the past evoke emotional responses to them when someone from the past – animal or human – is encountered again in the present. This happens when the police horses are seen patrolling in city, in special public events, illustrating the crossing of the paths of the police horses and the public as part of everyday life. Some of the online commentators know the horses personally, often from a time before becoming a police horse, and their memories reveal shared encounters and relations in the past, as part of the horse's life history. These experiences contribute to a network of encounters, relationships and memories, where a single horse can have multiple identities developed in different relationships, epitomizing how perceptions of animals are situated, experiential, and relationally constructed. The study illustrates how animals interacting with humans become an important part of collective memory.

**Smith
Rebecka**

Caring for the Older Horse: A Conceptual Model of Owner Decision Making

Introduction: The number of aged horses in the UK is growing, however veterinary involvement and the provision of preventive health care measures has been shown to reduce with increasing horse age. Little is known about why horse owners do not consult veterinarians over the course of their ageing horse's life. By understanding the complexities involved in owner decision making whilst navigating care provision for an older horse, tools to improve the welfare of this population may be designed.

Methodology: Data were collected from an open-access online discussion forum where contributors sought advice from other participants about the care of their older horse. Qualitative data analysis was performed using grounded theory methods.

Findings: Analysis identified the complex interactions within the human-horse relationship. As the context of day-to-day life changes, the relationship itself is reconstructed. As a horse ages its attributed purpose may change, encompassing needs of both the horse and owner. This change was found to dynamically interact with the resources assigned to the horse. The ways in which an owner may choose to support and manage the environment in which the horse lives, were mediated by their interpretation of horse related responses, alongside anticipated outcomes for the dyad and beliefs around what constitutes a life worth living.

Principle conclusions: A conceptual model was developed to demonstrate the multifaceted ways in which ageing affects the human-horse relationship and impacts upon outcomes for the horse. This can be used to aid development of practical guidance to improve the day-to-day care of the older horse.

Sätter,
Joanna

The effect of rider asymmetry on gait performance in Icelandic horses

Introduction: Icelandic horse competitions are popular in Scandinavia, yet understanding the rider-horse interaction in the tölt gait is currently limited. It is known that a heavier rider leads to shorter and more frequent steps during tölt.¹ Also, an imbalanced rider can result in overextension in the horses' limbs, which can cause lameness.² Therefore, understanding the effects of rider asymmetry (i.e., being unable to stay balanced) is important for both performance and horse welfare. **Aim:** The aim of this study was to identify whether rider asymmetry affects tölt performance in Icelandic horses. **Method:** Two different horses were ridden in tölt by four riders on separate occasions. Riders were equipped with Pedar foot pressure insoles (Novel Electronics, Germany) to measure rider balance and a 3D motion-analysis system (Noraxon, Arizona, USA) to examine movement around the pelvis in both left and right rein directions. Lateral Advanced Placement (LAP)³ was used to determine tölt performance and was calculated from visual inspection of 60 Hz video footage. Paired samples t-tests were used to determine differences in LAP, lateral pelvic movement, and foot pressure between left and right rein. Results are expressed as mean±SD **Results:** LAP was significantly greater for left compared with right rein (23±1% vs. 21±0%; $p = 0.002$) and riders had significantly more lateral pelvic movement for right compared with left rein (2.6±0.5° vs. 1.5±0.5°; $p=0.002$). However, there was no foot pressure asymmetry for left vs. right rein (12±6 N vs. 10±6 N; $p=0.670$). **Conclusions:** Riders perform better in tölt on left rein and lateral pelvic movement appears to influence tölt quality. Coaches should focus on instructing riders to balance their seat to improve performance and equine welfare.

Torell
Palmquist,
Gabriella

The Swedish riding school: a social arena for young riders

The aim of this study was to explore how young riders experience Swedish riding schools. By analysing focus groups interviews, a picture emerged showing that young riders' main motive for participating at riding schools was the social aspects. Riding schools could be characterized through an institutional perspective in which the young riders became internalized and socialized into a stable culture. Education at riding schools has a military background and the stable culture is still somehow characterized by military exercise (Hedenborg 2008). Previous researches have shown how young girls who interact and socialize in the stable environment are influenced by the stable culture regarding the habits they are taught to care for and manage horses (Forsberg and Tebelius 2011; Gilbert 2014a, 2014b; Ojanen 2012; Thorell and Hedenborg 2015). This study used Lave & Wengers (1991) concept "situated learning" to understand how learning are taking place through participation in social practices. Communicative processes become an important part and the young riders identified with the norms and values of the riding instructors through master-apprentice learning. In addition, the results revealed a change in the stable culture since the instructors encouraged social interactions and participation in the community that became central to learning and development. Opportunities to influence and interact were important for the individuals and from a child's rights perspective. Through participation in the community of practice at riding schools, young riders not only learn about riding and horse management but also develop important personal social skills.

**Wadham,
Helen**

**Agency as interspecies, collective and embedded endeavour:
Ponies and people in northern England 1916-1950**

Animals are increasingly acknowledged as historical agents. There are calls for more critical approaches that explore how this agency – often shared with humans – is embedded within wider relations of power. This paper responds by employing Critical Theory, particularly the ideas of Jurgen Habermas, to explore how interspecies agency is shaped and constrained by its broader socioeconomic context. Empirical illustrations are drawn from the experiences of Dales ponies and people in the early twentieth century, who found themselves navigating the growing commodification of their shared lifeworld. The findings suggest the outcome of this process of “colonisation” was not inevitable. Rather, just as the demise of the ponies seemed unstoppable, their shared communicative relations re-emerged powerfully during the harsh winter of 1947. The paper asks what this means for our understanding of the apparently irrevocable decline of horsepower and how we might better understand horses’ own experiences of such events and processes.

**Waerner,
Therese**

Having a voice in the stable – a conditional right for young riders?

The aim with this presentation is to discuss and report on a new project that has just started. The UN Convention on the Right of the Child became a part of Swedish law in January 2020. This means that every leader within sport should make sure that children’s rights are secured. In the stable, young people cultivate several skills; learn to cooperate, take initiatives and be responsible even though military traditions and one-way communications still pervade parts of the horse industry. Abuse and harassment of young riders in the stable are heard of but seldom spoken out loud, maybe because of fear of losing the opportunity to ride. Nevertheless, it seems to be a paradoxical situation – the stable context produces leaders and many young riders have a strong voice, but also produces youth who are silent, powerless and vulnerable. We therefore need knowledge about the conditions for young people to exercise their rights in equestrian sports.

The overall aim is to analyse the conditions for a child rights perspective to be implemented in the stable. Research questions: What are the possibilities for young riders to have something to say about their participation: when and on what matters do they have a voice? What knowledge do instructors and trainers have of a child right's perspective, what characterize stable cultures where youths either can or cannot exercise the right to express their views freely and have them accounted for?

Wallace, Carrienne & Wadham, Helen **Agents of sustainability: How horses and people co-create and enact visions of the good life**

The research directly addresses how human horse relationships shape ‘Good life’ lived experiences. That is, it explores sustainability-related practices and impacts among people who move to rural areas to live “sustainable” modern lifestyles. Specifically, we focus on those people who move into rural areas primarily to live alongside horses and other domestic animals. We ask how people and horses together develop and enact visions of the rural good life, and reflect on what this means in relation to our understanding of sustainability. Our theoretical framework is based on Kate Soper’s notion of alternative hedonism, and we bring this to bear on an empirical extended case study of people and horses in northern England, Wadham (2019). We believe our paper adds to existing knowledge in three ways. First, it adds to our understanding of sustainable consumption practices by providing a concrete example of what alternative hedonism can look like in practice. Second, the paper contributes to our understanding of human-animal relations by exploring more-than-human experiences of the good life. We pay attention to animal experiences of the good life by both asking our human participants about it and by using sensory approaches to attempt to understand the horses’ perspective as far as we can. We thus heed Coulter’s (2018) call for more animal-centric approaches by recognising horses as subjects, objects and agents in their own stories. Finally, in contributing to discussions about sustainability we reflect on current rural transformations, as active agents tying people together across rural spaces, horses are integral to iterations of the good life. They therefore remind us that when we talk of preserving our “legacy for future generations” (Soper 2020; 66), those imagined rural inhabitants are not exclusively human.

Werner, Guro & Solenes, Oskar **“Preschoolers, ponies and professionals - Service providers view on contextual conditions for equine-assisted therapy (EAT)”**

In Norway, children with disabilities can attend Equine-Assisted Physiotherapy and the treatment holds a refund policy in the Norwegian national insurance scheme if provided by a licensed physiotherapist (Norwegian Physiotherapist Association). This paper is based on 10 interviews of physiotherapists and 6 interviews of leaders of equine centers across Norway. The aim is investigating their experiences concerning the contextual conditions they work within.

The ICF model explains disability as a phenomenon related to both individual and contextual factors (WHO, 2002). Previous research shows that context, including service providers role and competence is not emphasized in EAT research (Sterba, 2007; Wilkie, Germain and Theule, 2016; Wood and Fields, 2019).

Preliminary findings suggest equine knowledge and “know how” is considered important, related to both safety and professionalism. Therapists must be confident working with large groups for the services to be sustainable. Groups solely for preschoolers may not be possible, thus groups can be mixed age. Side walkers are required, but the economy give little room for paid employment for others than the physiotherapist. Collaboration with other professions is welcomed, but the refund policy is reserved physiotherapists. There is no uniform description of suitable horses regarding age or breed. Smaller horse breeds and ponies are preferred due to the side walkers work position, ability to aid the child, and the child’s safety. Horses are chosen due to their temper, gait, size and width, and a variety of horses are ideal to match the different children’s needs and challenges.

**Wild,
Hayley;**
Upton, S.E.
& Ellis, A.D.

Ethical aspects of the animal-human relationship for sports horses: A new way forward

Equine science research has examined important welfare issues surrounding the use of horses in elite sport. However, the ethical and moral implications tied to the subject have not been extensively investigated. Traditional ethical approaches maintain a dualistic human-animal viewpoint where humans stand above and separate from animals. The sport horse industry benefits stakeholders commercially and personally but concern for sport horse welfare has also increased within the wider equestrian community and non-equestrian society. It is vital that the equine industry develops balanced, transparent methods to provide good welfare for horses in order to retain its social licence and operate justifiably in the future. However, most current animal welfare guidelines by sports horse governing bodies are primarily concerned with improving welfare for the benefit of human use (Bergmann et al., 2019), for example to increase the longevity of a horse's sporting life.

A new way forward: A new bio-interspecies ethical approach is proposed. Alternative strategies for equine sporting governing bodies to embody such theory and to prioritise welfare are suggested. A new decision-making framework could provide an opportunity to dissect the horse-human bond in more detail. It chiefly considers the ridden horse within the context of the human social relationship recognising the ability of the horse to form social bonds with humans and be modified beyond intrinsic species capacities. The framework creates a platform for the reciprocity of these bonds to be explored from which future models can be developed.

**Winrow,
Bethany &
Brigden,
Charlotte**

Social Ethical Dilemmas Relating to Euthanasia of the Unwanted Horse in the United Kingdom

"The unwanted horse" is a relatively new label in the equine industry (Lenz, 2009), yet numbers assigned this status in society are increasing. This presents a dilemma surrounding end of life decisions, generating diverse opinions. Provision of euthanasia has been traditionally based around medical considerations; however, it is becoming more common upon owner request for abdication of responsibility for the horse and quality of life concerns. This survey aimed to explore the opinions of horse owners and rescue organisations regarding the acceptability of euthanasia of the unwanted horse.

An online questionnaire was completed by horse owners (N =353), incorporating 18 open and closed questions. This explored financial considerations relating to euthanasia, owner experiences and ethical considerations of rehoming, as well as perspectives on the acceptability of euthanasia of the unwanted horse. Interviews were conducted with managers of two rescue organisations. Quantitative results were converted into percentages to allow comparison between factors. Word data were coded inductively using computer assisted technology (SimStat-WordStat v.6 (SS/WS), Provalis Research) for questionnaires, and manually for interviews. Raw data codes were compared and developed into 1st and 2nd order categories using thematic framework analysis.

Results confirmed that the unwanted horse population is a national concern, attributed to overbreeding, finances and owner requirements. Legislation for horse ownership was encouraged by the respondents, however enforcement was a perceived barrier. Respondents felt that euthanasia could decrease the amount of neglect and welfare cases in the United Kingdom, however it was not generally considered acceptable in equine rescue centres.

**Zetterqvist
Blokhuis,
Mari**

The interaction between rider, horse and equestrian trainer – a challenging puzzle

The aim of this study was to examine the complex and challenging relationships between rider, horse and equestrian trainer in the context of teaching horse riding. What strategies and methods do trainers use to support the riders' performance with their horses? What is the role of the horse in this interaction? Empirical material was collected through observations and in-depth interviews with Polish and Swedish riders and trainers, using an ethnographic approach. Results show that trainers use their own practical and embodied knowledge to help riders to build a reciprocal communication with their horses. Trainers adapt their instruction to each rider and situation. However, the role of the horse in rider-horse communication does not receive much attention during training sessions, suggesting that the recognition of the horse as a sentient and thinking individual is not built into existing equestrian teaching practices. Trainers dealt with on-the-spot problems during training sessions, using their kinesthetic empathy, but had difficulties to explain *why* they acted as they did. Results did not reveal any national differences among sport dressage riders, pointing to the coherence of horse cultures and traditions.

There is a need for new teaching strategies where trainers recognize the subjects of both rider and horse, and thereby support each individual rider-horse combination's active process in creating something together. Equestrian trainers need to improve their skills to make explicit to the rider why they choose to give certain instructions, thus contributing to develop a rider's practical knowledge.

Author Bios

Miriam Adelman is professor emeritus of Sociology at the Federal University of Paraná (Curitiba, Brazil). She continues to teach in the graduate programs of Sociology and Literature at that institution. She is a pioneering equestrian studies scholar, having contributed fundamentally to international research on gender and equestrian sport, and on the historical and contemporary development of Latin American equestrian cultures. In addition to her many articles and book chapters – in Spanish, Portuguese, English and French – related to the above-mentioned themes, she is also co-editor of the Springer volumes *Gender in Equestrian Sport: Riding around the World* (2013, with Jorge Knijnik) and *Equestrian Cultures in Global and Local Contexts* (2017, with Kirrily Thompson).

Ulrika Alm Bergvall (PhD 2007 and associate professor 2017 in Ethology, at Stockholm university) is currently affiliated with the Department of Ecology, Grimsö wildlife station, SLU. Her main subjects are foraging psychology, animal welfare and animal personality. She performed her Post doc at Edinburgh university at the Department of Psychology in the Animal personality group.

Inger Almström, Author of articles and historical research on northern breeds and articles dedicated to equine welfare.

Petra Andersson, PhD in Practical Philosophy. Andersson's research interests are mainly the nature-human-animal relationships. Her writings the last few years is mostly about horse welfare and attitudes and values regarding horse welfare. Her currently project, where she is the PI, is about how horse owners understands horse welfare and what horse welfare risks they meet, according to themselves, in their daily life. She is also working with ethical aspects on equine assisted therapy and is developing an ethical model for the interspecies relationships.

Helen Asklund is an Educational developer at Mid Sweden University as well as an active researcher in Comparative Literature. She has a background in the field of children's literature and reading habits, with several publications on horse stories, young readers and the quest for identity in children's literature.

Åsa Bergman Bruhn is a physiotherapist with a Master's degree in Care Science. Since 2018, she is a doctoral student in Working Sciences. Her interests are in the areas of work environment, working conditions and ergonomics, i.e. factors and methods that foster attractive, meaningful, healthy, safe and sustainable employments. An overall purpose of her PhD project is to contribute to the development of safe and healthy working conditions and sustainable careers in horse-related professions by generating knowledge on how long-term work environment management can be practically integrated and continuously operated.

Wynand Boonstra works as rural sociologist at the Department of Earth Sciences, Uppsala University. He studies the social dynamics and relations that shape the (un)sustainable use of natural environments. He is particularly interested in understanding (mis)matches between the values, interests of farmers and fishers and the social and ecological opportunities to realize their preferred farming and fishing styles. His work includes case studies through a mixed-method design that includes qualitative and quantitative methods.

Darcy Bornemann submitted her PhD in January 2020 (and hopefully passed by the time you are reading this) and is interested in collaboration projects looking at horse owners, equestrians, and horse enthusiasts further. Areas of special interest include how horse people communicate and how they are spoken about by peers and industry professionals with an aim to facilitate pro-social interactions in the equestrian community. Darcy lives and works in Gloucestershire, UK where she freelances, teaching undergraduate and postgraduate marketing and business research modules, as well as equestrian coaching.

Keri Brandt Off is a Professor of Sociology and Gender & Sexuality Studies at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Co USA. Her curiosities on and off campus center around how humans, animals, and landscapes co-create shared worlds together, and how these worlds intersect in the context of agriculture and food.

Lovisa Broms, PhD student at Malmö University, Department of Sport Science. Specializing on media and communication and sport with special focus on social media. Part of the research project stable cultures in cyberspace. Author and co-author of several forthcoming articles related to equestrian sport and social media.

Annæ Buchmann has an Environmental Science background with a Ph.D. in Social Science. Her interdisciplinary research looks at long-term strategies for creating sustainable communities and organisations in urban and regional destinations. Annæ has published about Economic and Socio-Cultural Contribution of Equine Industries; Role of Horse-related Advocacy in Land Use Decisions in Multi-Functional Spaces; Leisure and Sports and Understanding the Experiences and Constraints of Horse Riders, and is passionate about Equine Destinations; Equestrian Culture and Heritage; and Historical Horsemanship. Annæ's research is disseminated in engaging presentations and publications, and she is esteemed as an expert reviewer and member of advisory boards as well as horse trainer and coach.

Debbie Busby is a Clinical Animal Behaviourist specialising in equine behaviour, registered with the UK's Animal Behaviour and Training Council. She supervises university students, mentors new behaviourists through their routes to professional registration and provides expert witness services to UK courts. Debbie started her Doctoral research in human-horse relationships in the Faculty of Business and Law at Manchester Metropolitan University in October 2021. She has published research on recognition of equine affective states and co-authored books on equine evolution, behaviour and human-horse relationships. Debbie also collaborates with Human Behaviour Change for Animals on developing new reflexive models to facilitate change.

Ana Lucia Camphora lives in Brazil. She holds a Master's Degree in the Psycho-Sociology of Communities and Social Ecology and a PhD in Social Sciences. As an independent scholar, examines interactions between human and non-human species. Her book *Animals and society in Brazil from the 16th to 19th century* (published in Portuguese, in 2017) was launched by the White Horse Press (UK), in 2021. She is a member of the Equine History Collective (EHC). Her current work on the use of horses for antibody production is sponsored research of the Center for Contemporary Equine Studies (USA).

Catharina Carlsson, Bachelor of Science in Social Work, Master in Public Health Science, PhD in Social Work 2017, financed by funds from Childrens' welfare foundation Sweden. Her findings show that the horse could be added to the dictionary for the discipline of social work. To do so the horses need to be considered as subjects with own needs and emotions, not tools or commodities for people to react on, to have an impact. Further the motives for bringing the horse in to social

work needs to be needs to be clarified, evaluated to optimize the return, safety, growth and sustainability in Equine Assisted interventions.

Charlotte Carrington-Farmer is an Associate Professor of History at Roger Williams University, in Rhode Island, USA. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge in 2010. She has published an article entitled 'The Rise and Fall of the Narragansett Pacer,' *Rhode Island History*, Winter/Spring 2018, Volume 76, Number 1, pp. 1-38 and a chapter entitled: 'Trading Horses in the Eighteenth Century: Rhode Island and the Atlantic World,' in Kristen Guest and Monica Mattfeld, eds., *Equine Cultures: Horses, Human Society, and the Discourse of Modernity, 1700-Present* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019.) She has the following piece forthcoming: 'Shipping Mules in the Eighteenth-Century: New England's Equine Exports to the West Indies' in Elodie Peyrol Kleiber, et al, eds., *Agents of Empires: Companies, Commerce, and Colonies 1500-1800*, (Manchester: University of Manchester Press, forthcoming 2021.)

Dr. Kendra Coulter is chair of the department of labour studies at Brock University where she also holds the Chancellor's Chair for Research Excellence. She is a fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics and an invited member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists. She serves on the coordinating committee of the Canadian Violence Link Coalition and on Ontario's Provincial Animal Welfare Services Advisory Table. She is the author of *Animals, Work, and the Promise of Interspecies Solidarity* (Palgrave Macmillan). With Charlotte Blattner and Will Kymlicka, she is the co-editor of *Animal Labour: A New Frontier of Interspecies Justice?* (Oxford University Press).

Dr Kate Dashper is Reader and Director of Research Degrees in the School of Events, Tourism and Hospitality Management at Leeds Beckett University, England. Her research has covered numerous issues in relation to human-horse encounters, including interspecies relationships, communication and gender relations. Her current work focuses on horses in tourism and events, as both service workers and leisure companions. She is author of *Human-animal relationships in equestrian sport and leisure* (Routledge, 2017) and co-editor of book *Humans, horses and events management* (CABI, 2021).

Evelien Deelen, PhD student. My research lies in the intersection of culture and the human-horse relationship, with a focus on the effects of cultural practices on the lives of horses. As an anthropologist and ethnozoologist, I utilize classical ethnographic methods, such as participant observation and interviewing, to gain a holistic understanding of the ways in which human and equine lives become intertwined. Guided by anthropological theory and multispecies perspectives, I look into the ways in which humans perceive equines, understand their behavior, and assess their subjectivity.

Vanina Deneux – Le Barh is a research engineer in sociology at the French Institute for Horse and Horse Riding (IFCE). She is in her 4th year of PhD in sociology at Paul Valéry University of Montpellier. Her research topic is the analyse the live and work relationships between professionals and their horses. She has already participated to the European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP), in the Horse Study Commission. In 2018, her speech was oriented on the work of police horses and in 2019, she talked about the common destiny shared by humans and horses.

Yancen Diemberger is a PhD student of anthrozoology at Exeter (UK), focusing on human horse relationships in different cultural contexts. I have always had a passion for horses and after completing my degree in Tibetan studies from Vienna (focusing on an 18th C. Manuscript on Tibetan horse science) I returned to horses by working in different forms of equitation around the

world, especially in Argentina. These experiences then led me back to academia, looking at human-horse relationships in different cultural contexts and according to different epistemological traditions.

Nina Ekholm Fry is Director of Equine Programs at University of Denver's Institute for Human-Animal Connection and an Adjunct Professor in the Graduate School of Social Work and the Graduate School of Professional Psychology. She has a background as a psychotherapist with a focus on trauma, as a competitive rider and equine behavior consultant, and as an academic professional engaged in issues related to both human and equine behavior and welfare. She has a particular interest in applied ethics and social justice within human-animal interactions, including human-horse conflict and free-roaming horses.

Ulla Ekström von Essen, (Ph D 2003 and associate professor in the History of Ideas in 2011) working at the Centre for Studies in Practical Knowledge, Södertörn University. Drives a horse farm with a small scale breeding of Portugese lusitano horses. Trainer in liberty. Research in the HAS area since 2010, editing (and contributing to) works like; *Kentauren – interaktion mellan häst och människa* (2010), *Equine Cultures in Transition. Ethical Questions* (2019). Head for the research project "Horse Cultures in Transition. Interaction and Ethics between Human and Horse in Poland and Sweden" 2015-2019 together with Petra Andersson, Jonna Bornemark and Mari Zetterquist-Blokhuis.

Marie Fahlin is educated at the SNDO, Amsterdam. She works with choreographic transpositions between materials and mediums in her own work and in collaboration with other artists. Within the choreographic field she has extensive experience from being curator, dancer, choreographer and researcher and has been conducting and collaborating in a number of artistic research projects, e.g. *Unheimliche Verbindungen* together with artist Filippa Arrias (The Royal Institute of Art) and *Music in Movement* with Stefan Östersjö (The Swedish Research Council). Fahlin is a member of Weld Company and together with Rebecca Chentinell she runs the organization Koreografiska Konstitutet. Since 2014 Fahlin is a PhD-candidate in choreography at Stockholm University of the Arts with the project *Moving through Choreography – Curating Choreography as an Artistic Practice*.

Jane Flynn PhD is a teacher, historian, and writer with research interests in myth, memory, national identity, and the visual representation of work and war. Her book, *Soldiers and their Horses: Sense, Sentimentality and the Soldier-Horse Relationship in The Great War*, was published by Routledge in January 2020. Jane blogs on www.janeflynn-senseandsentimentality.com and hosts the Facebook group 'Horses and History'. She brings a lifelong passion for horses to her work.

Bianca Friedman, I am a horse rider and lover. I have a MA in Comparative Literatures (University of Pisa). For my MA thesis, for which I won the national prize "Premio Paolo Zanotti", I analysed film parody of gothic horror genre in *Young Frankenstein*. I have presented papers at a BASN conference (Exter, 2018) and at the CIRQUE conference (Pisa, 2019). Combining film analysis, animal studies and queer theory, I published an article on *Isle of Dogs* and another article on *Crin Blanc*. I am going to develop my PhD proposal on intermedial representations of horses' point of view at Edge Hill University as a GTA candidate.

Tamzin Furtado is a researcher working in animal welfare who uses social science methods in order to better understand the human element of animal welfare issues. She completed a PhD about human behaviour change in equine obesity at the University of Liverpool in 2019, and is passionate about using the science of human behaviour in order to improve the welfare of

companion animals. She currently works with both equine and canine research, focusing on human-animal relationships and welfare.

Magdalena Anita Gajewska, sociologist and philosopher, co-organizer and member of the sociology section of inter-species relations in Poland. Researcher of everyday life practices and relations in the social world. Coach and hippotherapist.

Marie Gustavsson, PhD in Disability Studies, lecturer in Social Work. Works at the Department of Culture and Society (IKOS) at the Unit of Social Work, program director of the Social Work Program. Research interests: disability, parenting issues, sports and leisure, inclusion and participation.

Sue Halden-Brown is a former Olympic coach, having coached the British Modern Pentathlon gold-medal winning team and Australia's youngest-ever Olympic 3-Day Eventer. Sue was extensively involved in setting up the National Coach Accreditation Scheme in Australia and wrote its foundation text. Since then her appreciation of the changing dynamics of twenty-first century equestrian sport has driven her to develop extensive new coaching resources and a major new coaching system for the management of mistakes, both in training and in competition.

Sue is currently the Founding President of the Australian National Equestrian Coaches Association (ANECA) which is the first body of its kind for professional equestrian coaches in Australia. Sue is also the Director of Equestrian Coach Education International, which is the world's first hub for equestrian-specific coaching and professional development resources.

Monica Hammer, Associate Professor in Natural Resources Management and horse owner. Her main research interests deal with interactions between human society and ecosystems for a sustainable development, where the role of horse keeping is analyzed together with the co-authors of this abstract.

Susanna Hedenborg, professor in Sport Science, Malmö university and affiliated professor Norwegian School of Sport Sciences. She is the president of the Swedish research council for Sport Science. Hedenborg has, in several publications, presented studies on historical and gender perspectives in relation to equestrian sport. She is currently the head of two research projects regarding equestrianism and social media and stable activities for pre-school children in Sweden and Norway.

Tobias Heldt is an Associate professor of Tourism and a researcher at Center for Tourism and Leisure Research. He received his Ph.D from Uppsala University in 2005 with a thesis in the field of behavioural and tourism economics. He is currently involved in projects on Mobility and accessibility in rural areas (MARA-mobility), Micro-based tools to analyze tourism and infrastructure investments, (MIRANDA) and on socio-economic analysis of the horse industry in Sweden (<https://hastnaringen-i-siffror.se/>), a project joint with The Swedish horse industry foundation, HNS.

Mia Hellström has a degree from the Equine Science Program and has also studied to become a webeditor at the University of Borås. She work as a communicator both with the Equine Science Program and with the digital platform HästSverige. She also work as a riding instructor both on riding school and with private lessons. Her main interest is to communicate current- and accurate knowledge to people in the Horse Industry.

Samantha Hurn is Associate Professor (Anthropology), Director of the Exeter Anthrozoology as Symbiotic Ethics (EASE) working group, and Programme Director for the MA and PhD

Anthrozoology programmes at the University of Exeter. Sam has researched and published on trans-species interactions in diverse contexts including street dog management in Romania; rhino poaching in South Africa; eco-tourism in South Africa and Swaziland; animal agriculture in the UK; non-traditional companion animals; and her most recent research, funded by the Society for Companion Animal Studies, is concerned with finding ways to better support childhood experiences of disenfranchised grief following the loss of companion animals.

Helena Innergård received her Ph.D. in industrial engineering and management from KTH in Stockholm January 31st 2020. Her thesis “Ridkonst, konsultmannaskap och kunnig vägledning” (eng. “Equestrianism, Consultant Skills and Competent Guidance”) addresses how analogies from equestrian sports can be used to understand the skills of technical consultants. Apart from her engineering degree, Helena is also Chief Information Assurance Officer (CIAO) from the Swedish Defence University. She works as marketing director at C.A.G Engvall Security and is active as a senior information security consultant. During her whole career, Helena has been involved in different collaborations between business and the academic world.

Crispin Parelius Johannessen (b. Oxford, 1971) Independent British/ Norwegian fine artist, photographer, trainer of horses and riders, holistic equine therapist. Lives Sweden/Norway. BA Hons in Fine Art (1st class) from Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design, London. Two Master degrees, Master of Fine Art and Master of History of Art, both from Goldsmiths College, University of London. Polish Government Postgraduate Scholarship from the Academy of Fine Arts Krakow. Worked with horses for over thirty years.

Emily Kieson has a PhD in Comparative Psychology, MS in Psychology, PgDip in Equine Science and actively researches horse behavioral psychology in the context of horse-human interactions and equine affiliative behaviors in large domestic and feral herds. She conducts research and creates educational workshops with her colleagues at MiMer Centre and teaches Psychology and Animal Behavior as a professor in the U.S.

Gergely Lajkó, In terms of my education I am an Ethnographer, I have studied ethnography at Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Arts, Budapest. I did several fieldwork-based researches between the wranglers of Hortobágy area. At the moment I am working on my PhD in a Doctoral School of History at University of Szeged. My PhD research is the same topic that I would like to present at the conference, so it focuses on the historical tradition of horse breaking in rural communities in Hungary between the 19th and 20th centuries. Beside my academic progress I am working on my own farm, where I keep and ride horses.

Kari Lawe, While working on my doctoral dissertation about Pope Alexander VI, I encountered significant testimony that highlighted the central role of the horse and the art of riding in the ceremonies and feasts of the Papacy. As this material was not directly relevant to the issues of the thesis, but was later developed as the subject of an independent monograph entitled *The Pope's Horses. Courtly Culture a symbolism of power in the Papal State* . (Carlsson 2020)

Charlène Leconstant, I am in the 5th year of my doctorate. I am studying the horse-human relationship in the context of Horse-Assisted Therapy. I first obtained an agricultural baccalaureate with the "horse valorization" option, then I studied Psychology. I also graduated from a university diploma in Human-Animal Relations, specializing in ethology. My thesis work refers to the study of HAT with addicted patients. During the therapy sessions, I was interested in understanding how the interaction between the horse and the patient can be used in therapy. My thesis is partly funded by the “Ann Kern-Godal’s memorial fund for Horse-Assisted Therapy”.

Henrik Lerner is Ph.D. in thematic studies of health and society and lecturer at Ersta Sköndal Bräcke University College in Stockholm. His research is about Animal Assisted Interactions, human-animal relations, health definitions and global health strategies such as One Health, EcoHealth, Planetary Health and One Welfare.

Dr. Cecilia Lindahl is a Senior Researcher at the Department of Agriculture and Food, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden. Her research area is broad covering animal husbandry, animal welfare, animal handling and agricultural occupational safety and health. She has a PhD in agricultural science with emphasis on work science, focusing on risk factors for occupational injuries during cattle handling on dairy farms, and has since been involved in several studies on occupational health and safety within the agricultural sector.

Susanne Lundesjö Kvar is a lecturer at the Division of Equine Studies at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, and she teaches in pedagogics and didactics at the Equine Science Program. In April 2020, she defended her thesis “The art of teaching riders – a study about riding teachers pedagogical practice. Now she continues her research on the situation during riding lessons and how to teach the equestrian feel with regard to the timing.

Charlotte Lundgren, PhD in Language and Culture, is an applied linguist focusing on ethnography and multimodal interaction in sports and health care. Research interests: interspecies communication, workplace communication, informal/formal learning, and teamwork in medical settings.

Katarina Felicia Lundgren works as a growth and mindfulness facilitator using nature and equine assisted experiential interventions. She gives trainings, workshops, and seminars internationally, and writes about human and equine welfare, equine-human interaction and communication, cognition, psychology, mindfulness, ethics, trauma, and equines and humans in therapy and learning programs.

Katarina is the director of MiMer Centre, a small research, education, and treatment center, the project leader of [HorseHub](#), an EU funded network initiative for horse business, the program director of Växa med Häst, a project for young girls at risk, and the owner of Live the Change.

Lena Manderstedt is an Associate professor in Swedish and Education at Luleå University of Technology. She has published on intersectionality and posthuman perspectives, comparative literature and the didactics of literature, mainly related to children’s literature.

Anita Maurstad is Professor of Cultural Science at The Arctic University Museum of Norway and Academy of Arts. She received her doctorate from the Norwegian College of Fishery Science in Tromsø. Former areas of research and publication were small scale fishing and resource management. Later areas are materiality, expertise and museology, and since 2011, horse-human relationships have been the center of attention. She has been a rider for 25 years, currently feeding and exploring the horsiness of her three free-ranging Icelandic horses.

Dr. Tamar V.S. McKee holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of British Columbia (Vancouver) with the 2014 dissertation, *Ghost Herds: Rescuing Horses and Horse People in Bluegrass Kentucky*, where McKee studied the rescue of off-track-Thoroughbreds and the rehabilitation / retraining of them at two field sites: the Kentucky Horse Park and the Blackburn Correctional Complex in Lexington, Kentucky. Without the trail blazed by Karen Dalke’s work on the inmate-mustang gentling program in Canon City, Colorado, McKee would not have had her break through discovery of “redemptive capital” when analyzing equine and human life after

being rescued. McKee also holds an M.A. in anthropology and an M.S. in museum and field studies from the University of Colorado (Boulder), and has specialized in contemporary Tibetan art and human-horse relationships both in diasporic and autochthonous Tibetan communities. Dr. McKee currently directs the Stephen H. Hart Research Center at History Colorado in Denver, Colorado.

Eva Minten, PhD 2002, in Ancient history and Classical archaeology on a dissertation entitled *Roman attitudes towards children and childhood. Private funerary evidence c. 50 B.C. – c. A.D. 300*. I have published several articles on Roman art and archaeology. I work as Senior Advisor at The Swedish Council for Higher Education and I have published books and articles on educational policy and research-based learning.

Lena Oja is an artist mainly focusing on writing as a tool when exploring the different characteristics of the process of establishing new artistic practices. This presentation is based upon a project of exploring riding as if it were art, and how that process affects the content of the practice. Lena Oja has a fil.mag in Fine Arts from Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts and Design.

Maude Ouellette-Dubé, I am a fourth year philosophy doctoral student at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. My research in moral psychology and moral epistemology aims at better understanding the nature and role of moral understanding and ethical attention. In turn, I consider this research necessary to expend the values of the feminist Care tradition, especially in animal ethics. In the past years, I was glad to engage more significantly with literature on equine ethics and equine philosophy, thus allowing me to ally my philosophical research with a lifelong partnership with horses: living amongst them and caring for them daily.

Nicole Pergament Crona, Master student at Stockholm University

Ann-Sofie Persson is Docent in Language and Culture at Linköping University, where she teaches Comparative Literature. Her research interests include ecocriticism, animal studies and posthumanism, and she has published ecocritical readings of horse stories.

Andrea Petitt is a researcher at the Centre for Gender Research (CfGR) at Uppsala University. Her main research interests include gender and human-animal relations in agriculture. With a M. Sc. in 'Anthropology' from Université de Montréal, a M. Sc in 'Africa and International development cooperation' from Gothenburg University and a Ph.D. in 'Rural Development' from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Andrea uses ethnographic methodologies when studying agriculture and rural change around the world. She is currently working with the international postdoc project "Global equestrian cultures in change: New gendered human-horse relations emerging from Western riding?" funded by the Swedish Research Council (VR).

Victoria Pihlgren, formerly Nygren, gained her doctoral degree, PhD in 2010, in the interdisciplinary research field *Health and Society* at Linköping University. Her present research project (see abstract submission) is fully funded by Torsten Söderbergs stiftelse. Pihlgren is a historian with special interest in the history of medicine, history of veterinary medicine, animal history, social history, life course- and micro history, especially in the 19th century. She is a university teacher at Linköping University, Department of Culture and Society, teaching oral and written communication skills, and rhetoric classes. She also has a degree in Religious Studies, including ethics and moral philosophy.

Patrice Régnier is a French sociologist (PhD) working on corporal interactions between humans and between humans and horses. His thesis (2014) and his book (2016) questions the anthropo-

equine relations. He wrote several articles and interventions concerning humans-horses relationship and martial arts.

Alison Rood graduated with a Research Masters in Anthrozoology from Hartpury University in October 2019. As a researcher and qualified equine-facilitated learning practitioner, she has focussed on the use of equine-assisted activities for people living with dementia. With little research to date in this field she developed and implemented a study to inform the advancement of the evidence base for these activities. Alison is a member of the national Riding for the Disabled Association UK's Dementia Services Development Group. She works with this group to develop the RDA's offer of equine-assisted activities for people with dementia and their carers. She has a particular interest in the evaluation of these activities to influence future research and development. Alison is also a regular volunteer at the Cotswold Riding for the Disabled centre which pioneered 'Tea with a Pony' sessions specifically aimed at people living with dementia or those within a care environment.

Anastasija Ropa is senior researcher at the Latvian Academy of Sport Education. Her main research interests are in the fields of equestrian history and horse riding as a sports and recreational activity, with papers presented at international conferences and several publications on the subject. She is also co-editor of the book series "Rewriting Equestrian History" and the journal *Cheiron: The International Journal of Equine and Equestrian History*, published by Trivent.

Annika Rosén, PhD. Social Work, Law Degree, Bachelor Degree, Social Work. PhD. Monography: Rosén (2010). *Är detta seriöst? En studie av anhöriginvandring till Sverige*. Lunds Universitet. Human Rights: Rosén (2011) *Mänskliga rättigheter i svensk belysning*. Liber. Malmö. Rosén & Gustafsson (2015) En jämförande studie av "Att vara förälder i Sverige" och "Ur barnens perspektiv". Länsstyrelsen, FOU Stockholm stad. Ljungberg & Rosén Följeforskning, ALLT *Att Lära och Leka Tillsammans*. Malmö. Ongoing Project: Hedenborg & Rosén & Thorell, Too young to ride? Head of Department 2019- 2020, External Relations, Lund University. Head of Department 2016-2019, Children, Youth and Society, Malmö University. Lawyer, Legal office Malmö University, ongoing.

Nora Schuurman is Academy Research Fellow at the University of Turku, Finland, and Adjunct Professor (Docent) of Animal Geography at the University of Eastern Finland. She specialises in human-animal relationality and currently studies interspecies care practices in her project *Landscapes of Interspecies Care: Working the Human-Animal Boundary in Care Practices* (Academy of Finland, 2018-2023). Her areas of expertise include relationships between humans and companion animals, cultural practices and conceptions regarding agency, welfare and death, as well as eco-nationalist discourses concerning animals. She is Director of the Turku Human-Animal Studies Network (TYKE).

Rebecca Smith graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery degree. She then went on to work in clinical practice in the UK and in charities abroad, completing a postgraduate certificate in veterinary anaesthesia and analgesia prior to starting her PhD in 2019. Rebecca is currently working with an interdisciplinary team at the University of Liverpool. Her research is focused on improving equine welfare by adopting a qualitative approach to understand decision making around care of the older horse in the UK. This work will enable the development of practical support for care providers.

Oskar Solenes holds a PhD from Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, and he is an associate professor in Sport Management at Molde University College (Norway). His main research interests concern children's sport in general, but also horseback riding in particular.

Joanna Sätter is currently completing her MSc in Sports Science at Mid Sweden University and her thesis, which forms the basis of this abstract, will be examined in May 2021. Joanna has a BSc in Equine Science from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and currently works as a teacher on the Equine Studies program at Wången. She is a riding instructor, sport judge and a young horse trainer for Icelandic horses.

Prof. Tobba Therkildsen Sudmann is a full professor of public health, physiotherapist and social scientist (medical sociology), Department of Health and Functioning, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, and a part-time out-door riding physiotherapist. Her research focus on how people use their bodily resources to enhance their well-being and social participation, and how nature and animals/horses can facilitate and support bodily, mental, and social change work. Publications and research are grounded in an understanding of "one health and one welfare", and an understanding of health as a collective resource and social practice. She has a wide range of publications in English and Norwegian on nature, outdoor activities and equine facilitated activities and therapies for human health.

Gabriella Torell Palmquist work as a Head Teacher in Education at Ridskolan Strömsholm, one of the Swedish Equestrian Centers of Excellence. In 2017, Gabriella completed the dissertation Forward march! The Role of the Riding Instructor – past, present, future. Today she works in a research collaboration focusing riding school activities for preschool children.

Dr. Helen Wadham is a Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University in the Department of Strategy, Enterprise & Sustainability. She publishes on sustainability & collaborative approaches across sectors & species. Current research projects include human-animal relations & the practice of sustainability, & the history of horses in industrial society.

Therese Waerner, has been engaged in the development of the Equine Science Program for 12 years. She has a specific interest in leadership and is from 2021 a PhD student at GIH involved in the project "Having a voice in the stable". She is particularly interested in how leadership is performed in stable environment and the opportunity for equestrian leaders to give children and young people a start in developing their own leadership skills.

Carrienne Wallace is a Lecturer in Marketing at Aston University within Aston Business School. Carrienne has collaborated on equine research projects and research articles and currently runs a B2B Equine Network focusing on business upskilling and educational workshops for Industry. Current research and interests include the management of customer experiences in Livery Yard settings (DBA Thesis topic) along with sustainability within the events industry and teaching applied events.

Guro F. Werner holds a master's degree in Disability & Society from Norwegian University of Science and Technology (2017). In the period 2019 - 2022, she is PhD candidate in health and social science at Molde University College and Volda University College.

Hayley Wild completed an MSc at Nottingham Trent University where she collaborated on the recent publication; Dually investigated: The effect of a pressure headcollar on the behaviour, discomfort and stress of trained horses. She holds an HE course manager and lecturer position at

University Centre Reaseheath, UK. She has a lifelong association with horses; Hayley studied traditional and alternative equine training methods in the UK and America, has worked extensively with young and unhandled horses and regularly coaches leisure owners in the UK. Her interests include equine behaviour, the animal-human connection and environmental impacts on equine health. She has owned her three horses together for ten years.

Bethany Winrow gained an MSc Equine Science, and previously a First-Class BSc (Hons) Equine Science at University Centre Myerscough, and is currently studying a Postgraduate Certificate in Education. Bethany is passionate about equine welfare and management techniques, which inspired her undergraduate research into horse owners and public perceptions of equine euthanasia, later underpinning her Masters research. Her research stimulated a great response and has identified a development to her project that would be very relevant to today's industry. Charlotte is an equine lecturer, currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Liverpool investigating the impacts of horse death on humans.

Dr. Inga Wolfram's adage to live by has always been 'Where there's a will, there's a way', believing that our mind is the most important instrument in our quest to achieve our greatest ambitions. Inga holds a BSc in Politics and Modern History, an MSc in Human and Equine Sport Science and a PhD on Equestrian Sport psychology.

In her previous research, she's investigated (amongst other things), the impact of personality traits, mental attitude and the relationship between horse and rider on equestrian performance. She's worked at the University of West of England's Hartpury College, UK, the University of Applied Sciences Van Hall Larenstein, the Netherlands, and the Royal Dutch Equestrian Federation. At present, Inga works as the Head of Fundraising at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. She manages the Faculty's charity fund Friends of VetMed, and engages individual donors and organizations who wish to support scientific research, and innovative approaches to improve animal health and welfare.

Mari Zetterqvist Blokhuis, PhD, graduated in May 2019 with her thesis *Interaction Between Rider, Horse and Equestrian Trainer – a challenging puzzle* at the Centre for Studies in Practical Knowledge at Södertörn University in Sweden. Her focus is to explore the communication between rider and horse in equestrian sport, and to investigate what strategies equestrian trainers use to teach riders the complicated skill of how to communicate with their horse. Mari is a professional riding instructor. Before starting as a doctoral student, she was involved in a project that aimed to find ways to improve the riders' seat. Mari is the co-founder of Rider's Position Sweden.