



human-animal dialogue

anthropological explorations

What does the entanglement of beekeepers and honeybees, jockeys and horses, scuba divers and marine life, veterinarians and cats, or butchers and pigs teach us about contemporary local and global culture? What is the meaning of 'nature' in this context and why do we tend to see human and non-human realities as fundamentally different?

General Information

The 122 square miles of Maltese Islands are home to various animal species, some of which live in close proximity to humans. The relationships that exist between non-human and human species reflect societal processes of our changing world. The islands of Malta are socially and economically expanding in the wake of contemporary globalization, and environmental circumstances are in rapid alteration. In this period described as the Anthropocene, the relationships between humans and other animals have become increasingly delicate and complex. Through a focus on the 'Human-animal dialogue', we open up a conversation on non-human relationships to human culture.

How this works...

Our field school invites those with a general interest in exploring the realm of human-animal relationships to join me in developing this research area through independent projects. Participants will be encouraged to conduct fieldwork that places them in between worlds of human and non-human interaction. The priority of Human-animal Dialogue is to engage students in a relationship that is fascinating to them. In loose collaboration with fellow participants, we will explore this fascination and enrich it with socially observable data that requires the dialogue of Maltese interlocutors. Methods include, but are not limited to participant observation, recorded interviews, sketches, photographs, video recordings, soundscape recordings, musical and dance performance, archival research, and much more. Applicants interested in the project should reach Jacob Jansen directly before the summer sessions begin.

Goals

- Find your place in a niche field which requires multidisciplinary analysis and methodological creativity.
- Contribute to human-animal discourse within the context of island lifeways and Mediterranean environmental conditions.
- Expand your perception of nature and culture.
- Write an article which will be added to an exclusive volume concerning human-animal studies that has been conducted through the Off the Beaten Track program.

Directed at

Researchers and students from all levels and backgrounds who share our passion for these issues. Previous training in anthropological studies or human-animal theory are not required, although some knowledge on content related to these fields may be helpful. There will be training sessions for ethnographic fieldwork to assist students who feel they need it, in approaching a field of interest. As studying human-animal dialogues challenges us to be creative in the way we collect data, researchers looking for a stimulating and reflective environment to rethink the methodological approach in ongoing projects are welcomed as well. Please note that it is mandatory to contact the leading researcher beforehand.

Leading researcher

Jacob Jansen
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Program director

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Program Cost

3.450 euros

Application & information

www.anthropologyfieldschool.org