

THE VEGAN SOCIETY'S RESEARCH DAY 2022

DATE Tuesday 6 September 2022

VENUE The Vegan Society's 2022 Research Day will be hosted at the University of Manchester within the newly refurbished and fully accessible Oddfellows Hall, a short walk from Manchester Oxford Street station.

WHAT TO EXPECT Our Research Day is an opportunity to exchange knowledge and network at an event dedicated to showcasing vegan research.

You can expect to gain insight into research from the fields of nutrition, social science, animal ethics, culture and society and more. This event will also be attended by The Vegan Society (TVS) staff, so you will have an opportunity to learn about us as an organisation, and the importance of research across professional practice.

There will be plenty of opportunities throughout the event to chat to your fellow attendees over refreshments: the event will be fully catered, with morning and afternoon refreshments and a buffet lunch – all vegan, of course!

PROGRAMME

9.30am–10am

Registration and refreshments

Doors open at 9.30am with the conference starting at 10.00am. Tea and coffee will be served on arrival.

10am–10.05am

Welcome, Dr Lorna Fenwick McLaren, Research and Impact Manager, TVS

10.05am–10.25am

Dr Richard Twine PhD (Edge Hill University) and Claire Ogley, Head of Campaigns, Policy and Research, TVS

A discussion style presentation on bridging the gap between academia and professional practice. Learn more about why academic research is beneficial for TVS, and the role the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and the Researcher Network (RN) play in TVS's long-term vision.

10.30am–11.00am

Vegan consumerism: can we reconstruct the carnists' house with their own tools? Dr Jack Coffin PhD (RAC) (University of Manchester)

For Audre Lorde (1984), the house of the master cannot be dismantled with the master's tools. In this talk we ask –do markets for meat alternatives and cruelty-free brands challenge the carnist status quo, or does it de-politicise and de-moralise the vegan movement? Can we 'reverse' the tools of marketing and consumerism (Coffin, 2022)? In an era of political disillusionment, social apathy and cultural cynicism, perhaps we can achieve the most dramatic change by speaking to people's interests as consumers and enthusing them to drive change through markets, hitting the bottom line of cruelty-centric industries and making alternatives viable, even lucrative. By posing such questions, this presentation hopes to spark debate and intellectual innovation at a time when veganism needs to capitalise (pun intended) on its status as a 'hot topic'.

11.05am–11.40am

Where do you get your omegas (and should you)? Elena Holmes (RN) (Independent)

Evidence suggests that long-chain omega-3 acids (EPA and DHA), the main dietary sources of which are fish and

crustaceans, are highly important for human health and development.

Some health professionals and advisory bodies have expressed their concerns that a vegan diet may be lacking in these nutrients. Do vegans need to worry about this, or is there a way to ensure a sufficient amount of omega-3s in a vegan diet?

Is iodine deficiency a problem for modern vegan diets? Elizabeth Eveleigh (RN) (University of Nottingham, doctoral candidate)

Vegan diets have become increasingly popular over the past decade. In the UK, well-planned vegan diets are considered suitable throughout the lifespan. However, concerns have been raised regarding the ability of vegan diets to provide essential micronutrients such as iodine. This presentation will outline the current research in this area and will discuss the issue of achieving iodine recommendations in modern-day vegan diets.

Chantal Tomlinson, Dietitian, TVS

The Vegan Society's Dietitian, Chantal, will provide the TVS's stance on omega-3 fats and iodine.

11.45am–12.15pm

Vegan Videogames Dr Tom Tyler (RAC) (University of Leeds)

Animals regularly appear in videogames, as opponents or adversaries, as food or resources, as pets or companions, and more. We might think of Sonic the Hedgehog, Farmville, Animal Crossing, and a great many others. It is possible to explore how these games' virtual animals are



stereotyped and exploited, perhaps encouraging negative attitudes and behaviours amongst players, or how they offer opportunities for respect, care and cooperation, fostering more benevolent approaches. But analysing the representation of animals in games tells us only so much. In this presentation, Dr Tom Tyler discusses his recent work which explores a wide range of video games - some of which do not even feature animals - in order to provide what Dr Tyler calls "vejan" accounts of their narratives, gameplay and mechanics.

12.15–1.30pm

Finger buffet lunch and poster presentations

1.35pm–2.15pm

Nonhuman animals as victims: advancing a vegan victimology (Keynote 1) *Dr Melanie Flynn PhD (RAC) (University of Huddersfield)*

In this presentation, Dr Melanie Flynn will introduce some of the ways veganism might influence a nonspeciesist criminology. In particular, this talk will consider the sub-discipline of victimology, which is the study of victims, victim experience and victim interactions with offenders, the criminal justice system and other organisations. The presentation will set out Dr Flynn's framework for a nonhuman animal victimology, with a particular focus on how constructing nonhuman animals as victims of crime might support vegan advocacy and policy change.

2.20pm–2.40pm

Vegan Geographies: what geographers might contribute to our understanding of critical veganism and vegan praxis *Dr Richard White PhD (RAC) (Sheffield Hallam University)*

While an interest in the domination over non-human animals has gained momentum within animal geography circles in the last two decades (Gillespie and Collard, 2015), it is only recently that a call for geographers to further reflect on vegan activism and practice has come to the fore. Unsurprisingly, vegan ethics embody an inherently geographical praxis, with questions of place, space and scale carrying huge significance wherever calls for veganism are made. This praxis can be illustrated not only in the context of diverse social and cultural groups, but also in the face of broader (neoliberal) economic and political frameworks that seek to commodify the movement at this time. Addressing these contested issues (and others) by drawing close attention to the recently published book "Vegan Geographies" (Hodge, et al. 2022), this presentation seeks to underscore what geographers might contribute to our understanding of critical veganism and vegan praxis.

2.45pm–3.05pm

Sustainability transitions in food: the co-evolution of veganism and alternative proteins

John Andrews (RN) (University of Manchester, doctoral candidate)

An exploration of the changing nature of the vegan movement and its relationship with 'alternative protein' technologies and products. Combining insights from sustainability transitions research and social movement studies.

3.10pm–3.40pm

Refreshments and poster presentations

3.45pm–4.05pm

Beyond epistemological and confirmation bias: the search for better data on the animal agriculture – climate change link *Dr Richard Twine PhD (RAC) (Edge Hill University)*

The debate around animal agriculture and greenhouse gas emissions is one of the most controversial in relation to climate science. Reporting from research in a forthcoming book on the climate crisis, this presentation delves into the sociological and scientific basis of claims made around various percentage figures for the contribution of animal agriculture, casting doubt on the accuracy and social longevity of such data.

4.10pm–4.50pm

Animals and the ethics of war (Keynote 2) *Dr Josh Milburn PhD (RAC) (Loughborough University)*

Although soldiers no longer ride into battle on horseback, war is very bad for animals. Some animals are utilised as tools by militaries, whether in combat, in training, or for resources. Others aren't used by militaries but get caught up in military activity. This includes domesticated animals who flee with humans or are left behind. It also includes wild animals who are caught in crossfire, or have their homes destroyed. In the second keynote of the day, we examine how we lack the moral, legal and political tools to make sense of our obligations to animals impacted by war, considering a future research agenda, and consider the potential – and limits – of including animals in the ethics of war.

4.50–5.00pm

Closing comments and thank you (TVS and Manchester University)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

THE VENUE Oddfellows Hall, Grosvenor St, Manchester, M1 7HF.

Oddfellows Hall has recently undergone extensive refurbishment, combining a modern meeting space with the grandeur of a Grade II listed building. Research Day will be the first event at this venue since its re-opening.

GETTING THERE Oddfellows Hall is a 10-minute walk from Manchester Piccadilly train station or Manchester Oxford Road station

There is a chargeable car park on campus for delegates

STAYING THERE You may be travelling to Manchester from further afield and wish to stay the night before or after the conference. There are several hotels conveniently located nearby the venue:

Hyatt Regency (On-campus hotel): The Hyatt Regency is a 4-star hotel with a guaranteed nightly rate of £114.50 inc VAT room only.

Premier Inn, 2 Brook Street, Manchester, M1 7BJ

Holiday Inn Express, 2-4 Oxford Road, Manchester, M1 5QA

Ibis, Charles Street/Princess Street, Manchester M1 7DG