

**CFP for special journal issue of AMERICANA E-JOURNAL  
POSTHUMANIST (COM) PROMISES OF HUMAN-ANIMAL-PLANT ENCOUNTERS  
IN/AND FANTASTIC IMAGINATION**

This special journal issue invites interdisciplinary non-anthropocentric enquiries mapping the place of animals and plants in fantastic imagination with the aim to rethink the notions of humanity, personhood, or agency inclusive of non-human life forms. The aim is to understand animals and plants both as symbolically charged topoi upon whom human *bêtises*, anxieties and desires, are projected in fictionalized forms as well as ‘beings-in-themselves’ independent of the human knowledge produced about them. We seek to explore how interspecies dialogues can create egalitarian relations between humans and all living beings who have been posited on the marginalized, stigmatized pole of the nature-culture divide, as Donna Haraway opined. Jacques Derrida’s classic lecture “The Animal that therefore I am” highlighted how interactions with an animal existence empty of textual traces affect the speaking human subject through trans/verbal means, while Michael Marder’s *Plant-Thinking: A Philosophy of Vegetal Life* celebrated plants’ unique capacity to deconstruct human metaphysics by undoing binary oppositions such as self and other, body and soul, life and death, surface and depth, the one and the many, and Jane Bennett introduced the notion of “thing power” to insist on the materiality of the human and the animation of matter always already pulsing with life, ready to “produce effects dramatic and subtle,” making a difference in the web of interrelationships constituting our shared enworlded existence. Submissions may combine critical animal-, plant-, thing-studies and theories of posthumanism with analyses of the literary fantastic, fairy tales, fables, fantasies and their adaptations in visual arts and different transmediatizations of children’s/YA/crossover fantasy cultures.

Topics may include but are not restricted to:

- alternative modes of human-animal-plant exchanges, trans/verbal transgressions and contact zones, towards an interspecies corporeal narratology?
- interspecies transformations, shapeshiftings, metamorphosis,
- animal bridegrooms, animal tricksters, animal philosophers, animal psychopomps,
- vegetal horror and animal lore,
- postmodern bestiaries and herbaria,
- sacred animals, rituals, liminality, no man’s land, zootopia
- queering the non/human,
- veganism and carnivorousness, animals and/as food, predatory powers, resistance and revenge,
- furry babies, pet friends, intimacy with animals, affective relationality,
- ideas related to alterity, abjection, altruism, mimicry, metamorphosis, violence and vulnerability tackled beyond the humanist parameters,
- reframing perspectives on strangeness and domestication, humanism and bestiality,
- the psychic reality and performative powers of non-human entities,
- how representations of animals/plants shape our understanding of humans, how animals/plants experience humans,
- posthumanist identity politics, visual poetics of fictional accounts of feral/vegetal embodiment,
- animals allowings us to address metaphysical, philosophical, ethical, legal concerns,
- environmentalism, new visions of Nature, etc.

Please contact the guest editor with a title and a brief **abstract of cc 200 words by 10 March 2017**.

Deadline for submissions of completed essays of **max 7000 words** including bibliography and apparatus: **10 June 2017**

Contact: Guest editor: Dr habil Anna Kérchy, senior assistant professor, University of Szeged, Institute of English and American Studies, [akerchy@gmail.com](mailto:akerchy@gmail.com)

Formatting requirements: The format of the essay should respect some rules: it should use 12 pt fonts for the body of the text; quotations longer than three lines should be organized into block quotes (indenting 2 cms from left and right) and should be set to 10pt; should be single-spaced, with alignment set justified, without indenting the first lines of the paragraphs, and with an empty line between paragraphs; referencing: parenthetical references (Author page). Footnotes should be used only when they are absolutely necessary - if there is a way, avoid them. If you want to include images, please indicate their exact place in the text, and send them separately. At the end of the essay include a "Works Cited" section listing the material you referred to in the paper. The format of a book reference should be: Family Name, First Name. Date of publication. *The Title of the Book*. Place of publication: Publisher.

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