Rendering the invisible visible: engaging with human=nonhuman interconnectedness through research and practice

Across research in the sciences and the humanities, the boundary between human and nonhuman is blurred through the complexities of interrelated systems. Rendering the invisible visible: engaging with human=nonhuman interconnectedness through research and practice offers an opportunity for researchers across disciplines within UCL to speak about the relationship of their research with nonhumans — to discuss curiosities and linkages in an environment of critical-disruptive thinking.

We are inviting paper proposals around the theme of interconnectedness, including but not limited to these questions:

How can we as humans visualise and experience the nonhuman? How does your research implicitly or explicitly engage with nonhumans? What is the added benefit or utility to your research from nonhumans? How do nonhumans influence your research? Is there a reciprocal influence? What are the differences between ‘nonhumans’ and ‘others’ and how does your research engage with a philosophy of ‘others’? What can we learn from the nonhuman? What changes in your research by engaging with the nonhuman? How do the sensual capacities of the other translate into human technologies? What religions or mythological frameworks encompassing nonhumans influence or inform your approach to research? What are the boundaries of the human/nonhuman (animal transplants, chimerism, technological developments, legal rights, cyborgs, intellectual property rights . . .)? What is the role of zoons in research (human/nonhuman/technological collaborations)? How do varying definitions of human impact research ethics? What methodologies might we employ to identify and ethically interact with the nonhuman? What are the processes of negotiation with the nonhuman in research? What are the impacts on output? What are the relationships between humans and nonhumans yesterday, today, and tomorrow?

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Volker Sommer (UCL, Anthropology) and Dr. Jon Day (KCL, English)

Roundtable Panelists: Dr. Sharon Morris (UCL, Slade), Dr. Kristen Kreider (Goldsmiths, Fine Art), Dr. Volker Sommer (UCL, Anthropology) and Dr. Jon Day (KCL, English)

Open Call for Papers: Due 1 May
Please submit your abstract (max. 300 words) for a proposed presentation (10 - 15 minutes in length) and a bio (max. 100 words) to Dawn at dawn.gaietto.14@ucl.ac.uk and Sarah Fortais at sarah.fortais.13@ucl.ac.uk by 5pm on 1 May for consideration.