

Call for Papers
for the
Animals, Nature and Society PhD Workshop

Workshop theme:

***Building Connections and Interdisciplinary
Pathways for Impactful Research***

Tuesday 3 June, 2025

Hosted by

[Animals, Nature & Society Research Stream](#) (Centre for Human Rights, Birmingham
City University)

Funded by

Midlands4Cities Cohort Development Fund

Workshop Details:

The Animals, Nature and Society PhD Workshop invites submissions from PhD students across the arts, humanities, and social sciences whose research engages with themes related to animals, nature and/or society. This interdisciplinary workshop provides an opportunity for PhD researchers to present their work, engage in critical discussions, and receive valuable feedback from senior academics. The workshop seeks to foster cross-disciplinary collaboration by bringing together researchers exploring animal, environmental, and social issues from diverse academic perspectives. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Interdisciplinary approaches to animal and environmental ethics
- The role of law, policy, and governance in shaping human-animal and environmental relationships
- Social movements, activism, and advocacy for animals and nature
- Cultural and artistic representations of animals and the environment
- The intersections of colonialism, race, gender, and species in research on animals and nature
- Environmental humanities and multispecies justice

This workshop, supported by Midlands4Cities through the Cohort Development Fund, will take place as a prelude to the UK Animal Law Conference (June 4-5, 2025) and is designed to encourage meaningful engagement between PhD researchers and senior academics.

Venue: The workshop will be hosted on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at the Curzon Building at Birmingham City University. Vegan catering will be available for all attendees and certificates of participation will be awarded to all presenters. The venue will be fully wheelchair accessible via ramps and lifts, with an accessible bathroom on site. Please contact us if you have any accessibility needs that we can assist you with.

Format: The conference will consist of an inspiring keynote speech, varied presentations by PhD researchers with the opportunity for feedback for each presentation. A full programme will be circulated closer to the event, once all presenters have been confirmed.

Call for papers:

We would like to invite PhD students to present in-person at this PhD workshop on their respective research projects. You can expect workshop presentations to last 20 minutes, followed by a 10-minute feedback from an independent academic. We invite abstracts of 250-300 words outlining the title of the presentation, theoretical framework and key arguments. Submissions should also include the author's name, official email address, institutional affiliation, and a brief biography (max. 100 words). Please send your abstract and biography in a single document to motunrayo.esan@mail.bcu.ac.uk with the subject line "[Your Name] – Animals, Nature and Society PhD Workshop Submission".

The deadline for abstract submission is **April 1, 2025**. All applicants will be notified of their acceptance by **May 1, 2025**. Each presenter will have 20 minutes to present their research, followed by 10 minutes of discussion.

This is a fantastic opportunity for PhD students to showcase their work, refine their research through feedback and build connections within an interdisciplinary scholarly community. We encourage submissions from researchers across law, philosophy, cultural studies, history, politics, sociology, media, environmental studies, and beyond.

Opportunity for Poster Presentations

We recognize that demand for presentation slots may exceed availability. If your submission is not selected for an oral presentation, you will still have the opportunity to showcase your research through our PhD Poster Presentation opportunity. This session allows participants to visually present their research, engage in discussions with peers and senior academics, and receive valuable feedback in a more informal setting.

All accepted posters will be displayed during the workshop and poster presenters will have the chance to discuss their work with attendees over lunch. We encourage all applicants to consider this option as an excellent way to share their research and contribute to the interdisciplinary dialogue.

If you are only interested in presenting a poster, please indicate this preference in your submission.

Funding & Support

Travel bursaries are available for selected PhD students travelling from within the UK. To apply, please send a brief justification detailing why you need travel support (max. 200 words) by April 1, 2025. Funding decisions will be made based on the quality of abstract, interdisciplinary significance and financial need. Please note that M4C PhD researchers are ineligible for this travel support. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by May 1, 2025.

For any inquiries, feel free to contact Mo at motunrayo.esan@mail.bcu.ac.uk.

We look forward to your submissions and to an engaging and insightful discussion at the workshop!