

LOVA Workshop

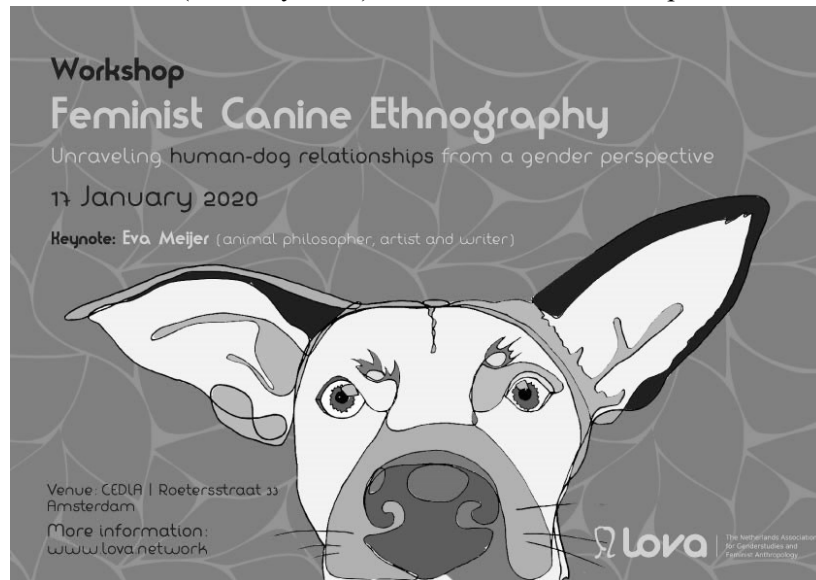
Feminist Canine Ethnography

Unravelling human-dog relationships
from a gender perspective

Date: January 17th, 2020

Venue: CEDLA, University of Amsterdam
Roeterstraat 33, Amsterdam

Dogs play important and unique roles in the lives of humans, and vice versa. These intimate human-canine bonds date back centuries and are dynamic through time and place. Fascinated by the contemporary phenomenon of dogs as family members in our own intimate circle and interested in the wider discourse of culture/natures or nature/cultures (Haraway 2003), the idea of this workshop arose.



By making ‘feminist canine ethnography’ the focus of exploration, this workshop - organized by Reinhilde König (Ruhr-Universität

Bochum) and Irene Arends (CEDLA, Universiteit van Amsterdam) - departs from the question how gender notions both reflect and shape the ways humans perceive and engage with dogs. ‘Human-animal studies’ and ‘gender studies’ are both well-established fields of scholarship. With this workshop, we aim to bring to the fore the resonances that these two bodies of work have regarding canine-human relationships. Eco-Feminists have already pointed at the universal exploitation of wo/men, nature and non-human animals. And scholars focusing on the classification of species, argue that mechanisms of exclusion and power politics – that are all too familiar to race and gender scholars – are also deeply rooted in the hierarchical relations between human and non-human animals (Meijer, 2017). We believe therefore that it is important to look at the intersectionality of speciesism with gender and invite everyone who is interested in exploring this topic with us.

Eva Meijer will deliver the keynote. She is (animal) philosopher, artist, and author of several books, including: *De soldaat was een dolfijn* (2017, in English: *The soldier was a dolphin*) and *De grenzen van mijn taal* (2019, in English: *The limits of my language*). The workshop will be structured by roundtable sessions and topics might include: Companion- and kinship; symbolism and social status; pet- and adoption culture; dog rights and activism; death and dying; funny dogs and social media representations; dog labour and learning; research with dogs; language and discourse regarding dog-human relationships.

A call for presentations has been distributed widely and many submissions for presentation abstracts have been received. The event can be attended for free; the (vegan) lunch will cost €10. You can still register by sending an e-mail to: rkonig97@gmail.com and to i.s.m.arends@cedla.nl.