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Eating, meat,  
catastrophe  
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# Eating, meat, catastrophe

Human life depends on and is sustained by the death and consummation of others. Unless we eat something or someone we cannot live ourselves. Yet, we divide over what, how, and who to eat.



This stream asks us to consider how our *eating of others* (plants, human-, and non-human animals) sustains our standing in a global legal-political order of gendered speciesism. Through technology of eating, we imperviously transform living entities into objects for us to eat, while simultaneously disclosing (sexual) politics of our eating (Adams, 2015). You are what you eat as Han Kang's *The Vegetarian* (2009) solicitously portrays. Consuming is not simply an ethical choice but also a profoundly ontological one, or as Stanescu suggests 'a perpetual process of self-metamorphosis' (2012, 39). Part of such a process is to define what constitutes meat – is 'meatless' in vitro meat (IVM), promising animal liberation and cleaner environment? (Stephens, 2013). But does constant boundary-work risk to turn us into a standing-reserve of future consumption (Heidegger, 1977: 27), of us turning into cannibals ready to mutilate and enslave (Engle, 1992: 1519)? Would cannibal veganism amount to greater realization of rights of both consumed and consumer or into a catastrophic collapse of our relationship with Nature and the animal-in-us (Viveiros de Castro 2014 & Sutton 2017)?

Taking the overall theme of the conference ‘catastrophe’ to mean the life-producing, slow, everyday event of being through the death of others this stream asks if what, how, and whom we eat may tell us something important about our moral and legal standing. We invite vegan-feminists, cannibals, and other lawyers to propose (traditional) academic papers, eat-ins, and the likes, on the following or related themes:

- The laws of eating
- Eating well, transubstantiation, and the economy of sacrifice
- Personhood and animality
- Meat (my own and others) in the global legal and political order
- Gendered meat, gendered protein
- New kinds of “meat” (IVM), vegetarianism, and cannibalism





# Stream panels

- **Panel 1, Friday 15:00–16:30**  
**Veganism, solidarity, and the unruly body**
- **Panel 2, Saturday 9:00–10:30**  
**Innovation, Sustainability, and Food Justice**
- **Panel 3, Saturday 13:00–14:30**  
**Feminist Readings of Food and Human-Animal Relations**



# Panel 1: Veganism, solidarity, and the unruly body

Friday 15:00–16:30 (Skype-session) Chair: Jannice Käll

## Panelists:

- Mathilde Cohen, University of Connecticut, US (attending via Skype).  
Title: The Law of Self-Eating: The Consumption of Human Milk, Placenta, and Stool
- Panelist: Grietje Baars, The City Law School, City, University of London. Title: Performing solidarity between lifestyle and liberation: The queer veganism of the Israeli Anarchists Against the Wall
- Panelist: Cynthia Umezulike, Birkbeck, University of London. Title: The 'Meaning Centred' Anorexic Body: A Feminist Response to Control and Misogyny



# Panel 2: Innovation, Sustainability, and Food Justice

Saturday 9:00–10:30 Chair: Matilda Arvidsson



## Panelists:

- Sabrina Tremblay-Huet, Doctoral candidate in law and Lecturer, University of Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada  
Title: Consumption, Authenticity, and Adventure: Tourism and Eating Meat
- Josiane Rioux Collin, Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada  
Title: Influencing food choices through taxation: a food justice perspective
- Merima Bruncevic & Jannice Käll, Department of Law, Gothenburg University, Sweden  
Title: Eating meat-free outside the market economy - can there be food without property control?

# Panel 3: Feminist Readings of Food and Human-Animal Relations

Saturday 13:00–14:30 Chair: Merima Bruncevic

## Panelists:

- Angela Lee, University of Ottawa, Canada  
Title: An Ecofeminist Perspective on New Food Technologies
- Fredrika Gustafsson, Department of Law, Gothenburg University, Sweden  
Title: (Bio)logical and Natural: The Legal Personhood of Non-Human Animals in a Posthuman World Order
- Matilda Arvidsson, Department of Law, Gothenburg University, Sweden.  
Title: The Embodied Politics of Justice in Han Kang's 'The Vegetarian': The Laws of Carnivore Domination and the Fulfillment of Desire as Plant Life



# Post conference phase

## **Working towards a joint publication (edited volume/special issue):**

- Let us know if you would be interested
- Preliminary length of article/book chapter:  
6 000–10 000 words
- We have a few publishing options in  
mind but pls let us know if you have any  
input/particular option in mind
- Editors at work: Matilda Arvidsson,  
Merima Bruncevic and Jannice Käll

