

## About the Contributors

---

### **Martin Abbott**

I am an environmental humanist and hold a PhD in science and technology studies from Cornell University. My research explores the relational dynamics between social, environmental, and technoscientific forces that shape contemporary life, particularly from the vantage point of urban futures characterized by uncertainty and inequity. Growing up on the unceded territory of the Biripi people in Cedar Party, Australia, I developed a deep commitment to fostering a just world where all forms of life can thrive equitably.

### **Hilal Alkan**

I am a senior researcher at the Leibniz Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin, working at the intersection of migration and multispecies studies from an anthropological perspective. What captivates me most in my multispecies research is observing and drawing the plants given to me by my research participants. I find it astonishing that non-humans are so persistently overlooked in mainstream social scientific analysis, and I aspire to see the day when this changes.

### **Sanja Anđelković**

I am developing a PhD thesis at the University of Applied Arts Vienna in Austria about reconstructing dominant cultural narratives in Orthodox chants through the lens of multispecies thinking. I aim to understand the ancestral voices of the Earth by exploring how our vocal muscles mimic and learn from the voices of cicadas. With these insights, I seek to develop and expand new ways of composing and performing liturgical music that shift the dominant human-centred narrative toward a broader, more inclusive sonic expression, one that embraces other-than-human knowledge and voices.

### **Regina F. Bendix**

I teach Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology at Göttingen University. My work has focused on the political and economic dimensions of cultural practices and the history of scholarship surrounding them. My approachment to multispecies studies began with

a conference themed around dwelling; the present volume is a welcome start to further engagement.

### **Chiara Beneduce**

I worked on the anthropization of Alpine rivers and streams in the Italian peninsula as a Master's student in environmental humanities at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris. I am particularly passionate about the entanglements between literature and anthropology that emerge from multispecies studies, and sometimes write short stories inspired by my own fieldwork. I strive to practice committed research that engages directly with social, political and environmental justice.

### **Ally Bisshop**

I am a creative researcher and lecturer in interdisciplinary arts-sciences at Griffith Film School in Meanjin (Brisbane), on the lands of the Jagera and Turrbal people. My research engages with the queer complexity and expressivity of more-than-human lives, using art-science 'fictioning' practices to explore speculative pathways for multispecies flourishing that challenge visions of the world grounded in anthropocentric fatalism. This work is informed by my ongoing collaboration with Tomás Saraceno's *Arachnophilia*, which invents new paradigms for multispecies relations through intimate engagement with spider-webs.

### **Ahmet Emin Bülbül**

With a background in audio-visual studies, I currently work as a lecturer in the Department of New Media and Communication at Istanbul Nişantaşı University. One of my most significant achievements in the field of multispecies studies has been establishing a deep connection with more-than-human beings in my neighbourhood, particularly plants, cats and dogs. I am eager to contribute to the existing literature by foregrounding a multispecies aesthetics in which more-than-humans manifest themselves, perform and create unexpected, refreshing and anti-hierarchical experiences of coexistence.

### **Pearl-Sue Carper**

I am a researcher at the Department of European Ethnology/Cultural Analysis at the University of Würzburg. One of my most interesting works in the field of multispecies studies so far has been exploring the power of rats in urban spaces. I am currently working on my dissertation project, which deals with the significance of rose hips and the possibilities the fruit enables. My aim is to contribute to a better understanding of how the world is shaped with and by other-than-human beings.

### **Amy Cheatle**

I am a PhD candidate in science and technology studies at Cornell University located in Ithaca, NY, the ancestral and contemporary lands of the Cayuga Nation. I explore the complicated, exciting and dangerous introduction of computation into existing forms of craft, and how long-standing forms of doing, knowing and making evolve or erode as a consequence. I am also an urban gardener who nurtures and is nurtured by medicinal

and other plant communities that grow in and around my home. This project is rooted in growing these plant relations.

### **Zhonghao Chen**

My practice combines visual art, creative technology and environmental activism. I have focused on the Tai Lake area in Jiangsu, China, over the past five years to create imagery and facilitation that raise sustainability awareness. My work in multispecies studies includes two key projects. The first, influenced by my experience in the New Zealand food industry, explores otherness and aims to reduce animal cruelty through multispecies engagement. This led me to explore the concept of milieu and non-animal entities, inspiring my current project in China.

### **Sandra Eckardt**

I am working as a visual anthropologist at the Department of European Ethnology/Cultural Analysis at the University of Würzburg and in different projects and regions of Germany. I have always loved to be outside and observe how other-than-humans live and grow. Their beauty attracts me and by observing them, even with a camera or pen, I understand them a little better and get closer to them. I am driven by the desire to communicate what connects us beyond their surface and make others curious about them.

### **Michaela Fenske**

I have the pleasure of chairing the Department of European Ethnology/Cultural Analysis at the University of Würzburg in Southern Germany. My most captivating work in the field of multispecies studies lies in tending my garden together with other-than-humans. My passion is to contribute to cultivating a world where humans are irresistibly drawn to respect and savour the deep, sensual connections with the more-than-human world around them.

### **Fernanda Haskel**

I am an artist-researcher, a PhD student in the psychosociology of communities and social ecology at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. I investigate the regeneration of natureculture relations, focusing on care production and affective politics at the intersection of forest and city. I have collaborated with popular and community movements on urban planning policies, nature protection and rights in southern Brazil. I am passionate about plant life and have cultivated a close relationship with the Atlantic Forest Bromeliad, which guides my research and teaches about other-than-human ways of world-making and living on Earth.

### **Ute Hörner**

My teaching area at the Academy of Media Art Cologne is multispecies storytelling. In this field of studies, we explore the question of how we can tell stories in a way that no longer places humans at the centre, but rather focuses on other-than-humans as individuals with their own desires, interests and rights. The most challenging but also joy-bringing collaboration in my artistic life is the work I do together with my parrot com-

panions. As the interspecies collective CMUK, we question one of the last largely unchallenged features of anthropological difference: the exclusively human ability to create art.

### **Maria Ilhéu**

I am an associate professor and researcher at the University of Évora, Portugal. My work is at the cutting-edge, where ecology meets and mingles with multiple disciplines, including the arts. It delves into the fascinating relationship between the human and more-than-human realms, exploring the potential for immersive experiences to deepen our understanding of this relationship. I have had the pleasure of collaborating with Mariana Valente on numerous projects exploring the “delicate empiricism” concept of Goethe. Through this collaboration, we have developed a research and educational approach that fosters a “response-ability” towards the multispecies world.

### **André Krebber**

Non-human animals have accompanied me for most of my academic career as a cultural historian and theorist, most recently as a guest professor at the University of Kassel in Germany. A standout project has been OktoLab – a series of collaborative events and exhibitions that celebrate the otherness of octopuses, which led to my inquiry with Zhonghao in the present book. I believe strongly that the aesthetic sensitivities of animals, both human and non-human, provide a key to addressing our socioecological challenges – by way of opening up an understanding of how animals are subjects of their own lives and histories

### **Siobhan Leddy**

I am a researcher, writer and artist based between Berlin, Germany, and the forests of rural Dalarna, Sweden. I am drawn to aesthetic or sensuous processes for creating meaning, such as art, sound, song and food. These methods help me to understand my embodied and embedded responsibilities in more-than-human worlds in different ways.

### **Siran Liang**

I am a PhD candidate at the interdisciplinary research training group ‘Geo-ecosystems in Transition on the Tibetan Plateau’ at the Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany. I learnt how to milk yaks during my fieldwork with Tibetan yak herders. I hope people who grow up in cities like me are able to see the lives behind the plastic packed meat and milk; actually, not just the meat and milk, but everything in the supermarket.

### **Lisette Lorenz (ki, kin)**

Hailing from the transdisciplinary field of art-science for ecosocial justice, I work in the community to end speciesism. I specialize in the plant medicines of my ancestors, which span the indigenous Americas and the African diaspora. My research focuses on environmental health and wellness in and beyond the crises of the Anthropocene, and my work can be found at [lisettelorenz.com](http://lisettelorenz.com).

### Christine Neubert

I have the opportunity as a sociologist and postdoc at the Department of Social Economics, University of Hamburg, to pursue my deep interest in the everyday life and practices of humans and more-than-humans. I am fascinated in my research project on construction sites by the self-evidence with which flora and fauna present themselves as co-creators. I hope to contribute to a deeper understanding of the interdependencies between human and non-human spatial practice and strengthen the willingness to learn from each other in dealing with climatic and social challenges.

### Mairéad Nic Craith

I am Professor of Public Folklore at the University of the Highlands and Islands in Scotland. My department is the interdisciplinary Institute for Northern Studies. An Irish migrant living in Scotland, I am currently engaged in a critical analysis of traditional Celtic folklore in order to examine everyday interactions between humans and non-humans in pre-colonial Ireland. I am interested in indigenous ancestral stories and poems, and how these can be re-envisioned and re-purposed to develop new possibilities for cohabitation in the multi-species world. My blog on this research theme can be viewed at <https://bellacaledonia.org.uk/2023/08/23/gaelic-folklore-for-a-multi-species-future/>.

### Andrea Palašti

As an 'artisteacher' at the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad, Serbia, I experiment with performative research practices centred around the Danube River. We explore the effects of climate breakdown and biodiversity loss through a series of physical exercises, for example, practicing how to flood, to crack as glaciers, to swim like the endangered *Hundfisch* (*Umbra pygmaea*, Eastern mudminnow) and walk like the thick shelled river mussel (*Unio crassus*). This approach not only enhances our relational and empathic abilities but hopefully also highlights the importance of training our bodies through a multiplicity of other-than-human bodies.

### Arnika Peselmann

I have been working as a research associate in the Department of European Ethnology/Cultural Analysis at the University of Würzburg 2022–2024, conducting a DFG research project on human-plant relationships in commercial fruit growing in northern Germany. This gave me the opportunity to accompany people and apple trees for quite some time and catch a glimpse of the subtle way in which apple plants communicate within their multispecies entanglements. I hope that my fascination with vegetal life transpires through my work and raises respect and admiration for our plant companions.

### Pauline Schuster-Löhlau

I am an Indologist at the University of Würzburg in Southern Germany researching oral texts and performative traditions of marginalized and tribal groups in India. I am fascinated by their 'alternative' ways of thinking about the relations between humans and the myriad forms of other-than-humans, including the divine. It is my hope that, through my work, I can inspire a wider audience to re-evaluate their perspective on this relation-

ship and adopt a more respectful, compassionate and inclusive attitude towards the non-human world.

### **Eline Tabak**

I am an environmental humanities scholar with a background in comparative literature. My career has taken me from the Netherlands to England, Germany and Finland. In my academic work, I create space for stories of small life, from unloved insects to forgotten seeds, on the edge of extinction; I hope to cultivate renewed interest in often overlooked species and become part of a convivial more-than-human society.

### **Mariana Valente**

I am a science educator and researcher at the Institute of Contemporary History, University of Évora/IN2PAST — Associate Laboratory for Research and Innovation in Heritage, Arts, Sustainability and Territory. Many years ago, I came across Marcel Proust's narrative on "the blooming apple trees" and it has been a point of no return in my future life. That was a significant moment of natureculture which is still present in the experiences and narratives that I put forward with other-than-humans going through and living on my farm. I met Maria Ilhéu, an ecologist, and together, we have paid attention to many species, making kin with them, and searching for narratives connecting them. We go on working with teachers, educators and students, researching within the framework of the *Outgoing project: children, nature and culture in relationship*.

### **Vanessa Wijngaarden**

I am a research professor in social anthropology at the University of Liège, and a senior research associate at the University of Johannesburg. I am leading a special journal issue on intuitive interspecies communication, and a multispecies ERC consolidator project working together with expert animal communicators and Indigenous groups on four continents. My passion is to rethink the social sciences through the development of dialogic multispecies methods, a conceptual and theoretical process fuelled by the exchanges between a plurality of human and non-human voices and knowledge.