

Gastvortrag von

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**"People, Products, Pests and Pets:
language about animals."**

Abstract:

The Anthropocene entails radical changes both in our perceptions of what it means to be human and of our relation to other animals. Population growth and urbanisation are accompanied by environmental degradation, mass extinction, and the erasure of animals from many people's lives. There are bitter public controversies about activities such as industrial livestock farming, meat eating, hunting, culling, and animal experiments. Debates are frequently polarised and based on incompatible standpoints and definitions of humanity.

These different views are reflected in diverse ways of talking and writing about animals. In the first part of this talk I describe the findings of a three-year research project 'People', 'Products', 'Pests' and 'Pets' which collected an extensive and unique database of language used in communications about animals in order to identify a variety of linguistic and discursive strategies associated with a wide range of purposes and points of view.

In the second part, drawing upon findings of the project, I reflect upon debates, both in linguistics and in popular discourse, about human exceptionalism: the belief that humans are qualitatively different from all other species.

Wann: Freitag, 7. Dezember 2018 um 12.30 Uhr

**Wo: Besprechungsraum, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik
Universität Wien, Spitalgasse 2, Hof 8.3, 1090 Wien**