

the human animal nature

the human animal nature represents a complex and multifaceted concept that explores the intrinsic characteristics, behaviors, and instincts shared by humans and animals alike. Understanding this nature involves examining biological, psychological, and sociocultural dimensions that define human beings as both rational and instinct-driven creatures. The study of the human animal nature reveals how evolutionary processes shape behavior, how innate drives influence decision-making, and how social environments modify natural tendencies. This article delves into the biological roots of human nature, the interplay between instinct and reason, and the ethical implications emerging from our animalistic traits. It also addresses contemporary perspectives on how human nature informs identity, morality, and social interaction, providing a comprehensive insight into what it means to be both human and animal. The following sections outline the critical themes explored in this discussion.

- Biological Foundations of the Human Animal Nature
- Instincts and Behavioral Drives
- The Role of Reason and Consciousness
- Social and Cultural Influences on Human Nature
- Ethical Considerations and Morality
- Human Nature in Contemporary Science and Philosophy

Biological Foundations of the Human Animal Nature

The biological basis of the human animal nature is rooted in evolutionary theory, genetics, and neurobiology. Humans belong to the animal kingdom, specifically the class Mammalia and order Primates, sharing significant anatomical and physiological traits with other animals. Our DNA reveals close genetic relationships to species such as chimpanzees and bonobos, underscoring the evolutionary continuum that links humans to other animals. This biological foundation provides the framework for understanding innate behaviors, physical adaptations, and survival mechanisms.

Evolutionary Perspective

From an evolutionary standpoint, human nature is a product of natural selection and adaptation. Traits that enhanced survival and reproductive success were favored and passed down through generations. Characteristics such as bipedalism, complex brain development, and social cooperation emerged as evolutionary advantages. These developments illustrate how the human animal nature evolved to balance physical capabilities with cognitive functions.

Genetic and Neurological Underpinnings

The human genome encodes traits that influence behavior, temperament, and cognitive abilities. Neurologically, the brain's structure reflects both primitive and advanced regions, such as the limbic system, responsible for emotions and instincts, and the neocortex, associated with reasoning and abstract thinking. This biological complexity enables humans to experience a broad spectrum of behaviors rooted in both animal instincts and higher-order processes.

Instincts and Behavioral Drives

Instincts are automatic, innate behaviors that arise without conscious thought, forming a core component of the human animal nature. These behavioral drives include survival instincts, reproductive urges, territoriality, and social bonding impulses. While humans possess unique cognitive abilities, these primal drives continue to influence actions and reactions in everyday life.

Survival and Reproductive Instincts

The drive for survival manifests through behaviors aimed at securing food, shelter, and safety. Reproductive instincts ensure the continuation of the species, motivating mating behaviors and parental care. These instincts are deeply embedded and often operate beneath conscious awareness, guiding fundamental aspects of human existence.

Social and Territorial Behaviors

Humans display social instincts that foster group cohesion, cooperation, and communication. Territoriality, while less overt than in many animal species, is reflected in behaviors related to personal space and property. Understanding these instincts sheds light on the human tendency to form communities and establish social hierarchies.

The Role of Reason and Consciousness

One of the defining features of the human animal nature is the capacity for reason and self-awareness. Unlike other animals, humans demonstrate advanced cognitive abilities that allow for critical thinking, reflection, and the ability to override instinctual behavior through conscious decision-making. This interplay between instinct and reason shapes complex human behavior and cultural development.

Cognitive Control over Instincts

The human brain's executive functions enable individuals to regulate emotions and impulses, allowing for deliberate choices that may contradict instinctual drives. This capacity for self-control is essential for social living, ethical reasoning, and the pursuit of long-term goals beyond immediate gratification.

Consciousness and Self-Reflection

Consciousness provides humans with awareness of their own existence and the ability to contemplate abstract concepts such as morality, purpose, and identity. This self-reflective capacity distinguishes human nature, allowing for the development of culture, art, and complex social systems.

Social and Cultural Influences on Human Nature

While the human animal nature is biologically grounded, it is profoundly shaped and modified by social and cultural contexts. Human behavior and identity are influenced by learned norms, values, and traditions that interact with innate tendencies. Culture acts as a mediator, transforming natural impulses into socially acceptable actions.

Culture as a Modifier of Instinct

Cultural norms dictate how instinctual behaviors are expressed or suppressed. For example, aggression may be tempered by social rules, and reproductive behaviors are regulated by moral codes and laws. This cultural overlay creates diversity in human behavior across different societies.

Socialization and Identity Formation

Human beings undergo socialization processes that teach language, customs, and roles, shaping individual identity within a community. These processes illustrate how the human animal nature is not fixed but dynamically interacts with environmental factors to produce varied expressions of humanity.

Ethical Considerations and Morality

The intersection of human animal nature with ethics and morality presents challenging questions about responsibility, free will, and the origins of moral behavior. Humans grapple with balancing natural impulses and societal expectations to establish codes of conduct that promote cooperation and justice.

Origins of Moral Behavior

Research suggests that moral behavior has evolutionary roots in social cooperation and empathy, which enhance group survival. The capacity for empathy and fairness reflects an extension of basic social instincts, elevated by rational deliberation and cultural reinforcement.

Conflict Between Instinct and Moral Codes

Human beings often experience tension between instinctual desires and moral imperatives. This conflict necessitates ethical frameworks and legal systems to guide behavior, ensuring that individual impulses do not harm collective well-being.

Human Nature in Contemporary Science and Philosophy

Modern scientific research and philosophical inquiry continue to explore the nuances of the human animal nature, integrating findings from genetics, psychology, anthropology, and ethics. These interdisciplinary approaches provide a more holistic understanding of what constitutes human nature in the twenty-first century.

Scientific Advances

Neuroscience and behavioral genetics have advanced knowledge about the biological bases of behavior, highlighting the interaction between genes and environment. Evolutionary psychology examines how ancestral adaptations influence modern behavior, while cognitive science studies the mechanisms of thought and consciousness.

Philosophical Perspectives

Philosophers debate the essence of human nature, questioning whether it is fixed or malleable, good or inherently selfish. These discussions influence ethical theories and inform social policies, emphasizing the importance of understanding human nature in shaping society.

Key Characteristics of the Human Animal Nature

- Innate biological drives and instincts
- Advanced cognitive abilities including reasoning and self-awareness
- Social behaviors shaped by culture and environment
- Moral and ethical considerations arising from instinct and consciousness
- Dynamic interaction between nature and nurture

Frequently Asked Questions

What is meant by 'human animal nature'?

Human animal nature refers to the biological and instinctual characteristics shared by humans and other animals, including behaviors shaped by evolution, survival instincts, and innate drives.

How does human animal nature influence behavior?

Human animal nature influences behavior through instincts such as aggression, reproduction, social bonding, and self-preservation, which are rooted in our evolutionary past and affect how we interact with the environment and others.

Can understanding human animal nature improve mental health?

Yes, understanding human animal nature can improve mental health by helping individuals recognize natural instincts and emotional responses, leading to better self-awareness, stress management, and healthier coping mechanisms.

What role does animal nature play in human social structures?

Animal nature plays a role in human social structures by driving the formation of groups, hierarchies, and social bonds, as these behaviors are essential for survival and cooperation, reflecting patterns seen in many animal species.

How does human animal nature differ from purely cultural behaviors?

Human animal nature is based on innate biological instincts and evolutionary traits, while purely cultural behaviors are learned, socially transmitted practices that can vary widely between societies and are not directly tied to biology.

Is it possible to overcome negative aspects of human animal nature?

While some negative aspects of human animal nature, like aggression or selfishness, are innate, humans can use reason, culture, and social norms to regulate and overcome these tendencies for more positive and cooperative behaviors.

Additional Resources

1. *"Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind"* by Yuval Noah Harari

This book explores the history of Homo sapiens from the emergence of archaic human species to the present. It delves into how biology and history have shaped human nature and societies, emphasizing cognitive revolutions that defined our species. Harari examines the interplay between

biology, culture, and technology in shaping human behavior.

2. *"The Selfish Gene" by Richard Dawkins*

Dawkins presents a gene-centered view of evolution, explaining how natural selection operates at the level of genes rather than individuals or species. The book explores how genetic imperatives influence animal behavior, including human social conduct. It introduces the concept of "selfish" genes driving survival and reproduction, shedding light on the biological basis of human nature.

3. *"Behave: The Biology of Humans at Our Best and Worst" by Robert M. Sapolsky*

Sapolsky offers a comprehensive examination of human behavior, integrating neuroscience, psychology, and evolutionary biology. The book investigates the biological origins of aggression, empathy, and morality, explaining how complex factors shape human actions. It provides insight into why humans behave the way they do, blending science with real-world examples.

4. *"The Moral Animal: Why We Are, the Way We Are: The New Science of Evolutionary Psychology" by Robert Wright*

This book explores evolutionary psychology to understand human morality, relationships, and social dynamics. Wright discusses how evolutionary pressures have shaped our instincts, emotions, and ethical codes. It offers a compelling view of human nature grounded in evolutionary theory and behavioral science.

5. *"Animal Minds: Beyond Cognition to Consciousness" by Donald R. Griffin*

Griffin challenges traditional views by arguing that many animals possess consciousness and complex mental lives. The book explores animal cognition and its implications for understanding human nature. It bridges the gap between human and animal minds, suggesting continuity rather than sharp distinction.

6. *"The Red Queen: Sex and the Evolution of Human Nature" by Matt Ridley*

Ridley investigates the evolutionary role of sexual reproduction in shaping human nature and behavior. The book explains how sexual selection influences traits like intelligence, attractiveness, and social strategies. It highlights the ongoing evolutionary "arms race" that drives diversity and complexity in humans and other animals.

7. *"The Naked Ape: A Zoologist's Study of the Human Animal" by Desmond Morris*

Morris examines humans through the lens of zoology, treating *Homo sapiens* as just another animal species. The book compares human behavior with that of other primates, emphasizing biological roots of social conduct, mating, and communication. It offers a provocative perspective on human nature stripped of cultural assumptions.

8. *"The Social Conquest of Earth" by Edward O. Wilson*

Wilson explores the evolution of social behavior in humans and other animals, focusing on cooperation and conflict. The book discusses how group living shaped human nature and the development of complex societies. It integrates biology, anthropology, and sociology to explain the social instincts that define us.

9. *"Born to Be Good: The Science of a Meaningful Life" by Dacher Keltner*

Keltner investigates the biological and evolutionary foundations of human compassion, kindness, and moral emotions. The book argues that humans are inherently wired for goodness and social connection. It combines neuroscience and psychology to reveal the positive aspects of human nature and their importance for a meaningful life.

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the human animal nature: The Human Animal Markus Gabriel, 2024-11-13 The climate crisis has forced us to recognize that we are not separate from nature but are part of the natural world on which we depend: human beings are animals and we must understand much better our place in nature and our impact on our environment if we are to avoid our own annihilation as a species. And yet we feel nevertheless that we do not entirely fit into nature, that we stand apart from other animals in some way – in what way, exactly? Markus Gabriel argues that what distinguishes humans from other animals is that humans are minded living beings who seek to understand the world and themselves and who possess ethical insight into moral contexts. Mind is the capacity to lead one's life in the light of a conception of who or what one is. The undeniable difference between us and other animals defines the human condition and places a special responsibility on us to consider our actions in the context of other living beings and our shared habitat. It also calls on us to cultivate an ethics of not-knowing: to recognize that, however much we may seek to understand the world, we will never completely master it. Our grasp of reality, mediated by our animal minds, will always be limited: much is and will remain alien to us, lending itself only to speculation – and to remember this is to stand us in better stead for carving out an existence among the environmental crisis that looms before us all.

the human animal nature: Kant on the Human Animal David Baumeister, 2022-03-15 While Immanuel Kant's account of human reason is well known and celebrated, his account of human animality (Thierheit) is virtually unknown. Animality and reason, as pillars of Kant's vision of human nature, are original and ineradicable. And yet, the relation between them is fraught: at times tense and violent, at other times complementary, even harmonious. Kant on the Human Animal offers the first systematic analysis of this central but neglected dimension of Kant's philosophy. David Baumeister tracks four decades of Kant's intellectual development, surveying works published in Kant's lifetime along with posthumously published notes and student lecture transcripts. They show the crucial role that animality plays in many previously unconnected areas of Kant's thought, such as his account of the human's originally quadrupedal posture, his theory of early childhood development, and his conception of the process of human racial differentiation. Beginning with a delineation of Kant's understanding of the commonalities and differences between humans and other animals, Baumeister focuses on the contribution of animality to Kant's views of ethics, anthropology, human nature, and race. Placing divergent features of Kant's thought within a unified interpretive framework, Kant on the Human Animal reveals how, for Kant, becoming human requires that animality not be eclipsed and overcome but rather disciplined and developed. What emerges is a new appreciation of Kant's human being as the human animal it is.

the human animal nature: Nietzsche's Animal Philosophy Vanessa Lemm, 2009-08-25 "[Lemm] consolidates her reputation as one of Nietzsche's most original, attentive, and lively readers." —The Journal of Nietzsche Studies This book explores the significance of human animality in the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche, and provides the first systematic treatment of the animal theme in Nietzsche's body of work. Vanessa Lemm argues that the animal is neither a random theme nor a metaphorical device in Nietzsche's thought. Instead, it stands at the center of his renewal of the practice and meaning of philosophy itself. Lemm provides an original contribution to ongoing debates on the essence of humanism and its future. At the center of this new interpretation stands Nietzsche's thesis that animal life and its potential for truth, history, and morality depends on a

continuous antagonism between forgetfulness (animality) and memory (humanity). This relationship accounts for the emergence of humanity out of animality as a function of the antagonism between civilization and culture. By taking the antagonism of culture and civilization to be fundamental for Nietzsche's conception of humanity and its becoming, Lemm gives a new entry point into the political significance of Nietzsche's thought. The opposition between civilization and culture allows for the possibility that politics is more than a set of civilizational techniques that seek to manipulate, dominate, and exclude the animality of the human animal. By seeing the deep-seated connections of politics with culture, Nietzsche orients politics beyond the domination over life and, instead, offers the animality of the human being a positive, creative role in the organization of life. This book will appeal not only to those interested in Nietzsche, but to anyone interested in the theme of the animal in philosophy, literature, cultural studies, and the arts, as well as those interested in the relation between biological life and politics.

the human animal nature: Animal Nature and Human Nature W.H. Thorpe, 2018-02-19
Our views on human nature are fundamental to the whole development, indeed the whole future, of human society. Originally published in 1974, Professor Thorpe believed that this was one of the most important and significant topics to which a biologist can address himself, and in this book he attempts a synthetic view of the nature of man and animal based on the five disciplines of physiology, ethology, genetics, psychology and philosophy. In a masterly survey of the natural order he shows the animal world as part of, yet distinct from, the inanimate world. He then treats aspects of the animal world which approach the human world in behaviour and capabilities, examining simple organisms, communications in vertebrates and invertebrates, innate behaviour versus acquired behaviour, and animal perception. In the second part of the book he deals with those aspects of human nature for which there is no analogy and which constitute man's uniqueness - his consciousness of his past, his awareness of his future and his desire to understand the meaning of his existence. The primary facts which demonstrate the importance of this book arise from the ever-growing power of man over his environment and his apparent inability to foresee and cope with the dangers of uncontrolled population growth on the one hand and the wildly irrational waste and degradation of the natural resources of the world on the other. Professor Thorpe believes that an immense responsibility lies with literate men of good will, particularly scientists, to convince man that he is the spearhead and custodian of a stupendous evolutionary process. *Animal Nature and Human Nature* integrates scientific fact with sound theological thought in an attempt to fulfil, in a manner previously impossible Pascal's injunction that: 'It is dangerous to show man too clearly how much he resembles the beast without at the same time showing him his greatness. It is also dangerous to allow him too clear a vision of his greatness without his baseness. It is even more dangerous to leave him in ignorance of both. But it is very profitable to show him both.'

the human animal nature: Art, Ethics and the Human-Animal Relationship Linda Johnson, 2021-09-20 This book examines the works of major artists between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, as important barometers of individual and collective values toward non-human life. Once viewed as merely representational, these works can also be read as tangential or morally instrumental by way of formal analysis and critical theories. Chapter Two demonstrates the discrimination toward large and small felines in *Genesis* and *The Book of Revelation*. Chapter Three explores the cruel capture of free roaming animals and how artists depicted their furs, feathers and shells in costume as symbols of virtue and vice. Chapter Four identifies speciesist beliefs between donkeys and horses. Chapter Five explores the altered Dutch kitchen spaces and disguised food animals in various culinary constructs in still life painting. Chapter Six explores the animal substances embedded in pigments. Chapter Seven examines animals in absentia in the crafting of brushes. The book concludes with the fish paintings of William Merritt Chase whose glazing techniques demonstrate an artistic approach that honors fishes as sentient beings.

the human animal nature: Evolution and the Human-Animal Drive to Conflict Jorge A. Colombo, 2023-07-31 *Evolution and the Human-Animal Drive to Conflict* examines how fundamental, universal animal drives, such as dominance/prevalence, survival, kinship, and profit (greed,

advantage, whether of material or social nature), provide the basis for the evolutionary trap that promotes the unstable, conflictive, dominant-prone individual and group human behaviours. Examining this behavioural tension, this book argues that while these innate features set up behaviours that lean towards aggression influenced by social inequalities, the means implemented to defuse them resort to emotional and intellectual strategies that sponsor fanaticism and often reproduce the very same behaviours they intend to defuse. In addressing these concerns, the book argues that we should enhance our resources to promote solidarity, accept cultural differences, deter expansionist and uncontrolled profit drives, and achieve collective access towards knowledge and progress in living conditions. This entails promoting the redistribution of resources and creative labour access and avoiding policies that generate a fragmented world with collective and individual development disparities that invite and encourage dominance behaviours. This resource redistribution asserts that it is necessary to reformulate the global set of human priorities towards increased access to better living conditions, cognitive enhancement, a more amiable interaction with the ecosystem and non-aggressive cultural differences, promote universal access to knowledge, and enhance creativity and cultural convivence. These behavioural changes entail partial derangement of our ancestral animal drives camouflaged under different cultural profiles until the species succeeds in replacing the dominance of basic animal drives with prosocial, collective ones. Though it entails a formidable task of confronting financial, military, and religious powers and cultural inertias – human history is also a challenging, continuous experience in these domains – for the sake of our own self-identity and self-evaluation, we should reject any suggestion of not continuing embracing slowly constructing collective utopias channelled towards improving individual and collective freedom and creativeness. This book will interest academics and students in social, cognitive, and evolutionary psychology, the neurosciences, palaeoanthropology, philosophy, and anthropology.

the human animal nature: The Human-Animal Boundary Nandita Batra, Mario Wenning, 2018-11-27 Throughout the centuries philosophers and poets alike have defended an essential difference—rather than a porous transition—between the human and animal. Attempts to assign essential properties to humans (e.g., language, reason, or morality) often reflected ulterior aims to defend a privileged position for humans.. This book shifts the traditional anthropocentric focus of philosophy and literature by combining the questions “What is human?” and “What is animal?” What makes this collection unique is that it fills a lacuna in critical animal studies and the growing field of ecocriticism. It is the first collection that establishes a productive encounter between philosophical perspectives on the human-animal boundary and those that draw on fictional literature. The objective is to establish a dialogue between those disciplines with the goal of expanding the imaginative scope of human-animal relationships. The contributions thus do not only trace and deconstruct the boundaries dividing humans and nonhuman animals, they also present the reader with alternative perspectives on the porous continuum and surprising reversal of what appears as human and what as nonhuman.

the human animal nature: Phenomenology and the Non-Human Animal Corinne Painter, Christian Lotz, 2007-07-26 The question of the relation between human and non-human animals in theoretical, ethical and political regards has become a prominent topic within the philosophical debates of the last two decades. This volume explores in substantial ways how phenomenology can contribute to these debates. It offers specific insights into the description and interpretation of the experience of the non-human animal, the relation between phenomenology and anthropology, the relation between phenomenology and psychology, as well as ethical considerations.

the human animal nature: The Phenomenology of Man and of the Human Condition Anna-Teresa Tymieniecka, 2012-12-06

the human animal nature: The Human Animal Earthling Identity Carrie P. Freeman, 2020-12-01 With *The Human Animal Earthling Identity* Carrie P. Freeman asks us to reconsider the devastating division we have created between the human and animal conditions, leading to mass exploitation, injustice, and extinction. As a remedy, Freeman believes social movements should collectively foster a cultural shift in human identity away from an egoistic anthropocentrism

(human-centered outlook) and toward a universal altruism (species-centered ethic), so people may begin to see themselves more broadly as “human animal earthlings.” To formulate the basis for this identity shift, Freeman examines overlapping values (supporting life, fairness, responsibility, and unity) that are common in global rights declarations and in the current campaign messages of sixteen global social movement organizations that work on human/civil rights, nonhuman animal protection, and/or environmental issues, such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, CARE, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the World Wildlife Fund, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, the Nature Conservancy, the Rainforest Action Network, and Greenpeace. She also interviews the leaders of these advocacy groups to gain their insights on how human and nonhuman protection causes can become allies by engaging common opponents and activating shared values and goals on issues such as the climate crisis, enslavement, extinction, pollution, inequality, destructive farming and fishing, and threats to democracy. Freeman’s analysis of activist discourse considers ethical ideologies on behalf of social justice, animal rights, and environmentalism, using animal rights’ respect for sentient individuals as a bridge connecting human rights to a more holistic valuing of species and ecological systems. Ultimately, Freeman uses her findings to recommend a set of universal values around which all social movements’ campaign messages can collectively cultivate respectful relations between “human animal earthlings,” fellow sentient beings, and the natural world we share.

the human animal nature: *The Elder Pliny on the Human Animal* , 2005-03-17 As a detailed study of the human animal, described by its author as the *raison d’être* of nature, Book Seven of the elder Pliny’s *Natural History* is crucial to the understanding of the work as a whole. In addition, however, it provides a valuable insight into the extraordinary complex of ideas and beliefs current in Pliny’s era, many of which have resonances for other eras and cultures. The present study includes a substantial introduction examining the background to Pliny’s life, thought, and writing, together with a modern English translation, and a detailed commentary which emphasizes the importance of Book Seven as possibly the most fascinating cultural record surviving from early imperial Rome.

the human animal nature: *Aristotle on Human Nature* Gregory Kirk, Joseph Arel, 2023-06-01 Exploring Aristotle’s concept of *logos*, this volume advances our understanding of it as a singular feature of human nature by arguing that it is the organizing principle of human life itself. Tracing its multiple meanings in different contexts, including reason, logic, speech, ratio, account, and form, contributors highlight the ways in which we can see *logos* in human thinking, in the organizing principles of our bodies, in our perception of the world, in our social and political life, and through our productive and fine arts. Through this focus, *logos* reveals itself not as one feature amongst others, but instead as the feature that organizes all others, from the most “animal” to the most “spiritual.” By presenting *logos* in this way, readers gain a complex account of the philosophy of human nature.

the human animal nature: *The Archetypal Human-Animal* Angela Lord, 2022-04-11 Rudolf Steiner’s watercolour painting ‘The Archetypal Human-Animal’ presents us with the enigmatic image of a strange creature apparently swimming in water. It has a human profile, showing a clearly outlined nose and slightly-opened mouth, with a mysterious eye, almost concealed in its greenish hair. It has appendages similar to hands and feet, and dark-blue plant-like forms float about in the water beneath the creature’s bright red and yellow body. Only the title provides us with a clue to its meaning: it is an ‘archetypal human-animal’ form. But even this is enigmatic. What is this strange, unusual creature – this archetypal human-animal? We are presented with a perplexing image and a puzzling description. In this original work, illustrated throughout with full-colour paintings and images – many by the author herself – Angela Lord takes us on a journey of discovery to realizing the meaning of Rudolf Steiner’s painting. From Goethe’s theory of metamorphosis in nature, we are introduced to Steiner’s ideas of human evolution, from the primal beginnings of the archetypal human-animal on ‘Ancient Moon’. Lord recounts myths and legends from many cultures that tell of human-animal forms, and reflects on the meaning of the fish in Christianity. She takes us through a series of ‘colour sequences’ for repainting Steiner’s human-animal motif, and includes appendices

that summarize evolutionary phases of the earth and humanity from a spiritual-scientific perspective. The Archetypal Human-Animal is both a valuable workbook for painters and a fascinating insight into hidden aspects of human evolution.

the human animal nature: Modernism beyond the Human , 2023-10-09 One of the defining features of modernism lies in its far-reaching rethinking of the relation between the human and the non-human. In the present volume, this crucial aspect of modernism's legacy is investigated from an authentically transnational perspective, taking an innovative stance on a diverse range of authors – from posthumanist classics such as Beckett and Woolf to Valentine de Saint-Point, Radoje Domanovic and Aldo Palazzeschi among others. On the one hand, this collection sheds new light on the modernist contribution to posthumanism, providing a valuable reference point for future studies on the topic. On the other, it offers a new take on the transnational dimension of modernism, highlighting unexplored convergences between modernist authors from several different national contexts.

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the human animal nature: Mimesis and the Human Animal Robert Storey, 1996-12-16 In *Mimesis and the Human Animal*, Robert Storey argues that human culture derives from human biology and that literary representation therefore must have a biological basis. As he ponders the question What does it mean to say that art imitates life? he must consider both What is life? and What is art? A unique approach to the subject of mimesis, Storey's book goes beyond the politicizing of literature grounded in literary theory to develop a scientific basis for the creation of literature and art.

the human animal nature: Transformation of the Human-Animal Brigitte Arora, 2012-03-21 We are all immortal Beings death is an illusion! This world and who we think ourselves to be is only a temporary dream. But our existence within the darkness and ignorance of this lower self-consciousness is of tremendous importance. It is here that we Homo sapiens have the opportunity to transcend our present mind dominated human-animal consciousness. This is the fundamental message that is received during the life-altering occurrence of Self-Realization. We begin the spiritual journey of transformation in order to obtain liberation from the lower self-consciousness by evolving into the Higher Self-consciousness, which is the next stage in mankind's evolution. The effect of transcending the old consciousness poses many problems due to powerful and dangerous alterations to our psyche and biological system. The transforming power of kundalini can burn out the nervous system and unbalance the personality, from which it may never recover. What role does kundalini and Grace play in our Awakening? How do we transcend our animal traits? Can we use sex in order to go beyond sex? How do we adapt to living simultaneously in the two opposing worlds of duality and Oneness? What is consciousness? What and who is the new race that is going to replace the old man? Does time exist? What is the connection we have with our Soul? Does God exist? Who is really in charge?

the human animal nature: Kant and the Faculty of Feeling Kelly Sorensen, Diane Williamson, 2018-03-15 Kant stated that there are three mental faculties: cognition, feeling, and desire. The faculty of feeling has received the least scholarly attention, despite its importance in Kant's broader thought, and this volume of new essays is the first to present multiple perspectives on a number of important questions about it. Why does Kant come to believe that feeling must be described as a separate faculty? What is the relationship between feeling and cognition, on the one hand, and desire, on the other? What is the nature of feeling? What do the most discussed Kantian feelings, such as respect and sublimity, tell us about the nature of feeling for Kant? And what about other important feelings that have been overlooked or mischaracterized by commentators, such as enthusiasm and hope? This collaborative and authoritative volume will appeal to Kant scholars, historians of philosophy, and those working on topics in ethics, aesthetics, and emotions.

the human animal nature: Animal Theory Derek Ryan, 2015-06-14 From caged orangutans to roasted pig, from dog training to horse phobias, from communicating bees to ruminating cows, over the course of an introduction and four thematically organised chapters Derek Ryan explores how animals are encountered in theoretical discourse.

the human animal nature: Humans and Their Environment, Beyond the Nature/Culture Opposition Claude Calame, 2023-04-10 The modern concept of "nature" appeared during the 17th Century: nature as a mechanical object to be submitted to reason man. A long tradition refers to the concept of nature in the Greek physis. It is referring to a dynamic process that engages in criticizing the modern paradigm of nature as opposed to culture. As it is, the principle of the domination and exploitation by humans of what we consider as nature is at the heart of the ideological, economic and financial models imposed by neoliberal capitalism. Based on the objective of growth, this model shapes and destroys human communities as well as the environment on which they rely and sustain. The climatic urgency as well as the limited capacity of the resources of the earth, require a transition towards an ecosocialism for another world. The anthropological confrontation with the Greek physis invites to a break with capitalism based on a large scale and speedy use of technologies and with the only objective of financial gain. The result has been destructive productivism. Instead, we have to take into account the complexity of and interactions between human societies and their technical practices in their environment. The survival of one or the other is at stake. In sum, nature is culture. Contents Preface to the English Edition. 3 Introduction. 9 Between Nature and Culture. 15 I. Humans and Their Milieu in Ancient Greece. 19 II. From the Enlightenment Philosophers to Modern Anthropologists 37 III. Beyond Anthropological Determinisms: Permeabilities 47 IV. The Human Being and its Environment: Interactive Relationships 57 V. For an Ecosocialist Understanding of Humans and their Milieu. 65

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