

CFP: Philosophies Meet Animals Workshop

Workshop Description

Recent decades have witnessed advances in biology, cognitive science, and neuroscience which inspired and promoted philosophical discussions on animal cognition, animal behaviour, animal minds, and animal welfare. Empirical studies show extraordinary findings: rats and bats willingly aid kin; cetaceans communicate over vast distances with cultural traits; chimpanzee societies exhibit alliances and intrigues; elephants display grief and rage; crows craft tools and demonstrate causal reasoning and future planning. All these lead to interesting, important philosophical questions. How should we interpret these findings? What philosophical assumptions underlie them? What implications can we make for traditional philosophical issues? This workshop aims to explore new philosophical insights informed or inspired by empirical studies on animal cognition, animal behaviour, and etc. It is devoted to offer a platform for dialogues between philosophers and scientists to cross boundaries.

We welcome submissions from both philosophers and scientists. Submissions from early career scholars and postgraduate students are particularly welcome.

This workshop is supported by the Jiangsu-Hong Kong-Macao University Alliance. Selected contributed speakers from universities in Jiangsu are eligible to apply for free accommodation.

Venue

Center for Philosophy of Science, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Dates

28 November 2026

Organising Committee

Xiaotao Liu (SEU) – Co-Chair

Yafeng Shan (HKUST) – Co-Chair

Qinyi Wang (HKUST)

Qiyue Zhang (HKUST)

Submission Guidelines

Please submit a 500-word abstract for blind review via [Oxford Abstracts](#) by 15 September 2026. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by 30 September 2026.

Contact

Should you have any questions, please contact Qiyue Zhang
(qiyue.zhang@connect.ust.hk).