

Zeitschrift: RosaRot : Zeitschrift für feministische Anliegen und Geschlechterfragen
Herausgeber: Redaktionskollektiv RosaRot
Band: - (2018)
Heft: 54

Artikel: Vegan cyborgs
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-738091>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 24.02.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Vegan Cyborgs

In questioning hierarchical thought veganism offers an expanded perception of systematic oppression and new perspectives on female labor. A stance for political veganism as a part of feminist discourse.

von SP

In a rapidly evolving digital world, senses of space and time are shifting. Within the context of changing, expedited temporalities, Donna Haraway wrote her *Cyborg Manifesto*, pushing the categories of humanity, species, and feminism. By including the concept of cyborgs in her definition of feminism, Haraway does away with the essentialism of a singular definition of «woman». Feminism with a lower-case f is no longer a preaching point for identity politics, but an ontological space to rethink the imagined limitations of systematic oppression. In this feminist space, we can denormalize oppressive structures through radical thinking. It is in this space that I now question an additional binary: human and animal.

Veganism is a topic not commonly addressed within the feminist discourse, but one that deserves a seat at the table. In undoing hierarchical thought, one tackles the basis of oppression. It is important to then consider the hierarchy between animal and human. Following Haraway in her expansion of the species and of feminist inclusion, I offer an empathetic relationship between animals and feminists resulting from their shared struggle against patriarchal oppression.

Animals are subjected to specific forms of «female labor». A female cow is imprisoned, injected with hormones and forcibly impregnated. Once the cow has given birth, her child is taken from her side and the cycle continues. Once the cow is no longer able to bear children, she is thought of as useless and is slaughtered. Thus, the female cow is objectified as a producer of kin, her use determined by her ability to continuously survive imprisonment and rape in order to perform a profit.

Removing the restrictive concept of a singular self enables one to identify with the struggle against exploitative labor practices, with the struggles of this cow. Recognizing the want for meat out of mere taste as a hierarchical

thought («my life is more valuable than the animal's life»), allows me to denormalize such exploitation. I do not find it normal to imprison, rape or slaughter an animal, to use its products for my own pleasure. I do not find it normal to consider the life of the ruling worth more than the life of the ruled. To take a stance against the oppression of animals is to also take a stance against the patriarchy.

It is now that I think of Gayatri Spivak's question, *Can the Subaltern Speak?* This question is ever more literal when it refers to animals. Without language, animals are unable to find a voice. Animals' lack of language has facilitated successful exploitation by capitalist patriarchy. It helped establish a further discriminatory order within the prevailing system of exploitation and domination, divorced from criticism by normalization of the livestock industry.

Thinking in terms of the *Cyborg Manifesto* one can rethink the constructed category of «species». In this feminist space where we can imagine no binaries and where we aim to eliminate speciesism, we can identify veganism and feminism as one in the same: opposing standing power relations while inventing new forms of coexistence. The concept of cyborgs enables a certain fluidity in our perception of beings – it expands our definition of a self and allows us to empathize with others' struggles in an effort to unify against the patriarchy.

Works Mentioned

- Haraway, Donna: *A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late 20th Century*, in: dies.: *Simians, Cyborgs and Women. The Reinvention of Nature*, London: Free Association Books 1991, 149-181.
- Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty: *Can the Subaltern Speak?*, in: Morris, Rosalind C. (Hg.): *Can the Subaltern Speak? Reflections on the History of an Idea*, New York: Columbia University Press 2010.