

**Multispecies Marxism:
Reading and Reflecting on *Animals and Capital***
Marxist Education Project
Winter 2024

A discussion and reading group, led by anthropologist Gizem Haspolat and visual artist Terike Haapoja, on the central role of nonhuman animals in the capitalist economy, historically and today. The class continues the 2022 and 2023 sessions, this time focusing on key concepts of Marxism, such as 'value,' 'primitive accumulation,' 'species being,' 'circulation,' or 'resistance,' through a multispecies lens. We will explore the potential and limits of Marxist theory for addressing the roles and fates of nonhuman animals, as well as ways to connect anticapitalist struggles to animal liberation and environmental justice. The main reading for this study group will be [Animals and Capital](#) (2023) by Dinesh Joseph Wadiwel. The book is available in paperback and eBook formats from various online outlets. Other readings will be available online or in PDFs in the group's Dropbox folder. (Participation in the 2022 or 2023 classes is not required.)

Gizem Haspolat is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at Rice University. Her areas of interest are critical animal studies, animal geographies, and human–nonhuman animal relations. In her ongoing research, she explores live animal trade as a site that intensifies the translations between 'animal' and capital, through an investigation of Turkey's live cattle imports.

Terike Haapoja is a visual artist based in Berlin. Her interdisciplinary practice includes installations, videos, writings, and collaborative projects that explore our relationship with the more-than-human world. Her current research on animal labor and multispecies anticapitalist struggle, with an extensive open bibliography, can be found on animalcapitalism.org.

Session 1 January 24 - Enclosure of the Commons

Jason Hribal (2003) "Animals Are Part of the Working Class": A Challenge to Labor History"
Karl Marx - Capital, volume 1, [chapters 26](#) and [27](#)

Session 2 January 31- Species Being

Mathieu Dubeau (2018) "Reclaiming Species-Being: Toward an Interspecies Historical Materialism"
Erich Fromm, Marx's Concept of Man, "[4. The Nature of Man](#)," pp. 24-42

Additional reading:

John Bellamy Foster and Brett Clark (2018) "Marx and Alienated Speciesism"
<https://monthlyreview.org/2018/12/01/marx-and-alienated-speciesism/>

Session 3 February 7 - Value

Dinesh Wadiwel (2023) *Animals and Capital*, Chapter 1: Value (pp. 1-34)
Karl Marx, [Value, Price, and Profit, part 2](#) (1865)

Additional readings:

Diana Stuart, Rebecca L. Schewe, and Ryan Gunderson (2013) "Extending social theory to farm animals: Addressing alienation in the dairy sector."

Omar Bachour (2020) Alienation and Animal Labour (in Charlotte E. Blattner, Kendra Coulter, and Will Kymlicka (eds), Animal Labour: A New Frontier of Interspecies Justice?)

Session 4 February 14 - Material

Dinesh Wadiwel (2023) *Animals and Capital*, Chapter 2: Material (pp. 35-58)

Stuart Newman, "[Marxism and the New Materialism](#)" *Marxism & Sciences* 1(2) pp. 1-12

Additional reading:

Nicole Shukin (2009) Animal Capital, Chapter 1: Rendering's Modern Logics (pp. 49-86)

Session 5 February 21 - Commodity

Dinesh Wadiwel (2023) *Animals and Capital*, Chapter 3: Commodity (pp. 59-90)

Capital, volume I, chapter 1, "[The Commodity](#)," sections 1 and 2

Additional reading:

Kathryn Gillespie (2018) The Cow with the Ear Tag #1389, Chapter 5: The Cow with Ear Tag #1389 (pp. 94-118)

Session 6 February 28 - Labour

Dinesh Wadiwel (2023) *Animals and Capital*, Chapter 4: Labour (pp. 91-129)

Karl Marx - *Capital*, volume I, chapter 7, section 1, "[The Labour Process](#)"

Additional readings:

Christian Stache (2020) "It's not humans, it's animal capital" (in Brett Clark & Christian Stache (eds), Capitalist Commodification of Animals)

Alex Blanchette (2019) Making Monotony: Bedsores and Other Signs of an Overworked Hog (in Sarah Besky and Alex Blanchette (eds), How Nature Works)

Session 7 March 6 - Circulation

Dinesh Wadiwel (2023) *Animals and Capital*, Chapter 5: Circulation (pp. 130-160)

David Harvey, *A Companion to Marx's Capital*, Volume 2 - chapter 1 "[The Circuits of Capital...](#)"

Additional reading:

Maan Barua (2019) "Animating Capital: Work, Commodities, Circulation."

Session 8 March 13 - Resistance

Dinesh Wadiwel (2023) *Animals and Capital*, Chapter 6: Resistance (pp. 161-191)

Marx, *The Poverty of Philosophy*, Chapter 2 excerpt, "[Strikes and Combinations of Workers](#)"

Additional readings:

Sarat Colling (2020) *"Imagining Animal Resistance"* (in *Animal Resistance in the Global Capitalist Era*, Chapter 1, pp. 3-16)

Ron Broglio (2022) *"Return of the Repressed, Exploit Continued, or the Exploit Exploits"* (in *Animal Revolution*, Chapter 7, 9 pp. 65-71, 81-89)

Bibliography for further reading can be found on animalcapitalism.org