

**Animals and Capitalism: Metabolic Labor**  
**Marxist Education Project**  
**Fall 2025**

Facilitators: Gizem Haspolat and Terike Haapoja

**Week 1**

Tuesday Nov 18, 18:00-19:30 CET

Introduction: Metabolic labor in Animal Capitalism

-Introduction to Animal Capitalism

-Dinesh Wadiwel: Animals and Capital. Chapter 4: Labour, pp. 201-237

-Additional reading: Les Beldo: Metabolic Labor: Broiler Chickens and the Exploitation of Vitality

**Week 2**

Tuesday Nov 25, 18:00-19:30 CET

Before conception: Blood farms

- Alex Blanchette: Porkopolis. American Animality, Standardized Life, And the Factory Farm.

Chapter 4, pp. 89 - 117

- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/may/16/iceland-urged-to-ban-blood-farms-that-extract-hormone-from-pregnant-horses>

- <https://www.tierschutzbund-zuerich.ch/en/what-we-do/blood-farms>

- Additional reading: Carol J. Adams: The Sexual Politics of Meat. Chapter 2: The Rape of Animals, the Butchering of Women, pp. 64 - 91

**Week 3**

Tuesday December 2, 18:00-19:30 CET

Conception: Bull semen

- Annalisa Colombino and Paolo Giaccari: Dead liveness/living deadness:

Threshold of non-human life and death in biocapitalism

-<https://www.farmersweekly.co.nz/technology/farmers-count-knock-on-costs-of-faulty-semen/>

-<https://qz.com/1944343/indias-bull-semen-industry-can-help-store-covid-19-vaccines>

- Additional reading: Gabriel Rosenberg: How Meat Changed Sex. The Law of Interspecies

Intimacy and Industrial Reproduction

**Week 4**

Tuesday December 9, 18:00-19:30 CET

Offspring: Milk

- Katie Gillespie: The cow with ear tag# 1389. Chapter 8: The Stamp of Dairyness, pp. 167-190

- Andrew A. Robichaud: Animal City. The Domestication of America. Chapter 1: Cow Town—New York City and the Urban Dairy Crisis 1830-1860, pp. 13-46

- <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202305/1290368.shtml?>

Additional reading: Gillespie, Kathryn. 2020. "The Afterlives of the Lively Commodity: Life-

Worlds, Death-Worlds, Rotting-Worlds." Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space, July 22, 1–16.

## **Week 5**

Tuesday December 16, 18:00-19:30 CET

Afterlife: Waste

- J.L. Anderson: Capitalist Pigs. Pigs, Pork, and Power in America. Chapter 4:

Pigs and the Urban Slop Bucket, pp. 83-104

- <https://www.thenewlede.org/2023/05/us-efforts-to-turn-farm-animal-poop-into-biofuel-spark-concerns/>

- <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/sep/20/north-carolina-hog-industry-pig-farms>

Additional readings: Alex Blanchette: Porkopolis. American Animality, Standardized Life, And the Factory Farm. Part 5, pp. 201-237

- <https://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/shit>