

Social significance of animals in nomadic pastoral societies of the Arctic, Asia and Africa

A Japanese-Finnish seminar organised by Centre for Northeast Asian Studies (CNEAS), Tohoku University and Arctic Centre, University of Lapland

This seminar aims to bring together scholars based in Finland and Japan in the study of human-animal relations of northern Europe, northern Asia, Central Asia and Africa. The presentations will focus on the ways in which animals acquire social and cultural significance beyond the immediate economic dimension of food-intake, conversion of energy and subsistence, covering aspects of prestige, hierarchy, spirituality, (ethnic) identity and politics. We shall explore the applicability of theoretical assumptions in anthropology to the different regions. Presentations will address questions including (but not limited to)

- Are categories of hierarchy and prestige of different animals among pastoralists applicable to Arctic settings?
- Has the continuum in the significance of hunted and herded animals in the Arctic the potential to inform research among pastoralists in more temperate regions?
- How does the social significance of animals influence patterns of human movement?
- Which practices and principles influence the choice of animals as identity markers in political and religious symbolism?

Date

2009 May 16, Saturday, 9:30 – 18:00 2009 May 17, Sunday, 9:30 – 16:30

Venue

4f Meeting room (436), Centre for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University, Sendai

<http://www.cneas.tohoku.ac.jp/access.html> http://www.cneas.tohoku.ac.jp/e_data/access.html

Organisers

- Florian Stammer, Visiting Associate Professor, CNEAS, Tohoku University, Japan & Senior Researcher, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland
- Takakura Hiroki, Associate Professor, CNEAS, Tohoku University, Japan

Tentative List of Speakers and titles

(all participants PhD or Professor, unless indicated otherwise)

Stammer, Florian, Japan (CNEAS) & Finland (Arctic Centre) : Animal-diversity in the pastoral community: towards an understanding of multiple dynamic significances among Arctic pastoralists

Takakura, Hiroki, Japan (CNEAS) : A strategy for differentiating the tameness of animals: A consideration against the exceptionalism of arctic pastoralism

Granberg, Leo, Helsinki, Finland (Ruralia Institute) : Socio-diversity of animal keeping and sustainability of an Arctic village during the Russian transition

Mazzullo, Nuccio, Finland (Arctic Centre) : More than meat on the hoof? Social significance of reindeer among Finnish Sámi in a rationalised pastoralist economy

Nakamura, Tomoto, Japan (CNEAS): The Cultural and Economic Value of Livestock in Mongolia

Kantanen, Juha, Finland & Norway (MTT & Nordic Gene Resource Centre) : The origin and genetic diversity of the native Yakutian Cattle as revealed by DNA-marker analysis

Kazunobu, Ikeya, Japan (National Museum of Ethnology) : Social Significance of Animals of Two Pastoralist Groups: Comparative Studies of the Kgalagadi and Chukchi

Konaka, Shinya, Japan (University of Shizuoka) :Research Notes: Metaphorical Thinking and Integrated Cognitive Systems among the Samburu in North Central Kenya

Osva, Anu, Finland (artist, & agronomist Animal Breeding) :Symbiotic human animal relationship, Yakutian Cattle – an intersecting art & science approach

Sasaki, Shiro, Japan (National Museum of Ethnology) : Enlargement of the reindeer breeding in the European and West Siberian Tundras

Soga, Toru, Japan (Horosaki University) : The Primogeniture and Camel Trust System of the Gabra, Cushitic Pastoralist in Northern Kenya

Virtanen, Tea, Finland (University of Helsinki): "Sealing relations, mediating blessings: Social and spiritual meaning of cattle among the Mbororo pastoralists in Cameroon"

Vuojala-Magga, Terhi, Finland (Arctic Centre) (absentee paper): What is a meaning of a character and temperament of a single reindeer without the herd and within the herd? A case study of Ukko-Poika and Viljami, two named and trained reindeer in Inari (Anar) of Sápmi-Finnish Lapland

Yoshida, Atsushi, Japan (Chiba University) : 'Private reindeer herding among the Tundra Nenets in West Siberia: The practice of "ethnic" herding'

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