

Intergenerational Ethics
Food and Human Relationships
September 28, 2014

Intergenerational Ethics is about “What am I becoming?” In this class, we explore how the ways we think about and interconnect with the non-human world can enrich and inform this journey.

Questions:

Are humans able to understand animals? E.g., do we know what they are thinking, what they are feeling, if they are conscious, what they communicate? For that matter, are humans able to understand others? Do you understand yourself?

What does the term “animal rights” mean? What could it mean? What is problematic about this term?

In *Loving Animals*, Kathy Rudy proposes a different approach, one that takes into account an underlying issue: The use or abuse of human power with respect to animals. What do you think of her approach of “transformative love” (p. xv-xvi)?

Rudy argues for a “sustained attention to larger meanings (p. xviii).” Do you agree or disagree?

Rudy uses the word “affect” to signal the dynamic and ever changing interoperability of human emotion and reason (p. xvi-xvii) as a subtle yet discernible interplay. Can ethics can be a matter of pure objective rationality? What role does emotion play in animal ethics?

Rudy writes, “We need a new way of seeing ourselves –and the earth and animals – as one collective entity wherein the health of ‘others’ directly influences the quality of our own existence.” (p. 7). Do you agree or disagree?