

The psycho-dynamics of human animal connections

Eight-week live interaction online course with

Professor Susan Long and Margo Lockhart

This course is open to participants interested in how the psychodynamics of human animal connections might aid them in their professional and private lives. It is designed as a pilot course at a postgraduate level although there are no pre-requisite studies required. It will be conducted live interactive online via zoom.

Course Content

This course explores the spaces that animals occupy in human social and cultural worlds and the interactions humans have with them. Central to the course is an exploration of the notion of sentience, who or what we see as sentient, and what significance this has in human group, organisational and social behaviours. Participants explore their own connections and relationships with animals.

The course involves four main areas: how societies 'construct' animals through literature, film, art, and cultural ceremonies; the ecological significance of human animal connectedness; how humans use animals through economies such as farming, domestication, laboratory use of animals and the consumption of animals and related phenomena such as the concept of the 'meat paradox'; and finally attitudes to animals, where participants explore human-pet relationships and the concept of anthropomorphism.

Participants are invited to examine their own interactions with animals through methods such as the use of drawing and a field trip to an organisation which is associated with animals. This might be a pet store, an animal welfare group, a farm, a zoo; or involvement in a course involving animals, such as a horse whispering course.

Participants also explore various attitudes to animals within a small group and observe the dynamics that occur throughout this exploration.

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Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course participants would be expected to attain knowledge about and insight into:

- The definition of 'animal' and our own 'animality';
- Animals as symbols in human systems- in literature the arts, folk lore, cults and ceremonial ceremonies;
- The emerging discipline of 'Anthrozoology', the study of the interactions between humans and other animals;
- The co-evolution of humans and animals;
- The ways animals are used, consumed, thought about, and 'not thought about' in our personal and work systems;
- The concept of 'carnism as defined by Melanie Joy (2010).

and skills in:

- Identification and management of unconscious processes related to animals in everyday life;
- Identifying and working with paradox;
- Intercultural and institutionalised understanding of various attitudes and treatment of animals and collaboration on these issues;
- Understanding social defences and one' own individual defences against unpleasant truths;
- Drawing, writing and verbally articulating one's own attitudes and actions with relation to animals.

A certificate of completion will be given to participants who complete the course.



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References (for interest)

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About the staff



Professor Susan Long

Susan Long is a Melbourne based organisational consultant and executive coach. Previously Professor of Creative and Sustainable Organisation at RMIT University, she is now a Professor and Director of Research at the National Institute for Organisation Dynamics Australia (NIODA) and a coach and consultant in private practice. She is an associate of the University of Melbourne Executive Programs and teaches at INSEAD in Singapore and the University of Divinity in Melbourne where she is involved in a coaching program.

She has consulted to organisational change in the health and justice sectors and coached senior executives across many sectors. She has worked with executives from many different nationalities and from diverse industries, having taught or consulted in the UK, the USA, Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany, Russia, Israel, Thailand and Singapore. She also works as a supervisor and coach for organisational development professionals in Australia and Singapore. She has over 35 years of experience with Group Relations, having been on staff or directed many conferences.

Susan has been in a leadership position in many professional organisations and has published ten books and many articles in books and scholarly journals, is General Editor of the journal *Socioanalysis* and an Associate Editor with *Organisational and Social Dynamics*. She is member of the Advisory Board for Mental Health at Work with Comcare and a past member of the Board of the Judicial College of Victoria (2011-2016). Susan is a distinguished member of ISPSO.



Margo Lockhart

Margo Lockhart is a highly regarded facilitator, designer and coach with a deserved reputation for developing trust and rapport in the working environment. She regularly facilitates management and leadership programs, as well as courses in Emotional Intelligence, Team Dynamics and Influencing Skills. With an academic background in education, counselling and organisational dynamics, Margo brings a disciplined and reflective focus to her work.

Margo's academic focus combines her extensive experience in leadership development and group dynamics with her love of animals and her interest in sustainability. Her doctorate work is in the 'social politics of meat', an exploration of what is talked about, and not talked about, concerning the animals we raise and consume. She has a particular interest in the 'meat paradox'- the fact that we can both love and eat animals, and the cognitive dissonance and dissociation this entails. She is also an experienced board director, having spent 10 years on the boards of various environmental groups.

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When & Where

📅 Dates

Wednesdays 30 March – 18 May 2022

⏰ Session time

6 – 8.30 pm 🇦🇺 Melbourne
3 – 5.30 am (eek!) 🇺🇸 New York
8 – 10.30 am 🇬🇧 London
9 – 11.30 am 🇿🇦 South Africa
12.30 – 3 pm 🇮🇳 New Delhi
3 – 5.30 pm 🇸🇬 Singapore

Due to changes in different countries for daylight savings, summertime, wintertime there will be variations.

💶 Cost

Early-bird special price AUD $2,100 until 4 March

AUD $2,400 including; all eight two-hour-and-half hour sessions; weekly readings, and critical discussions with limited participant numbers

👩‍💻 Location

Live interactive online course via Zoom

REGISTER HERE https://form.jotform.com/220371749446864

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