



University
of Victoria

Climate Emergency, Migration Crisis, and Interspecies Resilience



Image: Lisa Ericson, *Safe Passage*. Fine Art Print. Lisaericson.com

A free lecture by Charlotte Blattner, PhD
Harvard Law School, Animal Law & Policy Program

Thursday, November 14, 2019, 12:30 – 1:20 p.m.
Fraser (Law) Building, Room #158

Human and animal migration are thought to take place in wholly different legal worlds, subject to distinct socio-political spheres of knowledge. To think otherwise would be to lump together marginalized people with animals, just as Trump did in May 2018: “These aren’t people, these are animals.” Human and animal migration, however, have much more in common than is typically assumed. This paper examines the definitions, demographics, and legal regulation of human and animal migration. Using a critical lens, it shows how the law subjects human and animal migrants to deregulation, illegalization, and securitization. In the coming years, this situation will be exacerbated – factually, politically, legally – due to climate change: Entire populations of humans and animals will migrate to the poles due to global warming, mounting environmental disasters, and steady sea level rise. This paper puts forward tentative policy goals and measures to avert a global migration crisis and build up interspecies resilience.



Charlotte Blattner is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard Law School, where she researches at the intersection of environmental and animal law. From 2017-2018, she completed the Postdoctoral Fellowship for Animal Studies at the Department of Philosophy at Queen’s University, focusing on issues of animal labour. She earned her PhD in Law from the University of Basel, Switzerland, as part of the doctoral program “Law and Animals.” Her works include *Protecting Animals Within and Across Borders* (OUP, 2019) and *Animal Labour: A New Frontier of Interspecies Justice?* (OUP, in press), co-edited with Will Kymlicka and Kendra Coulter.

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