

Accelerating Replacement of Animal Experimentation: Critical Theoretical Perspectives

Animal experimentation has long been a topic of bioethical, philosophical, and legal debate, but perspectives engaging with critical theories have been much less prominent in this literature. What new or different perspectives and insights can critical theories offer in regard to the ethics of animal experimentation, the 3R principle, its wide take-up but arguably limited effect, particularly in relation to the call to replace animal models altogether? To further this line of inquiry, a special issue on the theme of “Accelerating Replacement of Animal Experimentation: Critical Theoretical Perspectives” is planned for publication consideration by the *Journal of Animal Law, Ethics and One Health (LEOH)*.

LEOH is an online, peer-reviewed Platinum open access journal newly launched at the University of Zurich, Center for Animal Law and Ethics and directed by Prof. Margot Michel and Prof. Brigitte Tag. The journal provides a forum for the discussion of legal and ethical issues relating to animals as well as the One Health approach and its implications for the law and the ethical realm. It largely focuses on a European (but not limited to the European Union) perspective on Animal Law, Ethics and One Health; however, it also welcomes contributions with a comparative perspective that highlight and comment on developments in other countries, which could play a pioneering role for the development of the subject matter in the European legal arena.

This special issue invites submissions by researchers from the fields of law, ethics, philosophy, social sciences, etc. that address the replacement principle from the 3R model and law or policy reform through an analysis that engages with one or more critical theoretical perspectives. Such perspectives may include critical animal studies, critical science studies, children’s rights studies, critical plant studies, vegan ecofeminist theory or other feminist theory, anti-colonial theory, Indigenous theories, disability studies, queer theories, class-based critiques, Earth Jurisprudence, Black studies, critical race theory, etc. All perspectives and a broad range of specific topics addressing replacement in relation to critical theory are welcome. For example, papers may address:

- Potential and limits of applying critical theories to accelerate replacement of animals
- Potential and limits of law to produce a paradigm change in science
- Potential and limits of the One Health model to produce a paradigm change
- The interrelation between law and science and the ability of law to regulate science
- The role of scientific influence or stakeholders in considering legal change
- Regulatory capture in animal-based scientific research and how to prevent it
- Intra-human inequities in scientific research on animals and consequences for law
- Cognitive biases in animal-based research and how to address them through law
- Analysing transitions and divestment campaigns in other animal-use industries (agriculture, zoos, etc.) and lessons to take for law reform of scientific research field
- Identifying any legal precedent in global legal traditions to support a paradigm change
- Identifying the ideal legal concept (personhood, rights of nature, kinship, dignity, beingness, rule of law, quasi-personhood, welfare, etc.) to argue for interests of animals in scientific research

- Identifying how existing institutional norms (sustainability, fairness, equity and inclusion, Indigenization, global justice, etc.) reinforce or counter the replacement principle
- The relevance of nudge theory and norm entrepreneurship in laboratory settings and scientific practice in general and vis-à-vis animal-based research in particular
- Usefulness of 3R model to effect change. Is/will the third R always be an afterthought in most countries? Or is it better for animals in the long term to pursue refinement and reduction instead?
- Identifying a transition plan for a specific country or region, to divest from animal-based research. Specific country or comparative discussions of regulatory change.

Articles must be submitted in English for this Special Issue, follow OSCOLA citation formatting, and should generally not exceed 10,000 words and shorter contributions (reflections, opinions, creative essays, case commentaries) should generally not exceed 5000 words (inclusive of footnotes). Two versions of the manuscript must be submitted – one “original” and the other in anonymized form. Acceptable papers will enter a peer review process the outcome of which will determine whether the submission will be accepted for publication. The editors-in-chief will make the final decision on all submitted manuscripts.

Timeline for Special Issue Contributions:

Submissions due: June 1st, 2024 to <https://leoh.ch/about/submissions>.

Target date for completion of Peer Review and Author Revisions: December 20, 2024

Special Issue intended publication date: asap in Spring 2025 depending on the Journal planning.

Contact:

Prospective authors who would like to discuss ideas for papers in advance and possible suitability for the Special Issue are invited to contact the Special Issue editor Maneesha Deckha at maneesha.deckha@ius.uzh.ch.

[Further information about the peer review process and submission requirements may be found on the journal’s website at https://leoh.ch/about/submissions](https://leoh.ch/about/submissions) respectively. [Those considering submitting a manuscript are asked to please read these guidelines carefully.](https://leoh.ch/peerreview)

Any further questions about the journal in general and the requirements for formatting of submissions may be directed to leoh@ius.uzh.ch.