

INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON CULTURES OF CHANGE AROUND NON-ANIMAL METHODS (NAMS) IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Prof Rachel A. Ankeny (University of Adelaide) and Prof Gail Davies (University of Exeter)

[Egenis \(the Centre for the Study of Life Sciences\), University of Exeter](#)

Friday 20 October

NAMs (non-animal methods or new approach methodologies) are rapidly becoming preferred approaches in a variety of domains that traditionally utilized *in vivo* non-human animal research. Alternatives to animal methods include approaches such as cell cultures, stem cell constructs, organoids, computer simulations, and others. This workshop seeks to bring together interdisciplinary scholars, practitioners, and policymakers involved in animal research and its alternatives to consider the interdisciplinary questions emerging as cultures of scientific research and responsibility shift and intersect in new ways during transitions to NAMs.

Transitioning towards NAMs and away from using animals in research is often framed as a process of changing individual behaviours through the provision of information on alternative choices, or as a process of evaluating evidence to establish the validity and relevance of these methods in different experimental contexts. Both aspects are important, but they are not sufficient to encapsulate the wider social and cultural changes associated with science that will need to occur as part of this transformation. Animal research and its alternatives are embedded in different cultures of scientific research and responsibility, incorporating diverse norms associated with researcher training and tacit knowledges, experimental choice and design, data processing and publishing, intellectual property and material transfer, ethical review and committee member training, and cultures of care that need to be better understood for these transformations to occur effectively, ethically, and economically. These cultures are configured differently across the fields in which NAMs are being developed and applied including in preclinical research, translational research, clinical trials, and applied toxicology.

In addition, animal research and NAMs are not simply alternatives but will continue to inform each other, over a transitional period and beyond, meaning that it will be important to assess and understand the ongoing intersections and frictions between these different cultures. For 'alternatives' to become the preferred approach, there are likely to need to be further changes to the infrastructures that govern animal research, the ethical standards guiding research, the activities of organizations currently advocating for alternatives, and the sociological imaginations around the animal that currently anchor humanities and social science research on animal research and alternatives.

The aim of this workshop is to explore the potential and priorities for interdisciplinary research particularly by humanities scholars and social scientists collaboratively with those involved in the NAMs movement in the biomedical sciences on cultures of change. We are seeking to establish a focused international network able to map out these issues, incorporating expertise from the history and philosophy of the biomedical sciences, the sociology and geography of science, law/regulation, bioethics, animal welfare and ethics, biomedical research, and metascientific research. The initial meeting will explore invited perspectives on these questions and discuss next steps. Members of this network will be invited to collaborate on a position paper to construct a robust and compelling research agenda, similar to a [paper produced in a previous project](#) AnNEX (Animal Research Nexus) on which the current is modelled, which may then serve as the basis for a collaborative, interdisciplinary grant application in the future.

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PROGRAMME: FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER 2023

8.30 – COFFEE/TEA AND PASTRIES ON ARRIVAL

8.45 – WELCOME TO EGENIS

9.00 – PAPER SESSION 1: CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Jane Johnson (Macquarie) – chair (80 min session to have 3 talks of 15-20 mins, followed by 20 mins of discussion)

- Robert G.W. Kirk (Manchester) – What might a history of alternatives to animals look like?
- Gail Davies (Exeter) & Richard Gorman (Sussex) – What can we learn from interdisciplinary discussions about replacements? Reflections from the Animal Research Nexus Programme
- Rachel Ankeny (Adelaide) – Using Repertoires to Understand Scientific Practice Change in the Case of NAMs

10.20 – COFFEE/TEA BREAK

10.40 – PAPER SESSION 2: CHANGE AND CHALLENGES FROM RESEARCH AND POLICY PERSPECTIVES

Rachel A. Ankeny (Adelaide) – chair (100 min session to have 4 talks of 15-20 mins, followed by 20 mins of discussion)

- Elliot Lilley (NC3Rs) – Review of animal use requirements in WHO biologics guidelines
- Colean Camp (FRAME) – A charity perspective on creating change
- Carolyn Semmler (Adelaide) – Uncovering the cognitions that drive our behaviour towards non-human animals
- Malcolm Macleod (CAMARADES) – Frying pans and fires: how we found major problems with published in vivo research, and why in vitro research is probably just as bad

12.30 – LUNCH

13.15 – PAPER SESSION 3: LEARNING FROM ONGOING RESEARCH

Alex Whittaker (Adelaide) - chair (80 min session to have 3 talks of 15-20 mins, followed by 20 mins of discussion)

- Renelle McGlacken (RSPCA) – Researching the sociocultural barriers to, and opportunities for, increasing the uptake and acceptance of non-animal alternatives in scientific research
- Anna Olsson (Porto) – Reasoning about replacement: Why we need sandboxes, not battlefields
- Mona Nasser (Plymouth) – Exploring reporting and publication practices associated with in-vitro research

14.35 – END OF PAPER SESSIONS & COFFEE/TEA BREAK

The day will end with a discussion for those who want to get involved in the next steps of collaborative research. Please email g.f.davies@exeter.ac.uk and rachel.ankeney@adelaide.edu.au for more information. The workshop will close by 4.30pm to enable onward travel on the Friday.