

The [Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture](#) (EPTC) annual conference will be held in early June 2013 in conjunction with the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities of Canada in Victoria (British Columbia, Canada).

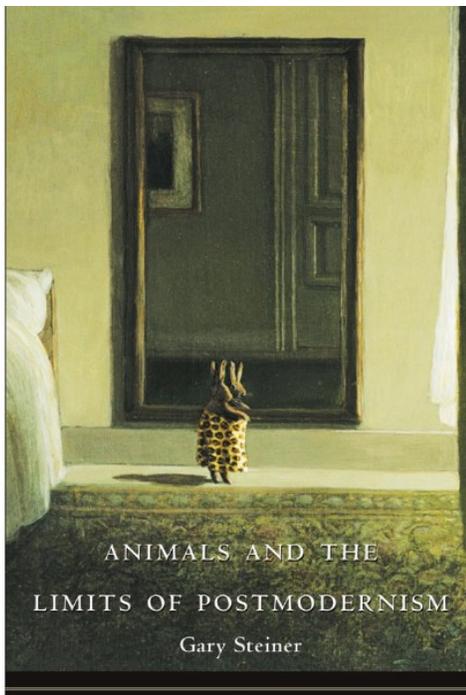
Call for Papers - Book Panel : Gary Steiner's *Animals and the Limits of Postmodernism*

(Forthcoming, Columbia University Press)

While postmodern approaches to politics and ethics have offered some intriguing and influential insights in philosophy and theory, Gary Steiner illuminates the fundamental inability of these approaches to arrive at viable ethical and political principles. Ethics requires notions of self, agency, and value that are not available to postmodernists. Therefore much of what is published under the rubric of theory lacks a proper basis for a systematic engagement with ethics.

Steiner presents his provocative critique of postmodernist approaches to the moral status of animals against the background of a broader indictment of postmodern thought and its inability to establish clear principles for action. He revisits the work of Derrida, Foucault, Nietzsche, and Heidegger, together with recent work by their American interpreters, and shows that the basic terms of postmodern thought are incompatible with

any definitive claims about the moral status or rights of animals—and humans. Steiner acknowledges the failures of liberal humanist thought regarding the moral status of animals; but instead of following postmodern thinkers who reject humanist thought outright, Steiner argues for the need to rethink humanist notions in a way that avoids the anthropocentric limitations of traditional humanist thought. Drawing on the achievements of the Stoics and Kant, Steiner builds on his earlier volumes, developing his ideas of cosmic holism and non-anthropocentric cosmopolitanism in order to arrive at a more concrete foundation for animal rights.



[Gary Steiner](#) is John Howard Harris Professor of Philosophy at Bucknell University. He is the author of [Descartes as a Moral Thinker: Christianity, Technology, Nihilism](#) (Humanity Books, 2004); [Anthropocentrism and Its Discontents: The Moral Status of Animals in the History of Western Philosophy](#) (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005); and [Animals and the Moral Community: Mental Life, Moral Status, and Kinship](#) (Columbia University Press, 2008).

For information: christianebailey@umontreal.ca