



Dinner Speaker Abstracts

DIN001

Why Vegan Now? The Sexual Politics of Meat in the 21st Century

Carol Adams

Writer/Activist, Richardson, Texas, United States

This presentation will show how the more things change the more things stay the same by considering the case of *The Sexual Politics of Meat*, first published in 1990: from absent referents to cultural referents; from raw meat to racially-inflected images; from colonial politics to the global economy; from Lisa Simpson to Dolly the cloned sheep; from feminist-vegetarian Elizabeth Costello to Burger King and *Sports Illustrated*; from the problem of dairy and eggs to the problem of “retrograde humanism,” *The Sexual Politics of Meat* offers a theoretical anchor. The presentation concludes by drawing implications for “eating well” in the 21st century.

DIN002

Minding Bears in China and Vietnam

Jill Robinson

Animals Asia Foundation, Chengdu, China

Jill Robinson’s ursine passion began as a child, when dolls were thrown disdainfully out of prams in favour of teddies. Her life changed forever following a visit to one of China’s notoriously cruel bear farms in 1993. As the first animal welfarist to expose this brutal practice to the world, Jill has made a solemn promise to free as many bears as possible and to bring bear farming to an end.

There may be as few as 16,000 Asiatic black bears left in the wild, yet as many as 14,000 lie confined in tiny cages on cruel bile farms throughout China and Vietnam. Jill will focus on the work of Animals Asia Foundation, the organisation she founded in 1998. Animals Asia has been working extensively to end this unnecessary industry and to highlight the plight of these bears, while there is still time.

The Animals Asia Moon Bear Rescue Centres in China and Vietnam are at the forefront of veterinary research and education and provide sanctuary for previously farmed bears, all of whom are unequipped for life in the wild.

Minding bears means understanding bears. They are charismatic and complicated and have needs and emotions as profound as any human. Whether constructing bunkers for bears, who prefer to bed down outside for the winter, or giving cubs their very first bubble bath, Jill will present the challenges of rescuing and managing bears and the joys of seeing them experience their first glimpse of spring.