

Review of: "Mimicking Humanity: The Use of Anthropomorphism in Ted Hughes' Nature Poetry"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

It was a pleasure to read this paper. It is an inspiring and insightful paper which demonstrates how we can shift beyond the wholly negative discourse around anthropomorphism. Through an appreciation of Ted Hughes poetry (and I myself include children's literature in this transformative thinking as a way of addressing anthropomorphism through a cultural and material lens) we can enter sociocultural 'contact zones' of mutual co-constitution and multiple becomings. Each selected poem and its textual analysis highlights the entangled connections we have with animals, magnifying their position alongside us. The use of exploring the animal characters is creative and interesting.

The concept of mimesis and mimicry is very apt in current posthuman debates as 'decentring' the human is in keeping with social just and ethically minded perspectives which embrace the entanglement of our human existence with non-human others. This article could offer an interesting view point, and through further discussion around mimesis and mimicry, enhance the paper's argument. I have explored similar ideas through 'enactive kinaesthetic empathy' (Carlyle and Graham, 2020)

The article enlivens the interest in a vitalist philosophy and a turn to mimesis (Lawtoo, 2022) which is an exciting one.

I particularly liked the appraisal of *The Thought-Fox* with his movements and paw prints likened to the act of writing. In my own research on a classroom/school dog I considered their movement in a similar way as asemic marking/writing and 'wander lines' (Carlyle, 2019; Carlyle, 2023 forthcoming). With the poem of *The Horses*, it made me think once more of the centaur (human-horse hybrid) (Carlyle 2022). Haraway discusses how animals (dogs especially) are good to 'think-with' (Haraway, 2003, p. 5) and may offer the paper further strength in their argument.

Re: structure and referencing:

This is a refreshingly clear articulation of an important topic, the interconnectedness of our relationship with animals and the natural world. I have not seen an article written in this style, where integration of wider theoretical and conceptual ideas are not cited. I am not saying it makes the article any less valuable, but it does veer from usual academic papers in this respect. For example, they mention 'numerous writers and scholars' who explore the relationship between humans and the natural world but do not include reference to any, although Marc Berkoff is in the reference list.

Sometimes it felt a little repetition crept in, however, there is nothing wrong with emphasis on the blurring of human-animal boundaries to get the message across!

