

Native American Studies Center

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA LANCASTER

2021 W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Lecture Series

FRIDAY
March
19

All are invited to attend these free monthly lectures which usually cover topics related to local and regional culture and history. To join the program, please send an email to usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu and we'll send you the password and ID required to join the meeting.

Virtual Lecture noon to 1:00 p.m.

“Just Like an Animal? A Philosophical Examination of our Ethical Assumptions about Cognitive Disabilities and the Value of Animals”

Dr. Todd Lekan, USCL Associate Dean of Academic Affairs



It is common for privileged groups to marginalize others by comparing them to animals. Being called “just like an animal” is taken to be a deep moral insult because of the assumption that animals have little or no moral status. Given the view that humans are superior to animals because of rationality, the diminished rational capacities of cognitively disabled people have often led to them being treated “just like animals.” In this presentation, I explain these arguments and offer a few tentative suggestions about how to mediate the tensions generated by them.

Please direct any questions or comments regarding the series to Brent Burgin at 803-313-7063 or wbburgin@sc.edu. Mr. Burgin welcomes suggestions and ideas for future talks and speakers.

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