

Jeff Sebo

"Why Animals Matter for Climate Change, and Why Climate Change Matters for Animals"

In this talk I argue that animals matter for climate change and that climate change matters for animals. In particular, many animals (especially farmed animals) will have a significant impact on the climate, and the climate will also have a significant impact on many animals (especially wild animals). As a result, I argue, we morally ought to center animals in our attempts to address climate change. In particular, we morally ought to resist animal agriculture as part of our climate change mitigation efforts and assist wild animals as part of our climate change adaptation efforts. I also evaluate different strategies for accomplishing these aims, and I consider connections with debates about wellbeing, creation ethics, population ethics, and the nature and limits of moral and political theory. The upshot of this discussion is that we should extend moral and political standing to all animals, that we should seek to abolish animal agriculture through individual and collective action, and that we should research interventions in wild animal suffering so that we can be prepared to assist wild animals if and when the time comes.