

# UNPOPULAR VEGAN ESSAYS

UNPOPULAR ESSAYS CONCERNING POPULAR VIOLENCE INFLICTED ON THE INNOCENT



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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

## Single Issue Campaigns, Speciesism, and Compartmentalization

### Speciesist Compartmentalization

Compartmentalization is the separation of persons (including nonhuman persons), things, ideas, attitudes, or behavior into categories or compartments. Sometimes it is epistemically rational to compartmentalize (e.g. biology); other times it is epistemically irrational to compartmentalize (e.g. race or species prejudice).

Speciesism (like racism, sexism, and heterosexism) is the epistemically irrational prejudice of favoring one or more species over other species without a morally relevant characteristic providing justification. From the standpoint of irrational, unjustified prejudice, ignoring the morally relevant characteristic of intelligence in preventing certain classes of humans from obtaining an education is the same as ignoring the morally relevant characteristic of sentience in exploiting and killing nonhuman animals for food, clothing, research, and entertainment (all of which are unnecessary). Speciesism is one form of irrational, prejudiced compartmentalization.

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[animal rights](#) (14)  
[animal welfare](#) (10)  
[announcements](#) (4)  
[anti-animal rights](#) (1)  
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[beef recall](#) (1)  
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[care2](#) (6)  
[caring](#) (1)  
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An example of speciesist compartmentalization is when we pet and love a dog while a pig's full body and head rotate over a fire pit. Why isn't it the other way around? Better yet, why don't we pet and love both the dog and the pig?

Other examples of speciesist compartmentalization are single issue campaigns. Why do we protest and publish "open letters" about fur, but ignore leather? Why do we have high-profile protests against seal "hunts", aerial "hunts", and canned "hunts", but quiet down significantly about fishing and so many other "hunts" (all of which are unjust, one-sided, and cowardly)?

Since single issue campaigns are cases of speciesist compartmentalization themselves, such campaigns obviously reinforce prejudiced compartmentalization. Because of this alone, we should avoid them. If we insist on protesting an animal circus or a fur shop, we should make unequivocal vegan education front and center of the protest. If we publish an "open letter" to Johnny Weir, it should be an open letter to go vegan and reject the exploitation of all animals, not just cute furry ones.

## Diseases and Symptoms

In addition to single issue campaigns being counterproductive by strongly reinforcing speciesist compartmentalization and confusing the public (most of "the public" sees the inconsistency better than the activists do), they are useless in that they address the *symptoms* of speciesism without addressing the *disease* of speciesism itself. As such, single issue campaigns, when they are at their "most effective" (a pathetic scene to be sure), act as temporary relief from one of the many symptoms of speciesism. As soon as the campaign is over, things go back to "normal" because there was never any treatment of the underlying disease of speciesism.

The only way to address speciesism as a disease is through vegan education. When people take animal interests seriously enough to embrace veganism, speciesism has been at least mostly eliminated in their case, and they no longer contribute to the thousands of varieties of symptoms. To use a metaphor I used in a *far more comprehensive* essay on single issue campaigns, [Picking the Low Hanging Fruit: What's Wrong with Single Issue Campaigns?](#), the tree of speciesism has been cut down for vegans and it no longer produces the "low hanging fruit" that single issue campaigns address: fur, foie gras, animal circus attendance, zoo attendance, and on and on.

## Two Paradigm Shifts

- [ex-vegans](#) (1)
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- [free-range farming](#) (2)
- [Gary Steiner](#) (1)
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- [hope](#) (1)
- [humane myth website](#) (1)
- [hypocrisy](#) (1)
- [imposing beliefs](#) (2)
- [in the news](#) (2)
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- [indoctrination](#) (2)
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- [killing by the numbers](#) (1)
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- [literature](#) (1)
- [militant direct action](#) (1)
- [minimum standard](#) (1)
- [moral baseline](#) (1)
- [moral philosophy](#) (9)
- [moral psychology](#) (8)
- [moral schizophrenia](#) (1)
- [new welfarism](#) (5)
- [objections to animal rights](#) (3)
- [objections to veganism](#) (6)
- [opinions and body parts](#) (1)
- [PETA](#) (2)
- [picking low-hanging fruit](#) (1)
- [plant sentience](#) (1)
- [policing nature](#) (1)
- [present realities](#) (1)
- [property status](#) (2)
- [Proposition 2](#) (1)
- [rational ignorance](#) (1)
- [rational irrationality](#) (1)
- [religious violence](#) (1)
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There are two paradigm shifts people experience, each one reducing speciesism: first, embracing personal veganism; second, embracing abolitionist principles. Embracing veganism means rejecting speciesism in attitude, thoughts, speech, and behavior. At a minimum, it is avoiding the exploitation of animals and use of animal products in one's life. Embracing abolitionist principles means rejecting single issue campaigns and welfarism and engaging in vegan education instead. Veganism is the *personal* manifestation of a commitment to eliminate speciesist prejudice and take animals' interests seriously. Abolitionism is the *public and political* manifestation of a commitment to eliminate speciesist prejudice and take animals' interests seriously.

POSTED BY UNPOPULAR VEGAN ESSAYS AT 9:45 AM    

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[sentience](#) (2)  
[simon the sadist](#) (1)  
[single-issue campaigns](#) (4)  
[slogan: the world is vegan](#) (1)  
[speciesism](#) (2)  
[subsidies](#) (1)  
[ten billion](#) (1)  
[ten myths of new welfarism](#) (1)  
[thanksgiving](#) (1)  
[two pigs](#) (1)  
[vegan education](#) (9)  
[vegan food blogs](#) (1)  
[vegan heroes](#) (1)  
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[vegangelical](#) (2)  
[veganism](#) (18)  
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#### RECOMMENDED BOOKS

[Animals and the Moral Community: Mental Life, Moral Status, and Kinship](#)  
[Animals as Persons: Essays on the Abolition of Animal Exploitation](#)  
[Animals, Property, and the Law](#)  
[Ethical Intuitionism](#)  
[Introduction to Animal Rights: Your Child or the Dog](#)  
[Rain Without Thunder: The Ideology of the Animal Rights Movement](#)

#### VEGAN MENUS AND RECIPES

[Incredibly Delicious \(highly recommended\)](#)

[Raw on \\$10 a Day or Less](#)

[Seitan Is My Motor](#)

[Sporks or Chopsticks](#)

[The Natural Epicurean Academy of  
Culinary Arts](#)

[The Natural Epicurean Blog](#)

[Various Vegan Cookbooks](#)

[Vegan Baking and Other Vegan  
Cookbooks](#)

[Vegan Dad](#)

[Vegan Improv - Food and Wine](#)

[Vegan Parenting: This Little Piggy  
Had Tofu](#)

[Vegan Yum-Yum](#)

[veganize everything](#)

[What The Hell Does a Vegan Eat  
Anyway?](#)

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VEGAN NUTRITION

[American Dietetic Association on  
Vegan Diets](#)

[The China Study](#)

[Becoming Vegan](#)

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ON-LINE VEGAN PRODUCTS

[Pangea - The Vegan Store](#)

[Vegan Essentials](#)

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FRIENDS

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**Q Quotes on Slavery**

I've been vegan for 2.5 years and have never looked back  
*9 minutes ago*

**NZ Vegan Podcast**



NZ Vegan Podcast  
Episode 88 - Special Guest Peaceful Abolitionist Emmy James!

*4 hours ago*

**Suicide Food**



Chickin' Pickin'

*1 day ago*

**My Face Is On Fire**



What This Vegan Eats

*2 days ago*

**Filosofia vegana**



La falacia del término medio

*5 days ago*

**Reformed fast food mascot**



Thanksgiving football games

*5 days ago*

**Uploads by LiveVegan**

LiveVegan Podcast #27: Factory Farming --- for a number of reasons --- cannot end  
*1 week ago*

**Veganacious**

Giving Vegan Thanks  
*1 week ago*

**Animal Rights: The Abolitionist Approach**

Killing Animals and Making Animals Suffer  
*1 week ago*

### **A Candid Hominid**



Animals Who Aren't  
Human:  
'Nonhuman' or  
'Other'

*1 week ago*

### **Clowns' Corner**

Dr Roger Yates's new sociological  
approach to animal advocacy.  
Interview with a supporter

*1 week ago*

### **Animal Rights UK blog**

'A Haven from Hate' - A  
Response, Regarding 'Vegan  
Havens'

*2 weeks ago*

### **VEGANISM: A Truth Whose Time has Come!**

Is Veganism a Choice?

*2 weeks ago*

### **Animal Rights & AntiOppression**

Hugs All Around

*4 weeks ago*

### **Animal Person**

On Dogs and Unconditional Love

*1 month ago*

### **That Vegan's Blog**



Vegan Parenting  
and "Forcing  
Beliefs"

*3 months ago*

### **The Vegan Light Bulb**



A Thought for the  
Fourth of July

*4 months ago*

### **brockway hall**

Our Conflicted Attitudes Toward  
the Death of Animals

*5 months ago*

### **Vegan Abolitionist**

Moved to CandidHominid.com

*7 months ago*

### **Chimera's Chimeras**

Busting Five Vegan Myths - A  
Follow-Up

*7 months ago*

**Abolitionist Animal Rights**

I read it on the Internet

*1 year ago*

**The Vegan Solution**

A Call to Vegetarians

*1 year ago*

**Working Class Vegan**

"Plants are alive/have feelings too."

*1 year ago*

**Ethereal Blend Blog**

There is no "Team Omnivore" and Vegans are not alone

*1 year ago*

**Vegan Benefits Blog**

Vegan Education and Behavioural Change – Part II

*1 year ago*

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VEGAN LINKS

[Abolition of Speciesism \(In English and Spanish\)](#)

[Animal Rights Malta](#)

[Animal Rights Violations](#)

[Animal Rights: The Abolitionist Approach \(In French\)](#)

[Boston Vegan Association](#)

[Carolina Vegan Association](#)

[Gary L. Francione: Abschaffung der Tiersklaverei \(In German\)](#)

[Gary Steiner, Professor of Philosophy, Bucknell University](#)

[Gentle World](#)

[Green Kolibri \(In Russian\)](#)

[LiveVegan on Facebook](#)

[LiveVegan on YouTube](#)

[LOBSA](#)

[The Production of "I'm Vegan"](#)

[The Unofficial Gary Francione Website](#)

[The Vegan Life](#)

[Vegan Examiner: Adam Kochanowicz](#)

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AS LONG AS NONHUMAN ANIMALS ARE CONSIDERED "THINGS", PROPERTY, AND/OR ECONOMIC RESOURCES, INSTEAD OF SENTIENT BEINGS WITH THEIR OWN INTERESTS, THERE WILL BE NO MEANINGFUL CHANGES IN THE CRUELTY THAT BILLIONS OF THEM ENDURE FROM BIRTH TO DEATH.

