

## Integrating animal welfare into critical realism's concerns

Drawing on Joy (2010) and the 'meat-paradox' literature to apply explanatory critique (including ideology critique) to the practice of meat consumption, this paper advocates for animal welfare to become more thoroughly integrated into critical realism's concerns. Thus far, ethically speaking, critical realism has largely avoided critical discussion on such matters, focusing most of its attention on areas of thought pertaining to humanity. This anthropocentric bias is a reflection on where mainstream critical realism is at and informs us of where it needs to go. Given its commitment to emancipation through core values of love and flourishing, critical realism would do well to be more cognisant of the plight of other beings and commit to absencing unnecessary suffering. This can be aided via a Spinozist-based ethics grounded in the self.