Are Animals Nature?

The Department of Religious Studies, W.K. Kellogg Chair in Agricultural, Food and Community Ethics, and the Agro-Environmental Justice Initiative all proudly present

Dr. Anna L. Peterson on

“Rethinking the Animal Rights – Environmental Ethics Debate”

Friday, December 2 at 2pm
MSU Union, Lake Ontario Room

Many environmental and animal advocates believe that their two fields inevitably conflict because one values ecological wholes, while the other values sentient individuals. This portrayal of the animal rights-environmental ethics debate rests on impoverished understandings of animals, nature, culture, and humans. To rethink the relationship between concern for animals and for nature in general, we need to rethink these definitions. In particular, we need to undermine a polarized view of wildness and domesticity. This rethinking is impossible in the context of established philosophical frameworks in either environmental philosophy or animal ethics, but resources from other sources, both secular and religious, can help us begin.