



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

SENTIENCE: Science, Ethics, Law

Call for abstracts

Dates: 17-18 May 2027

Venue: Senate House, University of London

Organised by: The Jeremy Collier Centre for Animal Sentience, LSE, with support from the Jeremy Collier Foundation and in conjunction with the Institute of Philosophy, University of London.

Bees playing with balls, flies riding carousels, cleaner fish recognizing themselves in the mirror, spiders plotting elaborate routes to their prey... recent years have seen stunning results in the science of animal minds, leading to vigorous debate about what we can legitimately infer from behavioural and neural evidence about the inner lives of other beings. These scientific debates have proceeded alongside debates about what the new evidence should mean for policy, law, and how we interact with other animals in our everyday lives.

This conference aims to bring the emerging community of animal sentience researchers together. **We welcome submitted talks on scientific, philosophical, ethical, policy-relevant or legal aspects of animal sentience.** We aim to curate a balanced program that allows people working on any of these aspects to better understand the others.

We especially encourage abstracts that explore the connections between animal sentience and AI. This may include studies using AI-based methodologies to better understand animal minds. It may also include research into how AI is impacting other species and how its use could or should be regulated. A substantial AI connection is not required, but abstracts with a substantial AI connection will be prioritised all else being equal.

All submitted abstracts should have a substantial connection to the topic of animal sentience. To fit with this event, they should not be purely about the possibility of sentience in AI or in any other non-animal entity.

Keynote speakers:

Professor Nicola S. Clayton FRS, Professor of Comparative Cognition, University of Cambridge

Professor Peter Singer, Emeritus Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics, Princeton University.

Professor Cass Sunstein, Robert Walmsley University Professor, Harvard Law School.

Conference format

The conference will include:

- Keynote lectures
- A keynote lecture hosted as a public engagement event
- Spoken presentations based on accepted abstracts
- Poster presentations, subject to sufficient interest
- Opportunities for networking and discussion

This call is primarily for spoken presentations. Applicants may also indicate whether they would like to be considered for a poster presentation; this will not affect consideration for a spoken presentation.

Registration and funding

Accepted presenters will be expected to register for the conference. We do not expect to be able to provide travel or accommodation funding for accepted presenters. Please only submit an abstract if you expect to be able to attend the conference.

Conference registration information, including ticket prices, will be published in due course.

Submission guidelines

To apply, you will be asked to provide:

- Presenter details, contact email and affiliation
- Co-author details and affiliations, if applicable
- Presentation title, abstract of up to 500 words, and up to five keywords
- Whether you would like to be considered for a poster presentation if not selected for a spoken presentation
- Any availability restrictions across 17-18 May 2027 and any optional supporting information, such as links to a paper or project website

Proposals should be suitable in principle for presentation in 20 minutes. This is provisional; the final length of talks will be decided when we curate the programme.

Important dates

- **Call for abstracts opens:** September 2026
- **Submission deadline:** 11 December 2026
- **Notification of outcomes:** February 2027
- **Conference dates:** 17 and 18 May 2027

Submission

Abstracts should be submitted via Microsoft Forms:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/FZNRyWuZqm>

For enquiries, please contact: philosophy.sentience@lse.ac.uk

The Jeremy Coller Centre for Animal Sentience

London School of Economics and Political Science

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/sentience>