



CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND
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Public Lectures

What does care take? Saving and sequestering in orangutan conservation

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17:00 c.t. – 19:00

This paper asks what it means to approach orangutan (and other biodiversity) conservation as a frontier of care: an inherently interventionist field of imaginaries, structures and practices that reshapes lives and spaces in the name of caring for orangutans. Drawing on multi-sited ethnography that my colleagues and I have carried out across the global nexus of orangutan conservation, I ask what care takes, in different senses of the term. What does it take to care about and for (non)human others at a time of sustained environmental crisis? What does it mean to be a care-taker? And what do programmes and practices of care take – as in demand, claim, or extract? Taking a critical relational view of how multiple forms and registers of cross-species care play out across this field, I foreground the continued importance of careful(l) ethnographic engagement in nuancing and ‘unsettling’ (Murphy 2015) hierarchies of care in both conservation and academia.

LOCATION: South Asia Institute, Lecture Hall (010.01.05), 1st Floor