



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Sociologiska institutionen

Open lecture with **NORA SCHUURMAN**

Performing good death at the veterinary clinic: experiences of pet euthanasia in Finland

Time: *Wednesday 18th April 2018 at 13.15-15.00*

Venue: *2-0026, Thunbergsvägen 3H*



In contemporary pet-keeping culture, the death of an animal is managed by the veterinary profession. The situation of euthanising the pet at the clinic is not an easy one for the owner of the animal, who has to manage the emotions involved in the death of a pet, while at the same time, worrying about animal welfare in euthanasia. In this presentation I explore the performances of good death in pet euthanasia. Drawing on pet owners' experiences, I scrutinise the practice of euthanasia at the space of the veterinary clinic, emotions felt by owners about pet loss, the role of animal agency, and the expertise of the veterinarian in providing the animal with an ending to its life. The data consists of written narratives from a nationwide writing collection organised in Finland. Theoretically, the presentation draws on recent discussions about human-animal relationships as performances, as productive processes in which the relationship comes into being.

Dr Nora Schuurman has a PhD in Cultural Geography and is lecturer at University of Turku.