Symposium One Health
19 octobre 2018
Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle

Crises sanitaires et mise à l’épreuve des relations entre hommes et animaux
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French Wetland hit by Bird flu in February 2006 (La Dombes)

La Dombes (1500 ponds = 10 000 ha)

Wetlands location (in green)
Countryside economy: livestock and poultry farming, fish farming, Waterfowl shooting, tourism

Bird flu outbreak: Local consequences (February to July 2006)

- 150 factory farms = fall of 20% in turnover / 139 slaughters to get compensation
- 590 farmyards confined = production stopped, with no resumption for a part of breeding.
- 1200 fish farming ponds: prohibited access = fall of 20% in turnover
- Waterfowl Shooting: fall of 40% hiring incomes.
- Tourism: Fall of 30% (accommodation, restaurant); Ornithological Park closed
Health Zoning: Protection and Security.
Area under surveillance
Criticism of Health Zoning from Countryside point of view

1- Plan’s biological rationality:
   - Human and animal bodies at the same level, as potential recipients and transmitters
   - Notion of Individual erased
   = Dehumanized, as person and Human being

2- Ambivalence of zoning: endangered area (to be protected) or dangerous area (to be controlled)?
   - Wetlands identified as risk areas
   - Exogenous forms of Stigmatization
   - Devaluated status: “infected”/“infectuous”

3- Difference in the management of farm animals and wild animals
   - Sick swans flying freely / Healthy chickens confined and slaughtered
   - Reversed hierarchy of human interests
Virus coming from Swans : Rural perceptions
Analogy between Desease, Wilderness and Foreign born animals

- Source of Disease ascribed to wild and foreign born animals, considered as pests
- Explanatory principle: Disturbance in local ecology associated with the political injunction to protect biodiversity and with the Proliferation of wilderness without anthropic control.
- The virus makes sense in a specific referential system (local and historical), mobilizes cognitive categories and actualizes socio-environmental problems in force within contemporary rural societies.
- The virus is identified the farthest away from countryside interests and local identity (holding off harm). The ideas operate by reordering of the local cognitive categories.
- The perception of disease is closely interlinked with the types of relationships established with the environment, with non-humans and with humans (and to the distance at which they are held).
- Economy of suspicion and resentment: the health logic deprived of the farmer’s means of action (competence, knowledge).
Virus coming from Factory farming: Environmentalist perceptions

Analogy between Disease, Capitalism and Artificial animals

• Viral source ascribed to factory chickens: hyper-domesticated and artefact-animals.

• Explanatory principle: The naturalist topic associates Disease with artificialization of living organisms. The natural order had been broken by technology. The scorned naturality of animals retorts like a boomerang in the form of an uncontrollable virus load.

• Criticism of Confinement policy advocated by health authorities: justification of industrial condition on the basis of hygienist arguments, at the expense of more natural small-scale farming, being unfairly sacrificed.

• The viral threat justifies the need to restore the boundary between nature and artifice and promote a less intrusive relationship with animals to solve the problem resulting from breaking this principle.
Virus coming from Human cruelty : Animalism perceptions
Analogy between Disease, Exploitation and Sentient animals

- Viral source ascribed to human practices (farming for food, violence of the domesticizing relationship).
- Explanatory principle: Living conditions of farming animals cause atrophies, mutilations and many visible symptoms of disease. Bird flu constitutes one of the foreseeable avatars of the dreadfulness of farming.
- Reformist groups defined the event as a human-centered phobia that unnecessarily increase animal suffering (irrational fears that led to abandon pets, to get rid of pigeons, to exploit protected species, to justify massive slaughterings).
- Radical groups asserted bird flu in the form of a salutary apocalypse: H5N1 weakened the farming system, led to ban the use of wild duck for shooting, instigated the closing-down of parks and bird markets...
- The virus deviates from any biological referent to reach the status of a moral agent.
## Conclusion

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<tr>
<th>Viral source</th>
<th>Ruralism</th>
<th>Environmentalism</th>
<th>Animalism</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wild and foreign born animals (unfamiliar)</td>
<td>Factory farming animals (artefact)</td>
<td>Captive animals (sentient, suffering)</td>
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<th>Referential system</th>
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<tr>
<td>Allochtonus/local Wild/domesticated</td>
<td>Natural/ Artificial</td>
<td>Cruelty/pity</td>
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<th>Desorder</th>
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<td>• Desorder within the environment</td>
<td>• Desorder within the farms</td>
<td>• Desorder within the human exploitation of animals</td>
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<td>• Environmental conflict</td>
<td>• Technical and economical controversy</td>
<td>• Moral debate</td>
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<th>Human otherness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmentalists</td>
<td>Factory system</td>
<td>Farming (for food)</td>
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<th>Criticisms against Health crisis management</th>
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<td>• Territorial takeover</td>
<td>• Confinement policy promotes factory farming</td>
<td>• Paroxysmal phobia: increase animal suffering and death</td>
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<td>• Privation : means of action and know-how</td>
<td>• Small scale farming, environment and food quality sacrificed</td>
<td>• Reckless management in Asia</td>
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<td>• Stigmatization</td>
<td>• Reversed hierarchy of interests (natural chickens/artificial chickens)</td>
<td>• Salutary Apocalypse : farming system in crisis</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Reversed hierarchy of interests (chickens/swans ; human/nature)</td>
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