

# **Animal Rights: Between Idealism and Realism**

## **Inaugural conference of the Center for Animal Rights and the Environment (CARE) – 15 January 2026**

### **Speakers**

#### **Julia Hänni**

Justice of the Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland



Julia Hänni was elected Federal Judge of Switzerland on June 19, 2019. Since 2020, she has also been Honorary Professor of Legal Philosophy at the University of St. Gallen. Prior to this, she was Assistant Professor at the University of Lucerne (2016–2019) and held various academic positions at the Universities of Fribourg, St. Gallen and Zurich. In 2013, she was a Global Justice Fellow at Yale University. From 2012 to 2016, she worked as a personal assistant to two judges at the Federal Supreme Court. She obtained her doctorate from the

University of St. Gallen and her habilitation from the University of Lucerne.

#### **Anne Peters**

Director at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law



Anne Peters is a Director at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law Heidelberg, a Professor at the universities of Heidelberg, Freie Universität Berlin and Basel and a L. Bates Lea Global Law professor at the Law School of the University of Michigan. She is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and an associate member of the Institut de Droit International, a member of the academic advisory council on international law for the German Government. She holds

honorary doctorates of the universities of Lausanne, KU Leuven and Vienna.

### **Saskia Stucki**

Director of the Center for Animal Rights and the Environment, ZHAW



Saskia Stucki is the founder and director of the Center for Animal Rights and the Environment (CARE). She is Professor of Public Law at the ZHAW and senior researcher at the University of Zurich. From 2016-2024, she held fellowships at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law and at Harvard Law School. In 2024, she served in the working group on One Health Governance in the European Union as part of the Scientific Advice Mechanism to the European Commission. In 2025, she was

awarded the Latsis Swiss Science Prize for her pioneering research on animal rights law.

### **Cass Sunstein**

Professor at Harvard Law School



Cass R. Sunstein is currently the Robert Walmsley University Professor at Harvard. He is the founder and director of the Program on Behavioral Economics and Public Policy at Harvard Law School. In 2020, the World Health Organization appointed him as Chair of its technical advisory group on Behavioral Insights and Sciences for Health. From 2009 to 2012, he was Administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, and after that, he served on the President's Review Board

on Intelligence and Communications Technologies and on the Pentagon's Defense Innovation Board. Mr. Sunstein has testified before congressional committees on many subjects, and he has advised officials at the United Nations, the European Commission, the World Bank, and many nations on issues of law and public policy.