Introduction to Special Issue

I am delighted to introduce this Special Issue of Between the Species, which contains a selection of papers from “Testing Times: A Symposium on the Ethics and Epistemology of Animal Experimentation” held at Macquarie University, Sydney in September 2011. The symposium drew together a diverse range of participants including veterinarians, scientific researchers, philosophers, members of animal ethics committees and others to discuss animal experimentation, where the practice stands today, and how it might be improved in the future. Three themes emerged from the meeting and these are reflected in the papers in this volume. The first investigates the kind of fruitful links that may be fostered between research on human and nonhuman animals; the second considers new approaches to medical research and animal experimentation; and the third concerns the need for a more inclusive conversation about the ethics of animal experimentation. I hope you find these papers stimulating. Together they make insightful contributions to the ongoing philosophical discussion about research on nonhuman animals.

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