

Communication.

New Materiality.

Sentience.

Substances.

Agency.

Consumption.

Reaction.

Entanglement.

Experience.



**The Entanglements of
Consuming Plants.**

With 'I Am Apple' by Attala.



Shannon Macey-Phillips.

Consumption.

Dictionary

Search for a word



consumption

/kənˈsʌm(p)ʃ(ə)n/

See definitions in:

All

Economics

Medicine · Dated

noun

1. the action of using up a resource.
"industrialized countries should reduce their energy consumption"

Similar: using up use utilization expending expenditure depletion

2. **DATED**
a wasting disease, especially pulmonary tuberculosis.
"his mother had died of consumption"

Similar: tuberculosis pulmonary tuberculosis TB wasting disease

Definitions from Oxford Languages

Feedback

- **Exceptionalism.**
- **Anthropocentric.**
- **Speciesism.**

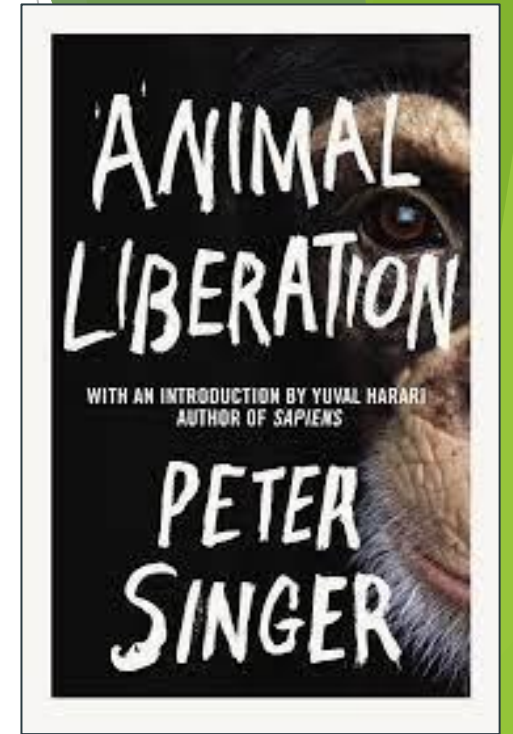
“Speciesism.”

- ~ Coined in 1970 by Richard D. Ryder.
- ~ Popularised by the works of Peter Singer.

Singer asserts that Speciesism is human justification for the exploitation of other species, based on a few assumptions:

That other Species lack autonomy, agency, intelligence.

Singer’s argument is that other species are capable of active suffering.



Think.

Manipulate.

Agency.

Communicate.





Communication.

‘Edibility Approach’ (Attala, 2017)

‘Eating, biting, chewing, swallowing, assimilating and excreting are methods by which bodies of different species fundamentally and profoundly engage with each other.’

‘Plants chemically communicate as a result of being digested by people’.



Communication.

Ayahuasca: “Illustrates how eating plants forms a relationship that is materially enacted within people’s bodies because of the extraordinary hallucinations it produces and the conclusions people have reached about them.”

“Plants can send chemical messages and create outcomes both interorganismically and metaorganismically”...

And so in the case of B. Caapi, these chemically induced hallucinations are an example of the plants’ vocabulary, capable of crossing the ‘species boundaries’.



Communication.

Monica Gagliano says that she has received Yoda-like advice from trees and shrubbery. She recalls being rocked like a baby by the spirit of a fern. She has ridden on the back of an invisible bear conjured by an osha root. She once accidentally bent space and time while playing the ocarina, an ancient wind instrument, in a redwood forest. “Oryngham,” she says, means “thank you” in plant language. These interactions have taken place in dreams, visions, songs and telekinetic interactions, sometimes with the help of shamans or ayahuasca.

Dr Monica Gagliano.

“This is part of the repertoire of human experiences,” she said.
“We’ve been doing this forever and ever, and are still doing this.”



Why Communicate?

Attala suggests that B. Caapi actively benefits from being hallucinogenic, as these properties may have developed as part of an evolutionary strategy, encouraging cultivation by humans and therefore the plants survival and growth.

“B. Caapi is a hungry feeder.”

B. Caapi has no notable nutritional value and is noted as having an exceptionally bitter taste.

The plants’ body may advertise its properties physically, with its notably snake-like, vine form.

People who frequently use Ayahuasca claim that the induced hallucinations are conversation with the plants made visible.



‘Access to the answers of life’s mystery’.

‘Tangible open-eyed visualizations’.



‘Health instructions and healing’.

‘Teaching Humans ‘How-To-Be’.



‘Ayahuasca may allow you to “know too much”.

Shamans warn the plant’s ability to occupy your body can harm or even kill you.

Thoughts?

Time & Place: The 'Global-North' has its biases and tendency towards one singular 'correct' system of knowledge, with an emphasis on science. Neuro-Chemists would simplify experiences encountered through B. Caapi as malfunctioning or misfiring neuro-chemistry. This is not necessarily the thinking where B. Caapi grows in abundance, harvested, cultivated and engaged with for thousands of years.

Perhaps plants such as B. Caapi DO communicate with us intentionally as a means of evolutionary strategy- it is our ability to place meaning and significance in the hallucinations it produces that define the experience as active communication.

Thank You For Listening!

Would you trust a plants' message?

Is it Speciesism to view plants as we do?

Is digestion a process of communication?



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