



The Centaurs of Law and Order

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The thesis framework

- **Context of reinterrogation and reexamination of human-animal relationships**
- **Thesis: the horse takes action within the work**
 - What does the work do to the horse?
 - What are the work modalities leading the horse to have interest in working with humans or put them in suffering?
 - What does the work do to the professionals ?
 - What are the work modalities leading the professional to have an interest in working with horses or put them in suffering?

Collection of data

- **To this day 94 semi-directed interviews were conducted:**
 - **Three main activity sectors** : sport / social link / draught
 - **Three types of relationship** : direct / indirect / without ties
 - **Three main themes:** nature of the relationship and its daily meaning / horses life and work conditions / perception of animal right organizations
- **Non interactive observations and filmed observations**
- **Two specific research fields**
 - Patrol horses
 - Eventing horses

Public security missions research fields

- **Specificity: security mission is not repression mission**
- **French Republican Guard**
 - Historic heritage
 - About 530 military men and civilians (450 equestrians) and 460 horses
 - 70% of the time is dedicated to law and order



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- **Municipal equestrian brigade of Tours**

- Created in 1999
- 6 agents, 6 horses



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Psychodynamics of work

- Prescribed work and real work



The horse: a professional

- **Our connections with domestic animals are first of all working relationships**
- **Recognition of an *Animal Work* (results of the research program ANR COW) :**
 - Animals are involved in work « *This investment has nothing natural nor spontaneous, it is built thanks to learning, communication, affects and by animals' intelligence and competences* » (J. Porcher).
 - Highlighted difference : affective relationship is crucial in order for animals to cooperate with humans (contrarily to human work relationship)
 - Animal takes initiative in work and is not an object constrained by domination or conditioning
- **The great diversity of work with horses makes them part of the elaboration of professional groups**

The horse: a professional

- A common core job



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- A professional training



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- The life and work conditions



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To conclude

- **The theoretic and methodological framework of social and human sciences are relevant to study work interrelationships between humans and horses**
- **Psychodynamics of work allows to analyse the agentivity and the subjective investment of horses in their work with humans**
- **The sociology of professional groups allows to consider the agentivity of the horse as a constructive element of a job core and a specific identity to the professional group**
- **The life and work conditions of horses are inseparable of those of humans**



Thank you for your
attention