

Among Us

I take great interest in the non-human creatures that dwell among us, as well as in the young. We sometimes forget that we share this world with others, and that we once experienced the world from a completely different perspective. How we treat and relate to these alternate forms of life, who live in our midst but experience consciousness of an entirely different order, may reveal a great deal about us.

Even if, as the philosopher Thomas Nagle argued, we cannot know what it is like to be a bat, photographs captured through a mechanical device operated by a human being may be capable of revealing (somewhat paradoxically) what it is like to be a person. (If only bats could photograph . . .).