

Vegan Reading(s)

An open discussion of Critical Vegan methodologies, led by members of the proposed EAAS (2026) conference session: [Sune Borkfelt](#), [Aïcha Bouchelaghem](#), [Deborah Madsen](#), [Ho'esta Mo'e'hahne](#), [Yagmur Su Kolsal](#), and [Burak Sezer](#).

ABSTRACT

What do we do when we read “veganly”? Is a critical vegan methodology intrinsic, extrinsic, or both? That is to ask: is there something “in” a text that makes it available to a vegan reading? For instance, as we found in our recent collective review of [*Vegetarianism and Veganism in Literature from the Ancients to the Twenty-First Century*](#) by [Theophilus Savvas](#), he focuses overwhelmingly on *characters* that practice vegetarianism or veganism, suggesting that a “vegan” reading of narrative depends upon vegan characterization. Alternatively, are there particular discursive configurations – destabilizing the normativity of carnism, for example – that typify a “vegan” text? Or is vegan reading an extrinsic methodology that can be brought to any text at all, regardless of the orientations of the author or characters? Or is Critical Vegan Studies able to embrace both modes of analytical engagement? Through a range of case studies these issues are explored by the papers proposed for a double panel session at the [2026 EAAS conference](#) that will take place in Bologna in September 2026, which we will take for a preliminary outing to initiate discussion in our next webinar.