By placing animality at the center of his thematic universe, Claude Simon (Nobel Prize for Literature 1985) depicts it as a core component of either intimate human relations or global human interactions and conflict. One of the most captivating aspects of this theme addresses the transformations that human beings undergo in particularly violent circumstances (wars, revolutions, etc.). Becoming cognizant of the futility of scholarly knowledge and the failure of reasoning in a chaotic world turned upside down by human-induced violence, humans adopt purely instinctive attitudes in order to escape imminent dangers. While ensuring the individuals’ survival, this reaction also plunges human beings into a process identified by Deleuze and Guattari as “becoming-animal,” which operates an alliance between the human and animal spheres. In this talk I set out to explore some of the implications of becoming-animal, notably as they pertain to and influence other key notions such as temporality, marginality, and the historical event.

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