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## On the Complexity of Conceptual Animal Metaphors in Queer Speech

Jarrett Hopewell

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# On the Complexity of Conceptual Animal Metaphors in Queer Speech

Jarrett Hopewell | February 28, 2020 | UM GradCon

\*Some viewers might experience discomfort due to the content and language of some images.\*

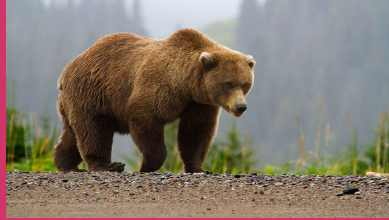
# Roadmap

- Introduction
- Previous Research
- My Research Goals
- *Bear, Pig, and Otter*
- The *Bear* and *Otter* Contrast
- Proposal of Animal Metaphor Subgroups
- The *Wolf* Exception
- Summary
- Greater Impacts

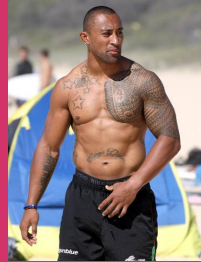
# Conceptual Metaphor Theory

- Conceptual metaphor refers to the understanding of an abstract concept in terms of a concrete source. (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980)
- TIME IS MONEY (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980: 7-8)
  - You are **wasting** my time
  - You need to **budget** your time
  - I've **invested** a lot of time in this project

# What do these animals conceptualize?



# Types of queer community members



# Samardžić (2015)

- Analyzes animal terms as a conceptual metaphor that categorizes types of queer community members
- Observes but does not describe inconsistencies in the metaphor
  - Visual similarities between animal and person
  - Behavioral similarities between animal and person

PEOPLE ARE ANIMALS

QUEERS ARE ANIMALS

# My Research Goals

- Investigate these inconsistencies through the lens of conceptual metaphor theory.
  - What patterns exist?
  - What generalizations can be made?
- Data consists of animal metaphors from publicly available social media sources.
  - Grindr
  - Growlr
  - Scruff

# *Bear*


A **mid-aged, hairy** individual with a **large, stocky build**. They are typically, though not necessarily, the defined image of masculinity


(\_Evannn, 2017)



# Bear

🐻 🦘 🐼 = ❤️ 43




 **UNLOCK**  
▶ 00:05

😞 + 🍺 = 😊    😞 + 🍦 = 😊    😞 + ☕ = 😊  
😞 + 🚽 = 😊    😞 + 🧑 = 😊    😞 + 🍸 = 😊  
😞 + 🙈 = 😊    😞 + 🌹 = ❤️    😞 + 🍆 = 😊  
🍆 + 🍆 = ...?

< **Bear Daddy**  
• Online now

Dom total top. Not looking to kiss, cuddle, or snuggle. Looking for a hungry sub btm who enjoys being f\*cked long, hard, deep, and without mercy. Safe only. Also: I will not send a face picture -- do not contact me if you expect one.

Height	6'2"
Weight	250 lbs
Ethnicity	White
Body Type	Large
Gender	Man 
Position	Top
Tribes	Daddy



# *Pig*


Someone who wants to **have sex all the time**. They typically enjoy “**dirty**”, kinky **sex**.


(Koymasky, 2013)





# Pig






  27






 UNLOCK  
▶ 00:05

You must be this tall |-----9"-----|  
To mount this ride 

Gender	Queer	
Position	Bottom	
Tribes	Trans	

      ?



☆Bottom  
Lookin for hung top  
21y and up

Height	5' 11"
Weight	175 lb
Body Type	Average
Position	Bottom

# Otter

Someone that has a **slim** or even slightly athletic body and typically has a lot of **facial and body hair**.


(\_Evannn, 2017)



# Otter

## Otterhands 🙌

● Online 3 hours ago, 1,338 mi away



---

**I am**


Jock, Muscle, Leather, Otter

---

**I am into**

Bears, Jocks, Muscle, Daddies, Otters

## Mustachio 🦊



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29 years old, Single  
White, 5' 8", 150 lb, Hairy

---

**I am**

Jock, Chaser, Guy Next Door, Otter

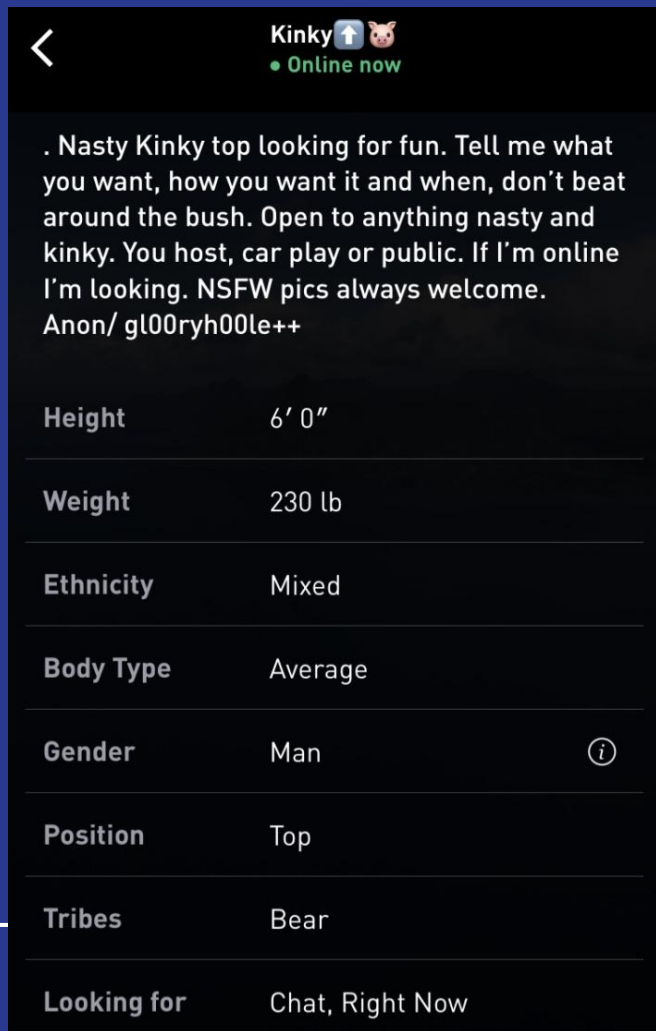
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**I am into**

Bears, Jocks, Muscle, Daddies, Otters

Self-identification as  
both *bear* and *pig*

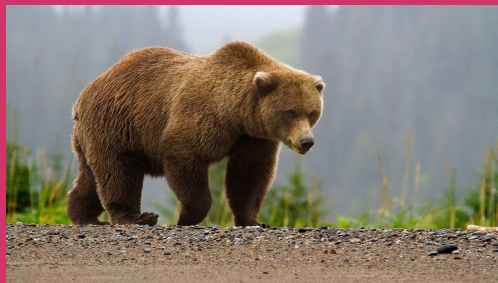
No self-identification  
as both *bear* and  
*otter*



# One-Way Mapping Source → Target

Source Domain

Target Domain



-slim  
+hairy  
-young

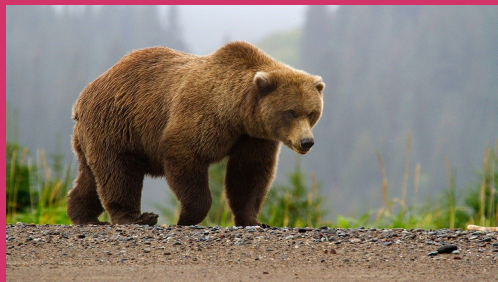


+dirty



# One-Way Mapping Source → Target

Source Domain



**-*slim***  
**+hairy**  
**-young**



Target Domain



***+slim***  
**+hairy**



# *Bear and Otter* are Contrastive

- *Bear* and *otter* encode features of **physical appearance**
- *Pig* encodes features of **sexual energy**

---

# Subgroups of Animal Metaphors

## Physical Appearance

*Bear*  
*Otter*  
*Chicken*†  
*Wolf*  
*Bull*  
*Cub*  
*Rat*  
*Bunny*

## Partner Relation

*Hawk*†  
*Chicken*†  
*Wolf*  
*Pup*  
*Lamb*†

## Sexual Energy

*Pig*  
*Wolf*  
*Pup*

# Exceptions

Physical Appearance	Partner Relation	Sexual Energy
<i>Bear</i> <i>Otter</i>	<i>Hawk</i> <sup>†</sup>	
<i>Chicken</i> <sup>†</sup>	<i>Chicken</i> <sup>†</sup>	<i>Pig</i>
<i>Wolf</i>	<i>Wolf</i>	<i>Wolf</i>
<i>Bull</i> <i>Cub</i> <i>Rat</i> <i>Bunny</i>	<i>Pup</i> <i>Lamb</i> <sup>†</sup>	<i>Pup</i>

# The *Wolf* Exception

## Wolfie



36 years old, Single

Multi-Racial, 5' 9", 185 lb, Very Hairy

### I am






Muscle, Leather, Geek, Daddy, Queer







### I am into

Jocks, Muscle, Leather, Daddies, Guys Next Door

  's     !!!

Single and enjoying life!

That being said, I do have an amazing Alpha in  who's been my rock over the last year.    

I'm also fortunate to have a loving bondage MASTER in  who has shown me a tame side of myself I never thought possible. Collared and locked for bondage only! Checkout  on Twitter to see his work, and some of me...    

# The *Wolf* Exception



→

- +muscle
- +hairy
- +aggressive
- +dominant

→



# Summary: Potentially Encoded Features

## Physical Appearance

$\pm$ slim  
 $\pm$ hairy  
 $\pm$ young  
 $\pm$ muscle

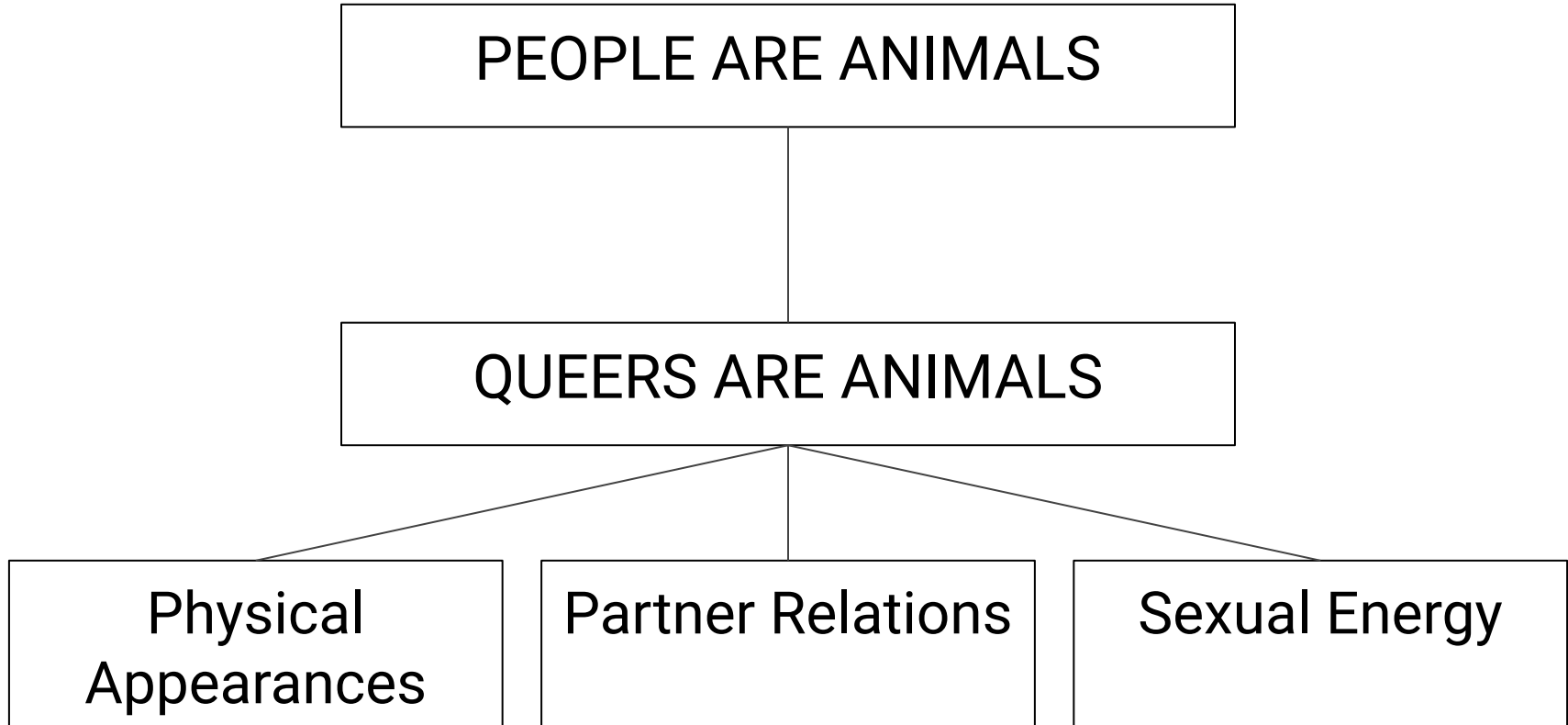
## Partner Relation

$\pm$ dominant

## Sexual Energy

$\pm$ dirty  
 $\pm$ playful  
 $\pm$ aggressive

# Summary: Generic to Specific Metaphorical Levels



# Greater Impacts

- QUEERS ARE ANIMALS encodes a conceptual understanding of the human experience through the lens of the queer community.
- There is an inherent relationship between conceptual metaphor and culture.  
(Kövecses, 2010)
  - “We can see the relationship is not that of one dominant over the other, but that of mutual promotion and constraint.” (Yuanqiong, 2009)
- We might infer certain components of a culture by analyzing the conceptual metaphors found in the language of that culture.

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