My research focuses on the function of animals in Cormac McCarthy’s fiction. This presentation will specifically look at the mythical frames structuring horses in McCarthy’s 1992 publication *All the Pretty Horses*. I'll explore how in the text horses are ensconced within certain fantasies that serve human purpose. I'll then make the argument that through the use of affective-performances, horses are able to bleed through mythical frameworks to disrupt and unsettle the narrative desires of both characters and readers. This study stems from the emerging interest in Animal Studies as a critical approach to interpreting cultural and literary works.