At the Fourth Annual Addison Lecture, at Guy’s Hospital on July 13, 1950, Dr George Corner, embryologist and keen investigator of the menstrual cycle, advocated the importance of experiments on monkeys in order to explore the biological processes of menstruation in women. He declared that the ‘study of other menstruating animals has aided and stimulated investigation of the human cycle’. Further research on understanding menstruation ‘calls for continual experimental work on monkeys’ (Corner, 1951:921). For Corner, and many other reproductive scientists at the time, monkeys mattered. They were the *sine qua non* of menstrual science. This lecture gives us a chance to discuss (lip-smack, pout and grunt at) the construction of gendered dualisms by endocrinological science in mid-twentieth century Britain. Consequently, allowing us to address how the study of hormones informed the understanding of menstruation in women and nonhuman animals. We will explore and analyse these historically contingent bodily transmutations using Carol J Adams’ (2015) notion of the Absent Referent. This is a lecture of nonhumanity as much as it is a feminist analysis of the past.

**Required Reading**


**Lecture based on following publication:**