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Gender, Heritage, and Tourism: Posthumanist Investigation into Human-Equine Relations at the Rodeo

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Title: Gender, Heritage, and Tourism: Posthumanist Investigation into Human-Equine Relations at the Rodeo

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Abstract:

Viewed through a posthumanist lens, this research explores the relationships and wellbeing of humans and horses within tourism-related spaces. Focusing on a case study of the Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo in Austin, Texas, qualitative methods have been employed in the form of semi-structured interviews with key event stakeholders as well as in-depth ethnographic approaches. It is evident within this research how the boundaries or significant differences between humans and horses are challenged by the fluidity and interconnectedness of both species in Rodeo's performance spaces through increased knowledge, skill, and companionship, which has a positive impact on the wellbeing of both horses and humans as well as the sustainability of animal-related tourist experiences.