**PREVIEW\_ Nick Mailer - Presentation (Breckenridge 2018) 2**

**Nick Mailer:** Notice that an interesting problem that for both Hobbes and Rousseau nature is something from which we somehow get separated and culture somewhat derives from nature but isn't of nature.

So nature has created something that's not natural somehow which is kind of odd and needs to be accounted for. And in a way for Hobbes nature wasn't so beastly that didn't give us a solution to itself and for Rousseau nature wasn't so perfect that it could be corrupted, so you know, there are interesting little paradoxes.

And we see those sorts of paradoxes pop up in our discussions. Now what is the natural gut biome? Why does it demand such careful tending? Is this a Rousseau problem or a Hobbes one? And what about those germ-free mice that Amber O'Hearn has written about that seem to be quite happy and live long lives without their oldest friends?

So we do have to kind of beware of just-so stories. Sometimes we want to tell ourselves tales about where we fit into nature and indeed you'll enjoy this one that Rousseau told. He said, "The indifference of children towards meat is one proof that the taste of meat is unnatural; their preference is for vegetable foods such as milk, pastry, fruits etc.

Beware of changing this natural taste and making children flesh-eaters, if not for their health's sake, for the sake of their character, for how can one explain away the fact that great meat eaters are usually fiercer and more cruel than other men; this has been recognized at all places and in all times..."

So there you go. You are very cruel nasty people. And it's very interesting to see again in my AHS, how far back that notion of meat-eating being a corrupting and violent force is. The veganism isn't a 20th century philosophy at all.