

Australian Animal Studies Group

*News Bulletin * Issue 7, March 2010*

National News

ASSG name change

Readers will notice that the [Animals and Society Study Group \(Australia\)](#) now has a **new name** that better reflects current ideas and word usage. This will be the title used in the future on the Bulletin, on our new website, and in the titles of conferences associated with the Group.

AASG Website

Quotes for the development and design of the new website have been received and assessed. [Zest Media](#), a New Zealand-based web design company has been chosen to take on the job of establishing the site under the guidance of [Natalie Edwards](#) with input from [Carol Freeman](#) and the committee - [Siobhan O'Sullivan](#), [Yvette Watt](#), [Rod Bennison](#), and new member [Leah Burns](#) (Griffith University).

The website will contain pages that focus on the history of the Group and the research projects of its members, include facilities to join and/or donate, and a What's On page. Initially, it will mirror the content of past Bulletins, including items such as exhibitions, conferences and other events, but concentrate on static information of long-term interest. It will include details about funding opportunities, academic courses, scholarships and fellowships and other resources for advancing the field of human-animal studies.

In the future, it is hoped the site will also offer a forum for discussing and debating the many vital issues relating to animal studies, particularly in Australia. The website should be accessible by the time the next issue of the Bulletin is out, so watch this space for more details

Proposed ARC Centre of Excellence in Animal Studies

Unfortunately, the expression of interest lodged by Murdoch University to establish an Australian [ARC Centre of Excellence in Animal Studies](#) was unsuccessful. It is intended that further applications will be made in the future.

Minding Animals II

It is now confirmed that the second Minding Animals conference will be held in Utrecht, The Netherlands, in July 2012. Host for the conference will be the Ethics Institute of Utrecht University. Titled "[Minding Animals International 2: Building Bridges among the Sciences, Humanities and Advocacy](#)", the event promises to be an exciting development from the first Minding Animals conference in Newcastle. For details as they come to hand see <http://www.mindinganimals.com/>

AASG Discussion Group

Would you like to join the Group's yahoo discussion group? If so, please send a message to the following email address: asasg-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.au

Regional News

New South Wales

[Global Animal: An Animal Studies Conference](#) will be held at the [University of Wollongong](#) on the 27th and 28th of September, 2010. See Conferences section in this Bulletin for details.

Positions Vacant:

- Research Fellow, University of Technology, Sydney.

The Institute for Sustainable Futures at UTS is currently seeking a researcher who will conduct research to support a new UTS initiative: the [Kangaroo Think Tank](#). The Think Tank aims to reconnect the Australian community to kangaroos in a sustainable landscape, promote the wellbeing of kangaroo populations, and explore non-lethal management methods.

Submissions close 30 March, 2010. [Full details and to apply online](#)

- Full-time Administration Officer at Voiceless: The Animal Protection Institute

[Voiceless](#) is seeking a 'details person' - an enthusiastic and professional administration whiz to join our busy team in Sydney.

Applications close 7 April. For the full job description and info about how to apply: http://www.voiceless.org.au/Taking_Action/Recruitment/Employment_Opportunity_Administration_Officer.html

Victoria

Did you know about the [Art and Environmental Research Cluster](#) at RMIT University?

This transdisciplinary research group focus on such key areas as: [human-animal relations](#); climate change and [species loss](#); the city and globalization; the body and the material foundations of subjectivity; and the imagery and poetics of nature. The study of the social relations between cultural practices and science and technology, along with critiques of consumption are also fields aligned with this research cluster.

Visit their website, currently being updated:

<http://www.rmit.edu.au/art/artandenvironmentalsustainability>

See [Groups, Courses and Networks](#) for news about [Siobhan O'Sullivan's](#) fellowship with the Animals and Society Institute, USA.

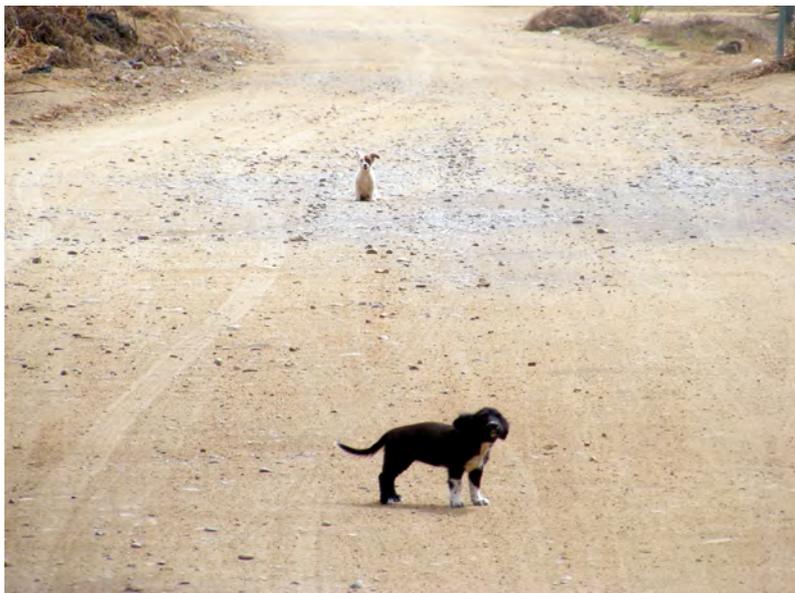
Queensland

An organizing committee with members from [Griffith University](#) and [University of Queensland](#) are progressing with their plans for a [fourth Australian Animal Studies Group](#) (formerly Animals & Society Australia Study Group) [conference in Brisbane in 2011](#). This event will continue the support for innovative and inclusive approaches to animal studies that has been the hallmark of our previous conferences in Perth, Hobart and Newcastle. Seed funding has been received from the Environmental Futures School at Griffith University and tentative date of 11-14 July, 2011 has been set, with Southbank (Brisbane) the venue. Put it in your diaries!

Special Report: From our correspondent in Chile

When an earthquake and tsunami ravaged Chile on Saturday, 27 February, my son and his partner were staying in a small coastal town 100 kms south of Santiago. Along with concern for their welfare, I wondered about the stray dogs they had befriended on previous visits —Ed.

The Street Dogs of Pichilemu



In an old edition of a surfing magazine, the little-known town of Pichilemu in central Chile was not named directly (in order to conceal the location of this dusty little fishing village which just happens to host several world-class waves and very few surfers) but called ‘Dog Town’ after its numerous canine inhabitants. For a place with a population of around 12 000 people, there must have been a quarter again of dogs – all kinds, sizes and breeds. If you were looking for one of any description, you only needed to walk the streets to find a stray Labrador, German shepherd, collie, Staffordshire, even poodle, pure-bred or cross. Rubbish disposal is a huge problem in Chile and there is more than enough food for dogs. Also, de-sexing is not practised widely by dog owners, so the local population of pets and strays multiply quite freely. Now, after a concerted euthanasia programme by the municipality, there are far fewer dogs – only the ones lucky enough to escape the baiting and round up programme survive.

Generally, people don’t like the street dogs – although having a dog as a pet is common – but they fare far better than the animals of many similar countries. Dogs lie around the main street, outside restaurants and shops, and in the middle of quiet roads without fear of danger. Many form mini dog packs, and nearly all are friendly. Just looking at a dog will result in he or she following you home. Rather than shunning human company, many of Pichilemu’s street dogs seem to seek it out. Within a few days of our arrival, a small puppy adopted us. Clearly dying, he seemed to want to be near people. He couldn’t eat, but drank a little, constantly moving around the yard and wheezing. He was particularly enamoured of the chickens, often sleeping near the chicken coop.

He rallied a little after the first earthquake and we found him sitting up wagging his tail first thing in the morning, but it was a brief recovery. We eventually found him dead, lying quite peacefully next to the chicken coop. Although our friends have a tougher view of dogs after living in Chile for 5 years, they had let him wander their yard unrestrained and we eventually buried him in the garden.

During the earthquake, the street dogs had to fend for themselves, while family pets were generally taken with their owners who were escaping the threat of tsunami. Whole families were

crammed into utes ('pickup trucks' in America) heading for the highest hill in town with the faithful family dogs running along beside. After the first quake, Pichilemu experienced a second of 7.2 with the epicentre only 30 km away. Along with most people, we ran out of the building we were in and waited it out in the street. Even before the quake was over, the street dogs could be heard howling and seen heading straight for the hills. Packs of them gathered and ran to the highest ground they could find, while the rest of the town eventually caught on, panicked and headed *en masse* up the same hill.

In the following days, the heavier aftershocks would always be followed by a chorus of howling from the dogs of Pichilemu.

Story and pictures: Dianne Gee



Sorting clothing donations for the earthquake victims outside the Pichilemu Institute of Language Studies.

Conferences, Seminars, Festivals: Updates, international conferences and symposiums

- **Global Animal: An Animal Studies Conference**
27-28 September, 2010. University of Wollongong, NSW, Australia.

CALL FOR PAPERS

What are the implications of cultural, political and economic globalized environments and narratives for non-human animals? What issues relating to non-human animals need urgent attention? We seek papers which explore the concept 'Global Animal' in specific relation to:

- Oceanic Animal
- Diasporic Animal
- Caged and Captive Animal
- Animal Performer

- Writing Animal
- Representing Animal

We offer a peer review process for papers that are submitted in full, before the conference, by July 19th. Selected papers will be published at the University of Wollongong's 'Research Online': <http://ro.uow.edu.au/>

Selection Committee: Dr Melissa Boyde, Dr Denise Russell and Professor Amanda Lawson – University of Wollongong; Dr Natalie Edwards – Massey University, New Zealand; and Dr Rod Bennison – University of Newcastle, Australia

Deadline Friday May 7. Send abstracts of no more than 300 words together with a 100 word biographical note to: Dr Melissa Boyde boyde@uow.edu.au tel: 02 42213746

- **Living on the Edge**

4th International Conference of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture. 16-19 December, 2010. Fremantle, Western Australia

CALL FOR PAPERS

This conference will be held in association with [La Trobe University](#), Melbourne. Questions arising point to the edge as a place of transition and transformation, a launching place for change and action to counter ecological degradation and regenerate communities and ecosystems. The conference asks how human and nature ecologies are affected by the environmental crisis. It covers the variety of challenges and approaches to change – scientific, social, psychological, spiritual and cultural that emerge through living on the edge.

Through a multi-disciplinary framework of religion, nature and culture, the conference explores the relationships between people and nature, social and ecological systems, local and global economies, art and ecology, science and religion, and cultural diversity and biodiversity.

The following questions serve as guidelines for exploring the themes of 'living on the edge'. There are more of course and we'd welcome hearing about them.

1. How is living on the edge defined in a local, regional or global context?
2. What features and qualities are reflected in an environmental, social, psychological, economic and spiritual sense?
3. [Are we living on the edge of extinction? What are the tipping points?](#)
4. How do local histories and cultures distinguish living on the edge?
5. Can the 'edge' be integrated with the 'centre'? And what are the implications?
6. [How do the natural sciences deal with edge issues?](#) Do the social sciences hinder or help? Is there a meeting point?
7. [How do individuals and communities cope with the awareness of ecological deterioration?](#) Is there a relationship between social, psychological and ecological resilience?
8. Predictions of rising rates of environmentally displaced or affected people in the coming decades raise some important psycho-spiritual themes. What sorts of social and psychological distresses are anticipated? How does secularism or religiosity contribute to or alleviate these experiences?
9. How are Indigenous cultures affected and how are they effecting change?

Other important issues concerning the 'edge' may include: [the rural-urban interface](#); the sea-land interchange; the problem of water resources; the nexus between peace and warfare; dichotomy tame-wild, male-female, East-West.

Deadline for abstracts: 30 July, 2010. Please mail to issrnc2010@gmail.com.

More information: <http://www.religionandnature.com>

- **New Zealand Geographical Society Conference** with the Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG),
5-8th July 2010. Christchurch, New Zealand.

CALL FOR SESSION PAPERS: Animating Animal Geographies

Conveners: Lesley Instone, University of Newcastle and Phil McManus, University of Sydney

Animal geographies sprung to prominence in 1990s as a lively and innovative area of contemporary geographical enquiry. More recently animal geographies are pursuing new theoretical engagements in more-than-human geographies (eg Whatmore) and 'new' animal biographies (eg Lorimer) and exploring the human-nonhuman entanglement of places and spaces. Questions of [animal agency](#), [hybridity](#), [representation](#), [human/animal practices](#), [affect](#), and [co-constitution](#) animate these animal geographies in a range of urban, rural and 'wild' settings and across a range of scales.

This session invites contributions across all facets of [animal geographies](#), including but not limited to:

- * Relational spaces of human/nonhuman-animal engagement
- * Questions of animal agency, presences and intersubjectivity
- * Companion species and new forms of consumption
- * Urban animal geographies of wildness and domesticity
- * Borders and boundary crossings in human-animal relations
- * The place and presence of animals in agro-food and agricultural practices
- * The engagements of animal geographies with posthumanist, postcolonial, and (post)environmental enquiry
- * Climate change and animal lives and spaces
- * The places and spaces of animals at work
- * The entanglement of humans and animals in daily life

For the purposes of this session, animals can include insects, birds, fish, reptiles, wildlife, domestic animals, farm and production animals, working animals involved in industrial and service roles, and more.

Session sponsored by the Cultural Geography Study Group of the IAG.

Please submit title, author/s, affiliation/s, 200 word abstract, and up to four keywords to Lesley Instone, lesley.instone@newcastle.edu.au and Phil McManus, phil.mcmanus@sydney.edu.au

Deadline: 1st April 2010.

Details of conference: <http://www.nzgs2010.org.nz/>

- **Animal(s) Matter(s): The Future of Critical Animal Studies**
23 April, 2010. University of Liverpool

This day conference will bring academics and activists together to consider future ways of addressing the radical implications of critical work on understanding and dealing with other species and discuss interspecies relations, cultures, and systems of domination.

Speakers: Alistair Currie (PETA); Professor Celia Deane-Drummond (Chester and CAFOD); Jasmijn de Boo (Animals Count); Professor Robert Garner (Leicester); Dr Simon James (Durham); Dr Dan Lyons (Uncaged Campaigns); Dr Karen Morgan (Cardiff); Dr Anat Pick (UEL); Dr Richard Twine (Lancaster); Dr Richard White (Sheffield Hallam).

Full speaker information and programme:

http://www.liv.ac.uk/philosophy/events/conferences/animals_matter/programme.htm

To register: [Registration Form](#).

For further details contact srlclark@liverpool.ac.uk at the Department of Philosophy, University of Liverpool. Please let us know if accommodation is needed on either the night of April 22nd or April 23rd. With enough advance notice, we may be able to arrange a conference **discount** at a local hotel.

This conference is sponsored by the [Institute for Critical Animal Studies](#), the Society for [Applied Philosophy, the Mind Association](#), and the [Department of Philosophy at the University of Liverpool](#)

- **Veterinary Medicine and Literature Symposium**

9-11 May, 2010. Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Ontario

An international symposium on the use of [fiction](#), [essays](#) and [poetry](#) in veterinary medicine.

Topics include how literature can:

- Enrich relationships among veterinarians, animal owners and animals
- Create the opportunity for reflection in the veterinary curriculum
- Facilitate talking about difficult topic
- Renew a sense of purpose and joy in veterinary practice

The symposium features talks by and discussions with scholars, veterinarians, poets and writers.

Co-sponsored by the [Society for Veterinary Society and Literature](#)

For any students interested in attending the symposium scholarship opportunities are available. Please email vetlit@uoguelph.ca for more details.

For more information and online registration: <http://www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/conferences/vetlit/>

- **Animal Movements – Moving Animals**

A Symposium on [direction](#), [velocity](#) and [agency](#) in [humananimal encounters](#)
27-28 May, 2010. Uppsala University, Sweden

In recent years [Animal Studies](#) has underlined the significance of animals in human lives. The encounters are infinite and variable ranging from the mundane to the remarkable, the obvious to the unobserved, the euphoric to the dystopian. However, encounters are not static, and recent work has highlighted how important movement is to [humananimal relations](#), be it the conflicts arising as conservation species cross the imperceptible boundaries or very real fences of conservation areas or the 'socio-economic benefits' of an egg from a hen that can range free.

Furthermore each encounter has its own pace; in agriculture the rate at which animals are raised creates competing discourses of 'good meat' and speed infuses the ethical discussions in biotechnology. Equally animals are caught up in the globalised networks of production and consumption which materially and discursively circulate animals and their body parts as currency, capital or commodities. Consequentially, movement affects human imaginings of animals and shapes political ideologies. Thus direction, velocity and how various power relations converge to enable or prevent movement is fundamental to understandings of humananimal encounters. Therefore in this symposium we want to further such debates by bringing together current work on animal mobility and movement.

[Keynote Speakers:](#)

Henry Buller is Professor of Rural Geography at Exeter. His research examines the dynamics of production and consumption within the context of nature, rurality and food.

Professor Nigel Rothfels, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, is an historian and author of several important books, including *Representing animals* (2002) and *Savages and Beasts: The Birth of the modern Zoo* (2002).

PhD Bryndis Snaebjörndottir is an artist and researcher and co-editor of the book *Nanoq: Flat Out and Bluesome - A Cultural Life of Polar Bears* (2006).

Registration deadline: May 1 (Abstract submission closed!)

For more information see:

http://www.genna.gender.uu.se/Animals/Events/Animal_Movements_Moving_Animals/

For questions regarding registration: conference@gender.uu.se

- **Animal Rights 2010**
15-19 July, 2010. Washington DC

Animal Rights 2010 is the US animal rights movement's annual national conference. It is a forum for sharing experience, reporting on progress, discussing tactics, networking & "recharging our batteries." It brings the movement together under the banner of animal liberation from all forms of human oppression. All viewpoints that support this goal are welcome (except for advocacy of injury).

The four-day program features nearly 100 presenters from more than 60 organizations and several countries, representing virtually all sectors of the US movement. They appear in eight Plenary Sessions, 50 Workshops, 30 Campaign Reports, and 7 Rap Sessions. Other program elements include: Exhibits, Videos, Newcomer Orientation, Group Workouts, Strategy Meetings, Networking Receptions, Awards, and musical entertainment.

This year's program retains its traditional structure, while introducing new elements, such as presentations by leaders of other social justice movements, reports from the whale wars in Antarctica, and consequences of global warming for animals.

The daytime workshops are configured along three concurrent tracks: *Issues, Organizing, Remedies*. The Issues track covers various types of animal abuses and the underlying issues (best for newcomers). The Organizing track guides improvements in personal and organizational effectiveness. The Remedies track addresses campaign strategies and outreach to various constituencies. Each hour, you choose the session that best fits your needs and interests. Rap Sessions and Campaign Reports engage participants in debates about controversial issues and current campaigns. Videos documenting animal abuses are shown concurrently and may include a guest speaker. The conference includes exhibits of movement merchandise, educational materials, compassionate shopping and delicious vegan treats.

To Register visit: <http://www.arconference.org/registration.htm>

For more details: <http://www.arconference.org/index.htm>

- **Compassionate Conservation: Animal Welfare in Conservation Practice**
An International Symposium. 1-3 September, 2010. University of Oxford.

The Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) and the Born Free Foundation are delighted to announce an International Symposium on animal welfare in conservation practice, to be held at Oxford.

The Symposium will bring together scientists and practitioners from a range of disciplines to debate animal welfare issues in conservation, examine potential synergies, look for practical outcomes and promote a dialogue between these two disciplines that are often perceived as mutually exclusive.

The Symposium will be organized around the following themes:

- Animal welfare in field conservation
- Captive animal welfare and conservation
- Conservation consequences of wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and release
- International trade in live wild animals

The Symposium will be of interest to academics and graduates in conservation biology, animal welfare and animal ethics, as well as conservation and animal welfare organisations and practitioners.

The participation has been secured of many of the world leading authorities in important topics, including Robert Atkinson (RSPCA, UK), Marc Bekoff (University of Colorado, USA), David Fraser (University of British Columbia, Canada), Stuart Harrop (University of Kent, UK), Bidda Jones (RSPCA, Australia), David Macdonald (University of Oxford, UK), Georgia Mason (University of Guelph, Canada), Fiona Matthews (University of Exeter, UK), and Will Travers (Born Free Foundation, UK).

Registration opens from 15th March.

More information: <http://www.compassionateconservation.org/>

- **Bloodlines: Portraying the American Animal**
20-22 October, 2010. Richmond, Virginia

CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers are invited examining the [portrayal of animals](#) in any period or media of [American art](#). Animal painting has deep historical roots, most prominently through equestrian and canine portraiture, but these works occupy a neglected position within criticism and scholarship, particularly American examples. To redress this problem, we seek proposals on American objects and makers and on the American reception of works from other nations.

By the nineteenth century, animal painting had undergone a transformation of status, often functioning like history painting to engage spectators in complicated social questions. This tension between likeness and narrative, between the animal's individuality and its historical or cultural significance, coincides with period concern for the opposition between science and sentiment. How does art participate in the romanticization, commodification, and/or mechanization of animals? To what extent is a depiction of a pet or animal celebrity about the subject/sitter, versus a tool for self-fashioning by the owner or artist? In an American context, do these works carry a darker or more visceral energy, speaking to boundaries between civilization and wilderness, between society and savagery?

We encourage in particular proposals which move beyond questions of biography and iconography through [new and interdisciplinary methodological approaches](#). Please submit abstracts (maximum 200 words) using the Paper Proposal Form found here: <http://www.secollegeart.org/annual-conference.html>

Deadline: Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Please send paper proposal forms to: Crawford Alexander Mann III. (Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design & Yale University), crawford.mann@gmail.com or Mary Peterson Zundo (University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign), Maryzundo@aol.com

- **Oceans Past III**

History of Marine Animal Populations Program.
18-20 November, 2010. Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.

Themes:

- New evidence of historical change in marine animal populations and ecosystems
- Data management, modelling and visualization in marine historical ecology
- Linking history and science to policy and management
- Stories from the Sea: narratives, perceptions and representations of marine animal
- Interaction between human and marine animal communities – long term changes and economic priorities

Registration details and more information: <http://hmapcoml.org/oceanspast/>

(Call for Papers closed!)

- **Sex, Gender, Species**

February 25 & 26, 2011. Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut

CALL FOR PAPERS

The growing field of [animal studies](#) has turned critical attention to the real conditions and stakes of human-animal relations. It has also become a new and important focus for debates over identity and difference that have embroiled academic theory over the past quarter century. Recent scholarship on [animal otherness](#) as well as discussions of how to traverse boundaries of difference often draws upon a history of feminist theory and practice even as this borrowing remains unacknowledged. The purpose of this conference is to foreground the relations between feminist and animal studies and to examine the real and theoretical problems that are central to both fields of inquiry.

Possible topics might include, but are not limited to:

- gendered ethics and the politics of animal rights discourse and activism
- queering the animal
- animals and "nature"/ animals in "culture"
- violence against women and violence against animals
- material feminism and companion species
- pet love and the boundaries of kin, kind, and sex
- technologies of seeing or the gaze of/on sex and species
- otherness, empathy, and animal care ethics
- the woman and the animal - pitfalls and strategies of essentialism.

Abstracts are being solicited for papers that can be presented in 30 minute time slots. Selected presenters will receive a \$1000 honorarium to cover travel expenses. An invitation is extended for submissions of versions of presented papers for a special issue of *Hypatia* on Animal Others. For more information go to: http://depts.washington.edu/hypatia/cfps.html#animal_others

Abstract Submission deadline: October 1, 2010

Submission guidelines: Please email a 1-2 page (500 -750 word) abstract for your proposed paper to lgruen@wesleyan.edu and Kweil@wesleyan.edu

Groups, Institutes and Networks: Courses, fellowships, awards, membership

Australian Museum

Eureka Prize for Research that Contributes to Animal Protection

Sponsored by [Voiceless](#), the Eureka Prize for Scientific Research that Contributes to Animal Protection is awarded to an individual or team for scientific research that has contributed, or has the potential to contribute, to animal protection.

Research for the \$10 000 award could come from a wide range of scientific disciplines, including:

- Scientific research that reduces or eliminates the use of animals or animal products in [laboratory-based research, education and testing](#) - for example:
 - research into the development, testing, application and validation of alternatives to the use of animals or animal products for scientific or teaching purposes
 - research that supports efforts to reduce the numbers of animals used through better experimental design, or that refines procedures so that the suffering of animals is minimised.
- Scientific research that reduces suffering of wild animals - including [native animals, pest species or feral animals](#) - for example:
 - research into non-lethal management of over-populated or feral species.
 - research into the effects of hunting or poisoning on animal welfare
 - research into the development of systems to manage disease in populations of native animals (eg for instance, in relation to the treatment of sarcoptic mange in wombats or the facial tumour disease affecting Tasmanian devils)
- Scientific research that reduces suffering of [farm animals](#) - for example:
 - research into the effects of factory farming (intensive farming) on animals' physical or psychological well-being such as mutilations without pain relief, solitary confinement, confinement indoors etc.
- Research that addresses [community values, attitudes or behaviour](#) towards animals or animal protection.
- Scientific research in other applicable fields including, inter alia, [biomedical science, medicine, pharmacy, veterinary sciences and psychology](#).

Research entered in this prize should be consistent with the ethos of Voiceless; a world in which animals are treated with respect and compassion. Further information about Voiceless can be found at <http://www.voiceless.org.au>

Entries close 7 May , 2010.

For judging criteria, conditions of entry and how to enter see :

<http://eureka.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka-prize/research-that-contributes-to-animal-protection2>

Animals and Society Institute

[Siobhan O'Sullivan](#), from the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne, has been selected to participate in the [2010 Human-Animal Studies Fellowship](#) run by the Animals & Society Institute. Each year six academics are accepted into the program, and in 2010 they will be based at Clark University, Massachusetts, USA. The program runs from May 24th until July 2nd. During that time all participants will work intensely on an animal related project.

In Siobhan's case she will be working on her book *Animals, Equality and Democracy* which will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2011. Congratulations Siobhan!

Margo de Mello is looking for examples of human-animal studies research that has led to (or potentially can or should lead to) policy changes. Can folks send examples of either your own work or the work of others that has (or again, can have) very direct real world implications?

margo@animalsandsociety.org or margo@rabbit.org

Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics

The Ferrater Mora Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics

Pioneering ethical perspectives on animals through academic research, teaching, and publication. The Centre aims to break new ground for the animals, put ethical concern for animals on the intellectual agenda, and contribute to an enlightened public debate about animals. They believe that the rational case for animals is frequently understated within academia and misrepresented in the media.

Their aim is to create a world-wide association of academics from all disciplines who want to pioneer ethical perspectives on animals. They intend to create a new intellectual force – a select Fellowship – composed of accomplished academics able to make the ethical case for animals.

If you are an academic with a record of research or publication in animal ethics, or someone involved in professional work with animals, the Centre invites you to ask one of your colleagues to nominate you so that you can be considered for appointment as a Fellow or an Associate Fellow. The Centre is just beginning. They have many plans and high hopes. Please help them to realise their goals by supporting their work.

The [Oxford University Animal Ethics Society](#) is a student-led society of the University of Oxford that works closely with the Centre, but the Centre itself is independent of the University.

For the latest news about the Centre, its [Aims and Vision](#), [Animal Ethics](#), [Research](#), [Publications](#), and [Teaching](#), as well as fascinating a page on [Animals and Oxford](#), see:

<http://www.oxfordanimaethics.com/home/>

The HumAnimal Group: Gender and Animals in Research

Uppsala University

From the University's Centre for Gender Research website:

The study of [human-animal relations](#) is a fascinating but still relatively unexplored research area. One of the reasons why the social sciences and humanities in general have been reluctant in dealing with the issue is the classical nature/culture divide. While "society" consists of humans and their interaction in institutions and culture, other animals become excluded and conceptualised as "nature". The presence of animals can thereby, on the one hand, "decivilize" human activities and urban places. But on the other hand, we have a strong Western tradition of linking the treatment of other animals with degrees of civilization: the more "humane", the higher the civilisation. Put together, this points to an interesting potential openness of categories and flexibility in the understanding of humans and other animals. This potential openness creates a space for questioning taken for granted discourses and truths, and this is where the critical potential of animal studies lies.

[Mission Statement](#)

The HumAnimal group currently represents a vast diversity of disciplines and perspectives, from evolutionary biology, through sociology and pedagogy, to art history and philosophy. This is not a

mere coincidence. In line with the overall aims of GenNa, the HumAnimal group finds it an important advantage to cross over the nature/culture divide in science, also in the area of human-animal studies. Thus, interdisciplinarity is a given in the group. We believe that disciplinary and other differences, can become methodological advantages and present us with new insights, but also new questions and problems. The overall aim is to promote better understanding of human-animal relations in society, science and culture by way of exploration and analysis, to explore the critical potentials of such understanding of human-animal relations in society, science and culture, and to establish human-animal studies as a field of academic inquiry in Sweden

<http://www.genna.gender.uu.se/Animals/>

Nordic Animal Studies Network

From the Uppsala University's Centre for Gender Research website:

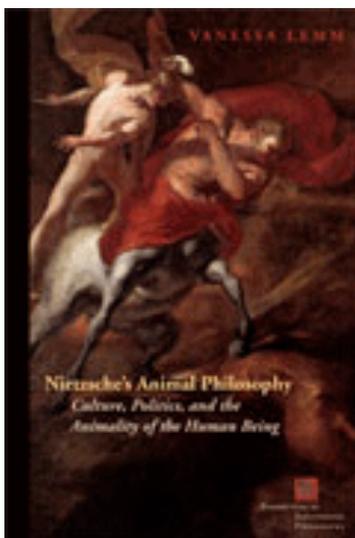
The Centre hosts the *Nordic Animal Studies Network*, [Nordic HAS](#), which is for researchers active in the field of human-animal studies. The network is intended for discussions and exchange of information regarding conferences, seminars and other academic events within the multidisciplinary area of human-animal studies and to facilitate research cooperation among its participants.

With funding from the Nordic Research Council, the first inter-disciplinary Nordic workshop on human-animal studies - *Investigating human-animal relations in science, culture and work* - was held at the Centre for Gender Research in June 9-10, 2008. Keynote speaker was Professor Lynda Birke, UK, and around 25 delegates contributed with papers and discussions. The workshop was aimed to further strengthen the Nordic network and collaborations. [A conference publication is under preparation](#), and the website will be developed further soon.

For more information about the network, please contact [Tora Holmberg](#).

New Books

NIETZSCHE'S ANIMAL PHILOSOPHY: Culture, Politics, and the Animality of the Human Being by [Vanessa Lemm](#). Fordham University Press, 2009.



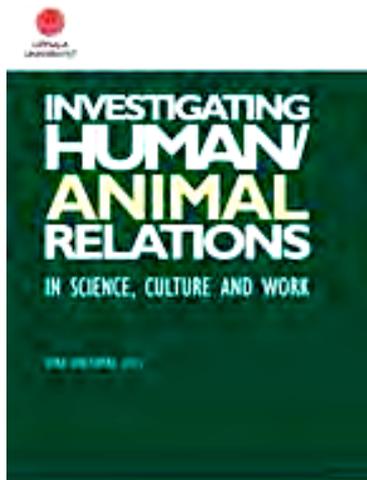
From the Fordham University Press website:

This book explores the significance of [human animality](#) in the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche and provides the first systematic treatment of the animal theme in Nietzsche's corpus as a whole. Lemm argues that the animal is neither a random theme nor a metaphorical device in Nietzsche's thought. Instead, it stands at the center of his renewal of the practice and meaning of philosophy itself. The question of the animal in Nietzsche's thought as treated by Lemm provides an original contribution to ongoing debates on the essence of humanism and its future.

The book will appeal not only to readers interested in Nietzsche but also to anyone interested in the theme of the animal in contemporary philosophy, comparative literature, cultural studies and the arts, as well as those interested in the relation between biological life and politics.

Vanessa Lemm is Associate Professor at the School for Political Science and the Institute of Humanities at the Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago de Chile. She previously taught at Northwestern University and at the European College for Liberal Arts, Berlin.

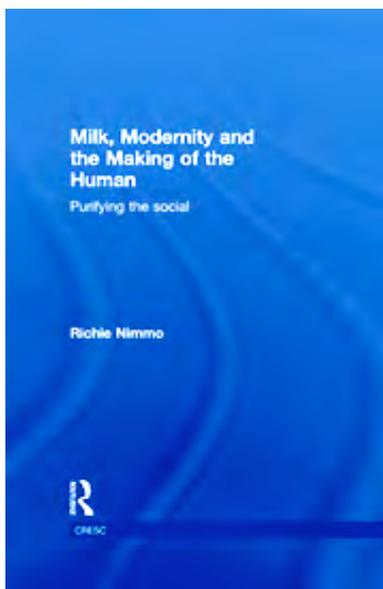
INVESTIGATING HUMAN/ANIMAL RELATIONS in Science, Culture and Work by **Tora Holmberg**, Uppsala University Press, 2009.



How can we make sense of the ambiguous and historically shifting characteristics of **human/animal relations**? How can these relations be analysed in terms of power and hierarchies intersecting with gender, race, class and nationality? This collection of essays, derived from a Nordic workshop on the matter, contributes to the growing interdisciplinary field of human/animal studies (HAS). The book contains 17 articles, divided into three sections: **Thinking with Animals**, **Animal-Human Culture** and **Scientific Animals**. All the papers included are work in progress – from ongoing or planned projects – in the shape of short contributions. This volume thus constitutes a “smörgåsbord” of lively and vivid research in the area of human/animal relations that goes on throughout the Nordic countries.

The book can be ordered by sending an e-mail to the following address: publications@gender.uu.se

MILK, MODERNITY AND THE MAKING OF THE HUMAN: Purifying the Social by **Richie Nimmo**, Routledge, 2010.



This book undertakes a critique of the pervasive notion that human beings are separate from and elevated above the nonhuman world and explores its role in the constitution of modernity.

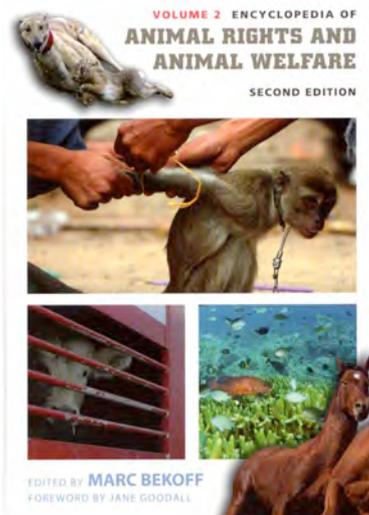
The book presents a **socio-material analysis of the British milk industry** in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It traces the dramatic development of the milk trade from a cottage industry into a modernised and integrated system of production and distribution, examining the social, economic and political factors underpinning this transformation, and also highlighting the important roles played by various nonhumans, such as microbes, refrigeration technologies, diseases, and even cows themselves. Milk as a substance posed deep social and material problems for modernity, being hard to transport and keep fresh as well as a highly fertile environment for the growth of bacteria and the transmission of diseases such as tuberculosis from cows to humans. *Milk, Modernity and the Making of the Human* demonstrates how the resulting insecurities and dilemmas posed a threat to the nature/culture divide as milk consumption grew along with urbanization, and

had therefore to be managed by emergent forms of scientific and sanitary knowledge and expertise.

Milk, Modernity and the Making of the Human is an ideal volume for any researcher interested in the hybrid socio-material, economic and political factors underpinning the transformation of the milk industry.

Dr. [Richie Nimmo](#) is a Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Manchester, UK. His research explores the ambiguous status of nonhumans in modern knowledge-practices and the constitution of 'the social' across materially heterogeneous relations, systems and flows.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ANIMAL RIGHTS AND ANIMAL WELFARE edited by [Marc Bekoff](#), Greenwood, 2009. 2nd edition.



This encyclopedia shows why both animal rights and animal welfare matter around the world. According to editor Bekoff, "Animals are in. It's the century of the animal."

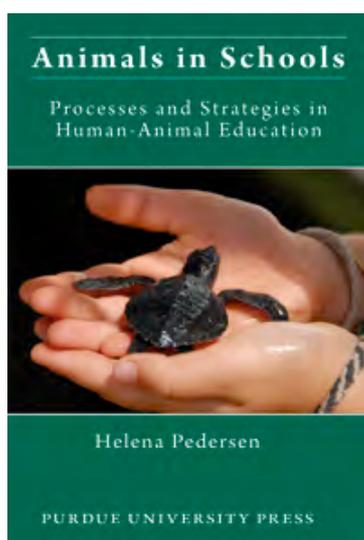
Along with his 150 contributors, he takes readers on a journey that studies the human-animal connection and our relationships, explaining the core biological, psychological, and philosophical matters in a way that is accessible both to professionals and to non-professionals. More than 200 entries are included that cover 50 or so topics ranging from activism, animal welfare, anthrozoology, companion animals, and law and animals to pain, stress, and suffering; sports; and animal and wildlife ethics. Each essay is approximately three pages long and includes an excellent list for further reading.

[Marc Bekoff](#) is an award-winning scientist, author, and professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He has published numerous

books and professional essays. Bekoff and Jane Goodall co-founded Ethologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

This 2 volume edition includes entries by [Jonathan Balcombe](#), [Marsha Baum](#), [Rod Bennison](#), [Lynda Birke](#), [Jill Bough](#), [Matt Cartmill](#), [Una Chaudhuri](#), [Juliet Clutton-Brock](#), [Carol Freeman](#), [Margo de Mello](#), [Lori Guen](#), [Dale Jamieson](#), [Andrew Linzey](#), [Tom Regan](#), [Harriet Ritvo](#), [Bernard E. Rollin](#), [James Serpell](#), [Katrina Sharman](#), [Yvette Watt](#) and many more

ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS: Processes and Strategies in Human-Animal Education by [Helena Pedersen](#), Purdue University Press, 2009.



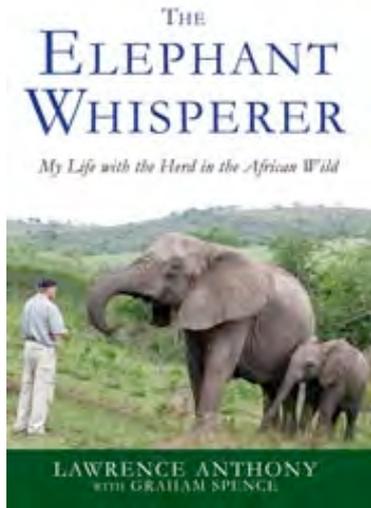
Animals in Schools explores important questions in the field of critical animal studies and education by close examination of a wide range of educational situations and classroom activities. How are human-animal relations expressed and discussed in school? How do teachers and students develop strategies to handle ethical conflicts arising from the ascribed position of animals as accessible to human control, use, and killing? How do schools deal with topics such as zoos, hunting, and meat consumption? These are questions that have profound implications for education and society. They are graphically described, discussed and rendered problematic based on detailed ethnographic research and are analyzed by means of a synthesis of perspectives from critical theory, gender and postcolonial thought.

Animals in Schools makes human-animal relations a crucial issue for pedagogical theory and practice. In the various physical and social dimensions of the school environment, a diversity of social representations of animals are produced and reproduced. These representations tell stories about human-animal boundaries and identities and bring to the fore a complex of

questions about domination and subordination, normativity and deviance, rationality and empathy as well as possibilities of resistance and change.

[Helena Pedersen](#), Ph.D. is a researcher at the School of Education, Malmö University.

THE ELEPHANT WHISPERER: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild by [Lawrence Anthony](#) with [Graham Spence](#), Thomas Dunne Books, 2009.



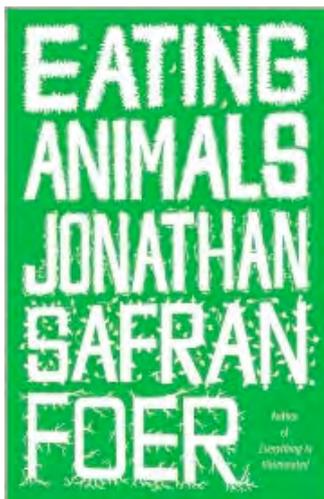
When South African conservationist [Lawrence Anthony](#) was asked to accept a herd of "rogue" wild elephants on his Thula Thula game reserve in Zululand, his common sense told him to refuse. But he was the herd's last chance of survival: they would be killed if he wouldn't take them.

In order to save their lives, Anthony took them in. In the years that followed he became a part of their family. And as he battled to create a bond with the elephants, he came to realize that they had a great deal to teach him about life, loyalty, and freedom. *The Elephant Whisperer* is a heartwarming, exciting, funny, and sometimes sad account of Anthony's experiences with these huge yet sympathetic creatures. Set against the background of life on an African game reserve, with unforgettable characters and exotic wildlife, it is a delightful book that will appeal to animal lovers and adventurous souls everywhere.

[Lawrence Anthony](#) is an acclaimed conservationist and founder of The Earth Organization. He received the UN's Earth Day award for his work in Baghdad. He lives in Zululand, South Africa.

[Graham Spence](#) is a journalist and editor. Originally from South Africa, he lives in England. Together they also wrote *Babylon's Ark: the Incredible Wartime Rescue of the Baghdad Zoo*.

EATING ANIMALS by [Jonathan Safran Foer](#), Barnes and Noble, 2009.



From the book's website:

Like many others, [Jonathan Safran Foer](#) spent his teenage and college years oscillating between omnivore and vegetarian. But on the brink of fatherhood—facing the prospect of having to make dietary choices on a child's behalf—his casual questioning took on an urgency. This quest ultimately required him to visit [factory farms](#) in the middle of the night, dissect the emotional ingredients of meals from his childhood, and probe some of his most primal instincts about right and wrong.

This book is what he found. Brilliantly synthesizing philosophy, literature, science, memoir, and his own detective work, *Eating Animals* explores the many stories we use to justify our eating habits—folklore and pop culture, family traditions and national myth, apparent facts and inherent fictions—and how such tales can lull us into a brutal forgetting.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Animals and War

Ryan Hediger, La Salle University, is editing a collection of essays from any discipline and period treating the topic of [animals and warfare](#). Dolphins in the U.S. Navy, the dogs in Vietnam, Iraq, and elsewhere, elephants, pigeons, horses, mules, and many more—millions of nonhuman animals have been subjected to and participants in human warfare. What can we learn from this often invisible history?

Sample questions to consider:

- What are the particulars of animal use and animal experience in war?
- What narrative patterns emerge in describing animals' roles in war?
- How do animals respond to warfare biologically, emotionally, and so on?
- What does the use of animals in war tell us about them and about humans?
- How can theories of biopower be informed or put to work in cases of animals and war?
- How does the use of animals in warfare affect theories and philosophies of war?
- What contradictions emerge in the use of animals in war?
- What symbolic roles have animals played in specific warfare scenarios?
- In the deterritorialized, liminal spaces of war, what new conceptions of animality and of humanity emerge?
- What ethical questions arise when animals are used in war?
- What are the challenges of representing animals in war?

Proposals are due **May 28, 2010**.

Chapter proposals should be 450 words maximum. Please include a brief CV with your proposal. Chapters will be selected by June 30, 2010. Completed chapters will be due September 3, 2010 (and should be 5000-8000 words long).

Please send proposals (as attachments) and questions to [Dr. Ryan Hediger](#) (La Salle University, English), hedigerr@lasalle.edu.

Journals: Human-animal related journals, special issues and articles

- ***Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies***
Volume 11, Issue 1 & 2 (2010): [Special Issue on Animal Studies and Ecocriticism](#)

This double issue includes articles on:

- Boer, Bushman and Baboon: Human and Animal in Nineteenth-Century and Early Twentieth Century South African Writing - [Dirk Klopper](#)
- Weeping Elephants, Sensitive Man - [Dana Phillips](#)
- "Mr Melancholy and Mr Magpie": The Lives of Animals in J. M. Coetzee's *Diary of a Bad Year* - [Joseph D. Napolitano](#)
- Metafiction, Vegetarianism, and the Literary Performance of Animal Ethics in J.M. Coetzee's *The Lives of Animals* - [Robert McKay](#)
- Meat Country (Please Do Not Feed Baboons and Wild Animals) - [Jennifer Wenzel](#)

See <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=g919011091>

CALLS FOR PAPERS:

The Journal for Critical Animal Studies (JCAS) seeks essays from women of color, scholars and activists across a variety of disciplines and social justice initiatives to develop understandings on the issues of **race, gender, and animality** in critical animal studies.

Since the term "critical animal studies" was introduced by the **Institute for Critical Animal Studies**, there has been a void of people of color contributions to the new and developing field. Particularly absent have been the thoughts, concerns, and activism of women of color. For critical animal studies to engage a holistic politics for total liberation, women of color must play a role in the field's development.

The goals of this issue are (1) to vitalize the intellectual participation of women of color in critical animal studies, (2) to examine overlapping concerns that are central to critical animal studies, feminist theory, and critical race theory, and (3) to promote avenues of thought and ideas for action that can move us beyond pernicious forms of "othering" that undergird nonhuman and human animal suffering. Topics may include:

- *addressing racism, sexism, and gender oppression in critical animal studies
- *the role of white privilege in the animal rights movement
- *domestication and the decolonization of mind and body
- *semiotics of animality in racial discourse
- *traditional ecological knowledge of animal relationships
- *being an ally to nonhuman animals: animal activism from a woman of color's perspective
- *interlocking oppressions of animality, race, and gender
- *racialization of the other
- *invasive species and invasive races
- *veganism, raw foods, and food justice
- *the social construction of overpopulation and female reproductive control
- *women of color ecofeminism and an ethic of care
- *racism, sexism, and gender oppression in the animal rights movement
- *addressing violence against women of color and nonhuman animals
- *imperialism, colonialism, and the oppression of native peoples
- *the future of critical animal studies for women of color
- *the role of women of color in the total liberation movement

Papers Due: April 12, 2010 at 5pm EST

Visit http://www.criticalanimalstudies.org/?page_id=389 for **submission guidelines**, but **send papers to**: Anastasia Yarbrough, Institute for Critical Animal Studies, ayarbrou@gmail.com; <http://www.criticalanimalstudies.org>

Studies in American Indian Literatures **Dustin Gray** and **Brian K. Hudson** are now accepting submissions for a collection of essays, to be potentially published in a special issue of *Studies in American Indian Literatures* focusing on the intersections of **Animal Studies and American Indian literatures**.

The proliferation of scholarly attention in the humanities to animals has been evident in the last decade. In 2009, both the journal of the Modern Language Association (*PMLA*, March issue) and the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (October issue) gave considerable space to the study of the relationships between human and nonhuman animals.

Topics on American Indian literatures may include but are not limited to:

- Representing (un)ethical treatment of animals
- Analyzing the intersections of gender and animality
- Recognizing relationships between humans and nonhumans

- Marking animality as an exercise of tribal sovereignty and/or jurisdiction
- Comparing the politics of vulnerability between species
- Examining the figurative language of animality
- Tracing the position of the animal within federal Indian law and policy

Of particular interest would be an approach working closely with Native-authored theory and criticism in dialogue with current Animal Studies theory.

Deadline for abstracts of 250 words or less is May 31st 2010.

All submissions and inquires should be sent to briankhudson@ou.edu.

The Brock Review is seeking scholarly essays and creative pieces for an upcoming issue on the theme of *Animals in Human Societies*. This issue will focus on changing ideas about the use and treatment of animals in contemporary societies and the ethical, economic and political significance of animal rights.

Possible topics might include:

- Animal/human bonds and mutual aid
- Representations of animals
- Animal rights and social justice
- Veganism, abolitionism and the rise of “happy meat”
- Normalization of speciesism
- Animal rights and anarchism

The Brock Review is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal published by the Humanities Research Institute at Brock University. This issue will be co-edited by [Dr. John Sorenson](#) (Department of Sociology, Brock University), author of *About Canada: Animal Rights and Ape*.

Deadline: 16th of July, 2010.

Manuscripts should be submitted via the journal website (www.brocku.ca/brockreview). Creative work (i.e.: paintings, photographs, poetry, short fiction or other types of work suitable to the online format of the journal) will also be considered for publication and should be submitted in an electronic format.

For more information see the website or contact: [Dr. Keri Cronin](#), Editor, *The Brock Review*, c/o Department of Visual Arts, Brock University, 500 Glenridge Ave., St. Catharines, ON L2N 4C2 CANADA keri.cronin@brocku.ca

RECENT ARTICLES:

[Dan Perry and Gad Perry](#). ‘Improving Interactions between Animal Rights Groups and Conservation Biologists’. *Conservation Biology* 22, no. 1, 2008.

Invasive species are often considered to be a major threat to biodiversity, leading conservation biologists to often recommend their complete eradication. Animal rights groups typically categorically oppose killing animals, and their opposition has brought eradication attempts of gray squirrels in northern Italy (Europe) and mute swans in Vermont to a halt. As a result native red squirrels may disappear from Europe and ecosystem-wide impacts are expected to be caused by the swan. In contrast, cooperation between managers and animal rights groups has resulted in a successful control program for feral pigs in Fort Worth, Texas (U.S.A.). The philosophical differences between animal rights and conservation biologists’ views make cooperation seem unlikely, yet documented cases of cooperation have been beneficial for both groups. Read more:

<http://www.neighborhoodcats.org/uploads/File/Resources/Articles/Animalrights&Conservation2008.pdf>

Laurel Peacock. 'Animots and the Alfabête in the Poetry of Francis Ponge'. *Humanities Review*, 47, November 2009: <http://www.australianhumanitiesreview.org/>

AND DON'T FORGET to submit papers to and browse articles in journals with a Human-Animal Studies focus or component:

- ***Humanimalia: A Journal of Human/Animal Interface Studies***

Humanimalia is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal published by DePauw University it has three aims: to explore and advance the vast range of scholarship on human/animal relations, to encourage exchange among scholarship working from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, and to promote dialogue between the academic community and those working closely with animals in non-academic fields.

The editorial team invites innovative work that situates these topics within contemporary culture via a variety of critical approaches, including but not limited to feminism, queer theory, critical race studies, political economy, ethnography, ethnozoology, literary criticism, science and technology studies, and media studies. Ideally, we seek papers that combine approaches, or at the very least draw upon research in other disciplines to contextualize their arguments. As much as possible, they seek papers that connect their analyses of animals and human/animal interactions to existing material practices related to animals or the discourse of animality.

<http://www.depauw.edu/humanimalia/call.html>

- **Isle: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment**

Isle is the official journal of the [Association for the Study of Literature and Environment](#) (ASLE). Beginning in 2009, it became a quarterly journal, published in conjunction with Oxford University Press. ISLE seeks to explore the relation between human beings and the natural world, and publishes articles from literary scholars, environmental historians, specialists in the visual and performing arts, environmental philosophers, geographers, economists, ecologists, and scholars in other fields relevant to "literature and environment." The journal also publishes poetry, fiction, and literary nonfiction pertinent to its thematic focus.

<http://www.asle.org/site/publications/isle/>

Films and Documentaries

- ***The Whale: A History***

From the BBC's *In Our Time* Programme, Melvyn Bragg and guests Steve Jones, Bill Amos and Eleanor Weston discuss [the evolutionary history of the whale](#).

The ancestor of all whales alive today was a small, land-based mammal with cloven hoofs, perhaps like a pig or a big mole. How this creature developed into the celebrated leviathan of the deep is one of the more extraordinary stories in the canon of evolution. The whale has undergone vast changes in size, has moved from land to water, lost its legs and developed specialised features such as filter feeding and echo location. How it achieved this is an exemplar of how evolution works and how natural selection can impose extreme changes on the body shape and abilities of living things. How the story of the whales was pieced together also reveals the various

forms of evidence - from fossils to molecules - that we now use to understand the ancestry of life on Earth.

[Steve Jones](#) is Professor of Genetics at University College London; [Eleanor Weston](#) is a mammalian palaeontologist at the Natural History Museum, London; [Bill Amos](#) is Professor of Evolutionary Genetics at Cambridge University.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00kfqm6>

- ***The Tiger Next Door***

A Documentary by [Camilla Calamandrei](#), edited by [Bernadine Colish](#)

Experts estimate that there are more tigers in private captivity in the United States than there are roaming wild in the world. 24 of them live in Dennis Hill's backyard. *The Tiger Next Door* is a documentary film that tells the story of a man who has been breeding, and selling tigers from his backyard in Flat Rock, Indiana for over fifteen years.

Tigers are both an occupation and an obsession for Hill. He claims to know exactly what they're thinking by the look in their eyes. But now, after a surprise government inspection, he's lost the license that allowed him to keep exotic animals, and the state of Indiana is threatening to shut him down. He has just five days to find alternate homes for all but three of his brood and to bring his facilities up to code - or else lose what he considers to be his life's work.

As Hill fights to hold on to his tigers over the days and months that follow, *The Tiger Next Door* follows him - exploring his motives, his past, and the curious, ethically-murky world he's created in his backyard. At the same time, the film ranges far beyond Hill's animal compound, illuminating the connection between breeders like Hill, and the near-epidemic of wild-animal keeping in the United States.

"a damning expose, an urgent missive" *Eye Weekly*

<http://thetigernextdoor.com/>

Links: Resource pages, blogs

- **Museum of Animal Perspectives**

M.A.P collects and displays wildlife imagery that has been captured using remote sensing cameras. Through the presentation and interpretation of this imagery, the M.A.P. endeavors to expand the public's capacity to empathize with animals and plants. It currently features a gallery of views from inside nests and burrows; views from cameras mounted on animals; views from motion activated camera sensor; views from remotely operated vehicles; and videos of threatened species, many from Utube or Flickr. M.A.P. is a non-commercial new media project created for educational purposes.

<http://www.sameasterson.com/map>

- **Animal Rights History**

[Animal Rights History](#) is an ongoing effort to provide free online access to historical literature on animal rights, animal welfare, and humanity against cruelty to animals. As a free online library, literary research resource, animal rights timeline and historical literature archive,

AnimalRightsHistory.Org promotes and facilitates: access to [information](#), [humane education](#), [literary research](#) and [the preservation of historical literature](#) on animal rights, animal welfare, and the protection of animals.

<http://www.animalrightshistory.org/>

- **Animal Voices**

[Animal Voices](#) is Toronto's animal liberation radio show broadcasting locally on CIUT 89.5 FM and worldwide at www.ciut.fm, live, every Tuesday at 11 am-noon EST. Volunteer-run, Animal Voices covers the local, national, global, and politically diverse campaigns, struggles and victories of the animal liberation movement.

Tune in for interviews with a broad spectrum of activists and academics working toward the liberation of animals, social justice, and environmental health. The site also has a useful Links page.

<http://www.animalvoices.ca/about>

- **World Animal Net**

[World Animal Net](#) is the world's largest network of animal protection societies with consultative status at the UN. Working to improve the status and welfare of animals with over 3,000 affiliates in more than 100 countries.

This website includes:

- World Animal Net Directory
- Animal Protection Society Management Resources
- World Animal Net Resources - Campaign tools and information on global issues, including: Animal Protection Law, Funding Grants, Humane Education, Jobs and Volunteering Petitions and Presentations.

<http://www.worldanimal.net/index.html>

- **No Voice Unheard**

[No Voice Unheard: The Power of Books](#) is an independent publisher of beautiful and creative books that are cutting edge in their content and presentation, giving voice to those who are ignored or disregarded by society, and illuminating important social issues often ignored by profit-driven publishers. In the tradition of great books like *Silent Spring*, *Animal Liberation*, *Diet for a New America* and others, they believe in the power of books to create social change.

<http://www.novoiceunheard.org/>

- **HumaneSpot.org**

An [animal advocacy resource](#) centre. HumaneSpot.org is a unique research website tailored to the needs of animal and environmental advocates. It contains information on human-animal interactions, attitudes towards other species, and the animal protection movement.

<http://www.humanespot.org/node>

Dr Elizabeth Leane



A number of factors came together to catalyse my interest in animal studies. I have degrees in both science and literature, and my first monograph is a literary analysis of the language of popular science. I am interested in interdisciplinarity, and particularly research fields in which the humanities and sciences intersect. When I arrived at the University of Tasmania's School of English, Journalism and European Languages in 2000, I began doing some research within Antarctic studies, an area in which – ten years later – I am still very heavily involved. My first ARC-funded grant project looked at literary representations of Antarctica.

In 2006, when I was exploring new directions in my Antarctic studies work, I heard that a group of University of Tasmania researchers, including Carol Freeman, Yvette Watt and Adrian Franklin, were planning to organize an animal studies conference. This was my first real encounter with the field, and my curiosity was immediately aroused. On an academic level, it spoke to my interest in interdisciplinarity and in the Antarctic environment. On a personal level, I had always been concerned for the welfare of nonhuman animals, and perplexed by the ability of otherwise kindly people to turn a blind eye to certain forms of animal suffering.

I joined the Hobart conference committee as a way of immersing myself in the field, and have never looked back. "Considering Animals" is the only conference I have attended in which I was fascinated by every session I attended. And luckily for me, one of the keynote speakers at the conference, Helen Tiffin, had joined my School in 2006. Helen and I, together with a zoologist at the Australian Antarctic Division, Steve Nicol, successfully applied for an ARC Discovery Project entitled "Creatures of the Ice: A Cultural Analysis of Human-Animal Relations in Antarctica," on which we are now working. I have also been lucky enough to co-supervise several postgraduate research projects within animal studies, and hope to be involved with more.

Since becoming interested in animal studies, I have co-authored papers on penguins (in the film *March of the Penguins* and *Happy Feet*), dogs (in Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition) and even krill, and I plan eventually to gather this and other material into a monograph.

Dr Liana Christensen



Two passions have been with me since childhood: the natural world - and all its inhabitants - and the world of books. I've been fortunate enough to be able to combine these interests in both my working and creative life. My first 'real' job was as the original editor of the Western Australian publication *Landscape*. During this time I was able to meet many first-rate scientists, some of whom were working with rare and threatened species, such as the Numbat and the Western Swamp Tortoise. It was also at this time that a colleague, who was originally from the U.S., lent me a copy of Barry Lopez's book *Of Wolves and Man*, which was not at that time available in Australia. It was one of those defining moments that come rarely in life. *Landscape* and Lopez, you could say, set the course for my entire career.

During the nineties I began publishing essays in journals such as *Australasian GEO* on various animals, such as the Potoroo, the Bilby, the Numbat and others. I was always keen to frame these essays in a broader socio-political context. These 'animal essays' have had many ramifications in my life. For instance, years later, I was fortunate enough to be invited by the University of Tamkang, in Taiwan, to speak

at an international conference on the strange history, biology and intertwined fates of Bilbies and Rabbits.

In the late 1990s I began a Doctorate of Creative Arts, eventually producing a text of interlinked post-colonial natural history narratives of the South-west of Western Australia – *See the Islands*, and an accompanying exegesis – *Science Dreaming* - investigating nature and animals through various political and philosophical lenses. During the course of my Doctoral Studies, I supplemented my scholarship by various writing activities, which included contributing several entries to the *Readers' Digest Encyclopaedia of Australian Wildlife* on animals as diverse as Leopard Seals and Marsupial Moles! It was also at this time that I met Natalie Edwards who invited me to be one of the members of the new Animals and Society Study Group, based at UWA, an offer I accepted with alacrity.

The inaugural Animals and Society Conference in Perth sparked a new direction in my writing when I worked together with award-winning printmaker, Kati Thamo, to produce an exhibition of poetry and prints. The resulting poetry book, *Wild Familiars*, went on to win an Honourable Mention in a Writers' Digest International Award. I was subsequently invited to read my poetry in Amsterdam at the Dutch national poetry reading venue, *Perdu*, as part of the 'Close Encounters' International Association for Arts and Sciences Conference. Subsequently, I was guest poet at the Second 'Animals and Society Conference' hosted in Hobart. More recently, I have been under contract with the New Zealand based publishers, *Exisle*, and have written a popular book on dangerous animals of the world that gently mocks and deconstructs the 'schlock-horror' manner in which these animals are frequently represented.

I am excited about the emerging field of Animal Studies, and keen to see it retain its broad inclusiveness of various disciplinary and creative approaches. I look forward to continuing to combine and explore my creative, academic and political interests in animals and society in new and exciting ways.

Dr Matthew Chrulew



Leaving aside dog bites and bee stings, my interest in the intersection of culture and animals probably dates back to my first encounter with a medieval bestiary—such captivating and estranging fables. My first extended research in animal studies was in the early 2000s, when I did a MA at the University of Western Australia on the genealogy of zoological gardens, arguing for the relevance of Foucault’s work to human-animal relations. Serendipitously, Natalie Edwards was there working on similar questions at the time, and I benefited greatly from conversations with her on the history and theory of zoos.

The rest of the decade was spent on a PhD in philosophy of religion at Monash University in Melbourne. I did manage to publish on Derrida’s reading of Genesis in his late animal work in [The Bible and Critical Theory](#), but my main contact with animal studies in that period, apart from the occasional sly reading, was in the distinctive community of the Animals & Society conferences.

Since late last year, I have been a postdoctoral fellow in the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion at Macquarie University, where under the mentorship of Deborah Bird Rose I am working on a number of projects in animal studies. I have been able to bring my earlier research to publication, starting with an essay in Ralph Acampora’s *Metamorphoses of the Zoo*. I am writing the volume *Mammoth* for Reaktion, a natural and cultural history of that species which looks at the how the stories we tell about the prehistoric extinction reveal a lot about how we imagine *homo sapiens* relates to “his” environment. This is tied to a broader research project on “Pleistocene rewilding,” a form of conservation that seeks to restore (through unprecedented intervention) a wilderness conceived in entirely pre-human terms.

I am also editing the volume *Foucault and Animals* with my colleague Dinesh Wadiwel. Another strand of my research is in the history and philosophy of ethology: a panel I convened on “Ethology and Continental Philosophy” at the *Minding Animals* conference will be followed by an international seminar early next year, and a co-edited volume is also in the works. I have thrived from the support of the Ecological Humanities and Kangaloon groups since moving to Sydney.

I have written a number of short stories, mostly speculative fiction, some of which have animal themes, such as “The Gnomogist’s Tale” in [Canterbury 2100](#) and “The Beast-Machine Fableaux” published in [Antennae](#) 9 and since podcast at [TISF](#) 16. I blog at [Negentropy](#), and a bibliography can be found at the [Ecological Humanities website](#).

If you would like to be removed from the Australian Animal Studies elist, please post a reply with 'Remove' in the subject line

Please send items for the next issue to:

Carol Freeman
Editor, Australian Animal Studies Group Bulletin
Honorary Research Associate
School of Geography and Environmental Studies
University of Tasmania
T: +61 62240219
M: +61 438 633102
Carol.Freeman@utas.edu.au

OR

Natalie Edwards
Co-ordinator, Australian Animal Studies Group
Honorary Research Associate
Institute of Veterinary, Animal & Biomedical Sciences
College of Sciences
Massey University, New Zealand
T: +64 93722879
N.J.Edwards@massey.ac.nz