

Animals and Society (Australia) Study Group

*News Bulletin * September 2008*

Local News: (please send your contributions to this section to the address at the bottom of this email)

Tasmania

The UTas Animals and Society Study Group seminar series continued last month with a viewing of the movie *Grizzly Man* and a prolonged and stimulating discussion about the film led by Undine Sellbach. Although some members of the group had watched the movie several times, it still seemed to offer new readings around issues of agency, 'managing' animals, and the way Herzog's narrative is constructed.

Next month, Professor Helen Tiffin will talk to the Group about *Octopus*, the book she's writing for Reaktion Press's brilliant series on the cultural histories of animals.

Conferences, Workshops, Symposiums: Updates, overseas conferences and workshops

- **2009 International Academic and Community Conference on Animals and Society: Minding Animals**
University of Newcastle, NSW . 13-19 July 2009

Abstract submission is open. The submission deadline is 30 January 2009. Submit an abstract for an oral or poster presentation by visiting the website www.mindinganimals.com and following the instructions.

Webhot registration closes on 4 September 2008 !

The conference has some **fantastic social events** including the Conference Dinner with guest speaker Nobel Laureate Professor JM Coetzee, Visiting Professor of Humanities, University of Adelaide, Australia and the Seminar Series Dinner with guest speaker Jill Robinson MBE, Animals Asia Foundation, China.

Animals and Society Groups Forum will discuss "**Animal Studies: the discipline**" on the first day of the conference, 13th July, from 2-5pm. The forum's guest speakers are:

Steven Best (Institute for Critical Animal Studies, USA)
Erica Fudge (British Animal Studies Network)
Natalie Lloyd (Animals and Society [Australia] Study Group)
Annie Potts (New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies)
Kenneth Shapiro (Animals and Society Institute, USA)
Anne Simon (Animaliterature, France)

On the last day of the conference participants will have a chance to discuss their thoughts regarding the road forward for the discipline.

If you would like to join the Animals and Society Study Group, please send a message to rod.bennison@newcastle.edu.au . If you would like to join the Group's **Discussion Group**, send an email to asasg-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.au

- **The Animal Gaze: Contemporary Art and Animal/Human Studies**
London Metropolitan University (City Campus), Whitechapel London UK. 20-21 November 2008.

Keynote Speakers: Steve Baker, Dario Martinelli, Marcus Coates. The representation of animals in contemporary art has shifted into new modes over the last 10 years, as animals come to bear

different meanings in Western culture. The aim of *The Animal Gaze: Contemporary Art & Animal/Human Studies* is to address such changes - to exhibit recent art about animals, as well as to discuss it.

Alongside the symposium is a contemporary art exhibition, featuring over 40 artists. This group show looks beyond those representations of animals that regularly appear elsewhere in the visual culture of our own species. Instead, a neat admixture of less common stances towards animals will be on display, particularly in video and sound, photography and installation.

For more information about speakers, presentation abstracts and artists at *The Animal Gaze*, including delegate bookings (limited to 90 places only), please see: <http://www.animalgaze.org>

- **Veterinary Science and Empire**

Centre for the History of Science Technology and Medicine and Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Manchester UK. 18th September 2008

Workshop Programme:

Karen Brown (Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Oxford)

"A colonial disease or a natural part of the local ecosystem? Rabies in 19th and 20th Century South Africa".

Natalie Lloyd and Ruth Barton (University of Auckland)

"Australasian veterinary science and imperial exchange: the problem of deficiency diseases in Livestock."

Laxman D. Satya (University of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania)

"British imperialism and its impact on the cattle, people and the environment in South Asia: A case study of the Deccan Plateau."

Brian Caton (Luther College, Iowa)

"The colonial birth of scientific breeding and veterinary medicine in Punjab."

Daniel Gilfoyle (British National Archive)

"The invention and mass dissemination of bluetongue vaccine in South Africa, 1900-1950"

For further details please visit:

<http://www.chstm.manchester.ac.uk/newsandevents/conferences/veterinaryscienceandempire/> or contact Natalie Lloyd: n.lloyd@auckland.ac.nz

This meeting is co-located with "The Health and Welfare of the Manufactured Animal" on 19th September:

<http://www.chstm.manchester.ac.uk/newsandevents/conferences/manufacturedanimal/index.asp>

There are no registration fees and you are welcome to attend both meetings. An option is given on the registration form.

New Books: Forthcoming

- ***The Animal Gaze: Animal Subjectivities in Southern African Narratives***
By Wendy Woodward.

Wits University Press, Johannesburg. **Due for release Sept/Oct, 2008!**

This book explores southern African writers Olive Schreiner, Zakes Mda, Yvonne Vera, Eugene N. Marais, J.M. Coetzee, Luis Bernardo Honwana, Michiel Heyns, Marlene van Niekerk and Linda Tucker, whose work represents animals as richly individual subjects. The animals, including cattle, horses, birds, lions, leopards, baboons, dogs, cats, and a whale, experience complex emotions and have agency, intentionality and morality, as well as an ability to recognise and fear death. When animals are acknowledged as subjects in this way, then the animal gaze and the human response encapsulates an interspecies communication of kinship, rather than confirming a human sense of superiority. This volume goes beyond Jacques Derrida's notion of the animal gaze which still has animal as the 'absolute other' and suggests a re-conceptualising of animals as 'others'. *The Animal Gaze* engages the writings of Jacques Derrida, J. M. Coetzee, Val Plumwood and Martha C. Nussbaum, as it brings together animal studies, ethics, literary studies and African traditional thought

in a way that compels the reader to think differently about nonhuman animals and human relationship with them.

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

- ***Humanimalia: The Journal of Animal/Human Interfaces***

This is a new peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary [journal of animal studies](#) published by DePauw University and edited by Lynda Birke, Istvan Csicsery-Ronay Jr., Nils Lindahl-Elliot, Susan McHugh, and Sherryl Vint. Our editorial advisory board includes Jody Berland (York University), Jonathan Burt, (London, UK), Matthew Calarco (Sweet Briar College), Una Chauduri (New York University), Etelka de Laczay (Greencastle, USA), Erica Fudge (Middlesex University), Donna Haraway (University of California - Santa Cruz), N. Katherine Hayles (Duke University), China Miiville (London, UK), Harriet Ritvo (MIT), David Rothenberg (New Jersey Institute of Technology), Barbara Herrnstein Smith (Duke University/Brown University), Cary Wolfe (Rice University).

Humanimalia 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. We invite innovative works that situate 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, we seek papers that connect their analyses of animals and human/animal interactions to existing material practices related to animals or the discourse of animality.

We publish articles of 5000-9000 words and seek both broad, theoretical submissions that have a conceptual focus and intervene in the field of animal studies, and also more particularly focused works that situate their arguments within more specific field, debates and examples. Articles are blind peer reviewed. We also invite concise, thematically contained short essays that provide insight into current developments and debates surrounding any topic related to animal studies (1,500-2,500 words).

Humanimalia will also review items of interest in the fields of animal studies, including books, new journals, DVDs, and conferences. Reviews should involve a description of the item's content, an assessment of its likely audience, and an evaluation of its importance in a larger context (1,500-2,500 words). Review submissions undergo editorial review.

[Submit work](#) in RTF format to Istvan Csicsery-Ronay (icronay@depauw.edu) or Sherryl Vint (svint@brocku.ca). MLA documentation is preferred. We encourage multimedia submissions and welcome you to submit images (in .jpg format), video clips (in flash video format), and audio files (in .mp3 format) as part of your work.

- ***Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Science, and Technology***

Special Issue [Thinking with Animals](#) - 14.1-2 (Winter-Spring 2006).

[NB Configurations is behind schedule - this issue has just been published]



Includes: "Encounters with Companion Species: Entangling Dogs, Baboons, Philosophers and Biologists" by Donna Haraway, "Morbidity and Vitalism: Derrida, Bergson, Deleuze, and Animal Film Imagery" by Jonathan Burt, "Killing them Softly: Animal Death, Linguistic Disability and the Struggle for Ethics" by Kari Weil.

- **Science Fiction Studies**

Special Issue: **On Animals and Science Fiction** - 35.2 (July 2008).



Joan Gordon on "The Amborg Gaze"; Cat Yampell on the "Commodification of the Animal in YA SF"; Aline Ferreira on "Primate Tales"; Rebecca Bishop on "Simian Cinema"; Gavin Miller on "Animals, Empathy, and Care in *Memoirs of a Space Traveler*"; Graham J. Murphy on "In(ter)secting Matriarchal Utopias"; Carol McGuirk on "SF's Renegade Becomings". <http://www.depauw.edu/SFs/covers/cov105>.

- **Island magazine**

No. 113 - Winter 2008. "Poetry Animals: a conversation between poets Judith Beveridge and Dorothy Porter" <http://www.islandmag.com/113/conversation.html>

- **Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture**

Antennae's new issue is now available for free at www.antennae.org.uk. In the attempt of piecing together the most comprehensive mapping of taxidermy in contemporary art, this issue of *Antennae* brings together the practice of artists whose work directly or indirectly references the taxidermied exhibits of natural history museums. Our next issue (out in September), will still focus on taxidermy, but will look at a rather different approach, that which Steve Baker coined 'botched taxidermy' in his seminal book *The Postmodern Animal*.

Antennae is currently accepting submissions for publication over the year 2009. They are looking for work fitting the following topics: Mechanical Animals, Animals and Environmental Issues, Fig. Submissions are open to visual arts, academic and non academic text.

Conference Report by Stephanie Pfennigwerth

Antipodean Animal Kings College London. 7-8 July 2008

Co-hosted by The Menzies Centre for Australian Studies and The International Studies Group

Antipodean Animal provided an opportunity for researchers from the Southern Hemisphere to bridge the distance and engage with those "with the feet opposite", their European counterparts, on topics related to humans' commonly perceived collective and mutual opposition to animals. In keeping with the concept of division was the fact that with two concurrent sessions, participants were unfortunately able to attend only half of the excellent presentations. Yet this division was not thematic, for despite the use and discussion of a wide variety of media and modes of enquiry – cinema, performance art, literature, anthropology, science – a common discourse prevailed: how animals shape and inform humans' personal and national heritage, culture and identity, and how these constructions in turn define attitudes to the cultural and historical position of animals.

In papers encompassing everything from taxidermy, totems and the Dog on the Tuckerbox, speakers approached new and old subjects with a series of binaries, inversions and opposites. For example, Libby Robin explained how non-indigenous Australians' perceptions of biologically primitive and economically useless native animals contributed to a cultural cringe and its contrary corollary, the strut. Baerbel Czennia and Hilda Kean discussed how animal statuary can make humans more 'human', encouraging greater intimacy between the past and present and placing a more benign cast on often painful legacies. Artists Troy Emery and Catherine Bell focussed their work on concepts of corruption and recovery between species and time, life and death. Deb Verhoeven's examination of Lewis Milestone's *Kangaroo* revealed what happens when Americans make 'Australian' films.

Yet despite many fascinating and often challenging talks (to which I have not done justice), something seemed (fittingly) off-kilter. It was not until the concluding discussion that it struck me: an alternate definition of "antipodean" is "places diametrically opposite each other on the globe" and/or

“those that dwell there”. By rights this means that anything from the Northern Hemisphere is antipodean to anything from the Southern Hemisphere, yet the papers, presented at KCL’s Institute of Commonwealth Studies, were heavily populated with emus, kangaroos and crocs. Although New Zealander Sally Borrell discussed *Mr Allbones’ Ferrets* from a postcolonial perspective, none of the Australian researchers, myself included, discussed antipodean animals such as, say, squirrels, polar bears or yaks. It seemed strange that in 2008 we should continue to perpetuate this Eurocentric vision of the Antipodes as being remote from a norm, or a taken-for-granted centre; perhaps that is also, in its contrariness, intrinsically antipodean.

Exhibitions

Cryptozoology: In Search of the Missing Link
Toyota Community Spirit Gallery Sculpture Exhibition 2008
155 Bertie St, Port Melbourne 3 September - 21 November



Toyota Community Spirit Gallery invites you to the 2008 Sculpture Exhibition

CRYPTOZOOLOGY
in Search of the Missing Link



The Toyota Community Spirit Gallery <http://www.watcharts.com.au/toyota.html> aims to provide space for artists, especially emerging artists to show their work. The gallery opened in July 2004 and runs a continuous program of exhibitions. The program is focused on local artists but also includes works by regional and interstate artists. Currently the works of more than 300 artists have been exhibited. The space is provided free of charge to exhibiting artists, no commission is charged on sales and Toyota provides an exhibition launch and develops a catalogue for each exhibition

Exhibiting Artists: TONY ADAMS, GREG ADES, SAM ANDERSON, PETER ANDRIANAKIS, LEANNE BAKER, SHANNON BAKER, KYLIE BEARD, SHAWN BEGLEY, MARY-ANNE BLEAKLEY, JODI BLOKKEERUS, DRASKO BOLJEVIC, RUSSELL BRAZIER, KERRY CANNON, KATRINA CARTER, HEATHER CLUGSTON, LAURIE COLLINS, ROD COOPER, MARK COWIE, DALIA, WILLIAM EICHOLTZ, SAVAAD FELICH, MONICA FINCH, TANJA GEORGE, ANDREW GREEN, MANDY GUNN, CHELSEA GUSTAFSSON, MATTHEW HARDING, LIS JOHNSON, JULEE LATIMER, LOUISE LAVARACK, ANGELA MACDOUGALL, DAVID MARSHALL, FLEUR MCARTHUR, DARREN MCGINN, ANNA MINARDO, ANNEE MIRON, SANDRA O'DEA, CRISTINA PALACIOS, LUCIANA PERIN, LANI PINNINGTON, GEOFFREY RICARDO, JASON ROCHE, LUKE ROGERS, PETER ROSMAN, NATALIE RYAN, ANNEMARIE SCHWEITZER, FATIH SEMIZ, VIPOO SRIVILASA, MARIKA STROHSCHNIEDER, CYRUS WAI-KUEN TANG, COREY THOMAS, LIZ WALKER, CARMEL WALLACE, ANTHEA WILLIAMS, BELINDA WILSON, PAM WRAGG. CURATOR: KEN WONG

Blogs

Ethos: The Practical Ethics Blog <http://practicaethics.net/blog/> has a number of human-animal studies contributions.

Scroll down to find [Animal Times \(by William Lynn\)](#), [Why Animal Studies Now? \(by Wendy Lochner\)](#), [Who, What, Where, When, Why: Human-Animal Studies \(Lisa Brown\)](#), [Exploring Vegansexuality: An Embodied Ethics of Intimacy \(by Annie Potts\)](#) and [Remembering Val Plumwood & Rethinking the Scientific Sin of Anthropomorphism \(by Kris Stewart\)](#).

If you would like to be removed from the Animals & Society elist please post a reply with 'Remove' in the subject line.

Please forward items for the next issue of the E-bulletin to:

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