

Animals and Society (Australia) Study Group

*News Bulletin * December 2009*

National News

Voiceless award

In September 2009 the Animals and Society Study Group (ASSG) was awarded a grant of \$5000 from [Voiceless: The Animal Protection Institute](#) to assist in the establishment of a website and database. We are very grateful for this injection of funds and will do all we can to make sure it is of practical benefit to Australian animal studies scholars.

For other recipients of awards, and news from Voiceless, see <http://www.voiceless.org.au/>



Jill Bough, on behalf of Animals and Society Study Group, accepts grant from Voiceless director Brian Sherman and Voiceless ambassador Hugo Weaving. (Photo Jamie North)

ASSG Website

A committee consisting of [Siobhan O'Sullivan](#), [Carol Freeman](#), [Yvette Watt](#), [Rod Bennison](#) and [Natalie Edwards](#) is currently involved in organising the ASSG website. The major aim of the committee is to establish a central information and resource site, primarily aimed at human-animal studies scholars. However, it is hoped that it will also be of use and interest to non-academics such as animal advocacy organisations. The website will have a blogging facility, online forum/discussion, links, books/journals/articles and What's On pages. Previous news bulletins will be posted, as well as details of scholarships, academic courses and funding sources. When the website is operational it will include a function that will enable you to join ASSG by paying a reasonable membership subscription that will help facilitate maintenance of the website.

Quotes for development and design are presently being sought.

Proposed ARC Centre of Excellence in Animal Studies

Last November an Expression of Interest was lodged by Murdoch University to establish an Australian [ARC Centre of Excellence in Animal Studies](#). The proposed centre would have six research nodes headed by six of Australia's most prominent academics in their respective disciplines, and supported by a team of 23 Australian Chief and Partner Investigators and 15 international experts. It is intended that each research node develop a research framework around which all investigators and researchers involved in the project can contribute and be integrated; in large part, a feature of this transdisciplinary field of research. No one research node would stand in isolation and no investigator would pursue a research agenda independent of the Centre (an ARC requirement). The research will be an evolving enterprise and be dependent upon the agenda set by both the Centre in collaboration with the ARC, and upon emerging international trends.

The result of the expression of interest is expected in mid February, and if successful in this initial round, a formal application will then be required.

For further information, please contact Dr Rod Bennison on 041 491 4040 or at <mailto:ozrodoz@gmail.com>

Regional News

New South Wales

POST-MINDING ANIMALS CONFERENCE

The [Minding Animals](#) conference – an International Academic and Community Conference held in Newcastle 13-19 July 2009 – gave Australian delegates exposure to a wealth of ideas and cutting-edge research in human-animal studies from many different countries and cultural backgrounds. Now the concept has led to the development of an international conference series, additional funds for ASSG, publications from the conference, and a planned International Group.

- [Second Minding Animals conference](#) will be held at Utrecht University, The Netherlands, in July 2012 and is provisionally titled 'Minding Animals 2: The Human Dimension'. Keep an eye out for event developments on www.mindinganimals.com
- [Publishing from Minding Animals 1](#): For all those delegates that submitted a paper from Newcastle for consideration for publication in a book or special journal edition, the Editorial Committee ([Assoc Prof Linda Williams](#), [Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan](#) and [Dr Rod Bennison](#)) have advised the Bulletin that all papers are still being reviewed. This is a long process and the Committee hopes that all authors understand this. The Committee are endeavouring to advise all authors that have submitted by the middle of February as to whether they have been successful or not. At that time, the Committee hopes to be able to confirm where and how the papers will be published. Thanks for your patience on this one - it is a long and arduous process.
- The [Minding Animals International](#) group (co-ordinated by Rod Bennison, and probably run out of the UK or USA) needs an establishment committee and is looking for nominations – especially from Aust and New Zealand. If you are interested contact Rod Bennison: <mailto:ozrodoz@gmail.com>

NOTICES FROM NSW

[Global Animal: An Animal Studies Conference](#) will be held at the University of Wollongong on the 27th and 28th of September, 2010. Sessions will include topics such as:

- *Oceanic Animal
- *Diasporic Animal
- *Caged Animal
- *Writing Animals
- *Animal Performers

A call for papers will be sent out in February. If you would like further information please contact the conference convenor, Dr Melissa Boyde: boyde@uow.edu.au

Western Australia

Perth Writers Festival

Mon 1 Mar, 6.00pm Octagon Theatre, University of Western Australia, Crawley.

BARRY LOPEZ: Turning darkness into Light – The Literature of Hope

Barry Lopez is best known as the author of *Arctic Dreams*, for which he received the National Book Award. Among his other non-fiction books are *About This Life* and *Of Wolves and Men*, which was a National Book Award finalist. He is also the author of several award-winning works of fiction, including *Field Notes*, *Winter Count* and novella-length fable *Crow and Weasel*. Recent work includes *Light Action in the Caribbean*, a collection of stories, and *Resistance*, a book of interrelated stories and Lopez's eloquent response to the recent ideological changes in American society.

More details and bookings:

<http://www.perthfestival.com.au/Events/perth-writers-festival/barry-lopez/>

Queensland

The Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics, School of Veterinary Science, University of Queensland is pleased to welcome postdoctoral research, **Dr Sarda Izmirlı**, a veterinarian from Turkey, who will be working on attitudes to animals in Australia and Turkey.

Dr Izmirlı started veterinary medicine in 1993 and he made his intern at the fourth class in Israel. He graduated from Veterinary Faculty Ankara University, in 1999 and started work as a research assistant at Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Selcuk University in department of History of Veterinary Medicine and Deontology in 2001. He gave two seminars, which are called "animal use committees" and "the relationship of animal welfare and veterinary ethics".

Presentations & Publications:

Izmirlı S and Yaşar A. Relationship on Animal Welfare – Veterinary Ethics, *Vet. Bil. Derg.*, 2006; 22(3&4):25-29

Yaşar A and Izmirlı S. Legal Arrangements related to Animal Welfare in Turkey, *Vet. Bil. Derg.*, 2006; 22(3&4):51-56

Izmirlı S. and Yaşar, Legal Regulations Concerning Animal Experiments in the Context of Animal Welfare in Turkey, 6th World Congress on Alternatives & Animal Use in the Life Sciences Abstracts, p.28, 21-25 August 2007, Tokyo-Japan

Izmirlı S. and Yaşar, A. The place and importance of animals in Hittite civilization, 38th International Congress of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine Proceedings, pg:65-69, 11-13 September 2008, Engelberg-Switzerland

For more information about CAWE, see <http://www.uq.edu.au/cawe>

New Zealand

The annual conference of the **Sociological Association of Aotearoa New Zealand** (SAANZ), held at Massey University in November 2009 included a Human Animal Studies Stream. Papers

on animals and science, aspects of animal welfare, animal slavery, and the contribution of dogs to human society, were presented by [Associate Professor Peter Beatson](#), [Dr. Michael Morris](#), [Dr Mary Murray](#), [Pamela Peters](#), and [Dr Alison Loveridge](#). The HAS stream was a 'first' for the annual SAANZ conference and was well attended. Dr Jeffrey Masson chaired the stream and was an invited speaker at the conference, to which he presented a paper about animals, science and alternative paradigms. The HAS stream was organised by Mary Murray, and Mary will be encouraging SAANZ to include HAS as a regular part of future SAANZ conferences. For more information contact: M.Murray@massey.ac.nz

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

- **Sentient Creatures: Transforming biopolitics and life matters**
15-17 September 2010. University of Oslo, Norway.

Call for papers

The concepts of biopower and biopolitics, so eloquently and significantly laid out by [Michel Foucault](#), are quite possibly insufficient to our understanding of past and contemporary living. Just think about zoonoses including the 'swine flue' pandemic, and the ways in which the production of facts about the human body have been and continue to be built upon the observation and manipulation of animals. These and similar examples suggest that two correctives or re-emphases are required. First, studies of life and the living alert us to the fact that biopolitics is not only about humans, in the form of the human individual, or in the form of the human population, it is rather about an assemblage of matters of life. Second, there is neither a self evident or totalising human power over life, nor an unproblematic politics of life. The relation between life and politics needs both theoretical and empirical specificity. To expand slightly on each of these:

First even a narrow focus on the life of living humans immediately takes in nonhumans and other than human lives. Securing life and making life live is always more than human. Indeed, humans are and always have been conditioned upon non-humans: as in laboratory medicine, in our ways of producing and taking life - for food, and as crucial entities in debates about who 'we' think 'we' are. Animals are objects, but also subjects, symbols and signs.

Second if lives are practised in many places and with many others, then how do we start to understand the lives that are being and have been made? Past work has tended to underline various practices of control and technologies of knowledge and surveillance. Perhaps rather than an overarching framework we need narratives and ethnographies of the living, taking in the multi-sited, multi-logic and multiple ways in which lives are and have been assembled, disassembled, practised and possibly policed and politicised. Instead of asking only how is and has control and knowledge been extended over life, we should also look at the imperfect living practices which often defy orders, escape detection, fail to produce or only loosely hang together.

An aim of this conference is to bring historically oriented narratives and approaches together with contemporary studies, hence to bring 'the archive' into an exchange with, for instance, ethnographic ways of working. It is to link the ways in which we narrate the past now, with ways of approaching and re-presenting the present. Thus our questions will not only evolve around 'what's going on', 'what are these transformations', but also the question of method; how to do the work – empirically as well as theoretically.

Possible topics for sessions and papers are:

*Protecting, caring, conserving, killing, enhancing, ordering, securing, displaying, naming, modeling – lives

*How do we understand current and past interventions in lives and living processes?

*Are current and past attempts to politicize biology, and to biologize politics, or biopolitics, sufficient to understand who and what is at stake?

*How are practices as diverse as public health, health care, agriculture, field and laboratory science, politics and war changing lives and altering as those lives change?

Deadline for submissions: **March 15, 2010**. Deadline for a short version of the paper will be May 15.

If you want to take part in the conference send an abstract of about 400 words to <mailto:beate.trandem@ilos.uio.no> presenting your research interest and the paper you want to present. For more information see: <http://www.uio.no/forskning/tverrfak/kultrans/aktuelt/konferanser/sentient>

- **8th Annual Conference for Critical Animal Studies**
Saturday April 10, 2010 SUNY, Cortland, New York

Theme: Abolition, Liberation, and the Intersections within Social Justice Movements

Call for Presentations

We welcome proposals from all community members, including but not limited to nonprofit organizations, political leaders, activists, professors, staff, and students. We are especially interested in topics such history of social movements, nonviolence, alliance politics, spirituality and social movements, freedom, democracy, and notions of total inclusion. We are also interested in reaching across the disciplines and movements of environmentalism, education, poverty, feminism, LGBTQA, animal advocacy, globalization, prison abolition, prisoner support, labor rights, disability rights, anti-war activism, youth rights, indigenous rights/sovereignty, and other peace and social justice issues. Presentations should be fifteen to twenty minutes in length. We are receptive to different and innovative formats, including, but not limited to roundtables, panels, community dialogues, theater, and workshops. You may propose individual or group 'panel' presentations, but please clearly specify the structure of your proposal.

*Please stress in your paper/roundtable/panel/etc. how you will be focusing on the program theme and linking it to environmental justice and animal advocacy, rights, liberation, and protection.

Please send proposals OR abstracts for panels, roundtables, workshops, or paper presentations no more than 500 words. Please send with each facilitator or presenter a 100 maximum word biography.

Deadline for Submissions: **February 15, 2010**. Accepted presenters will be notified by e-mail by Feb 20, 2010.

Please send proposals/abstracts and biographies electronically to:

Sarat Colling, Co-Conference Director: editor@politicalmediareview.org

- **The Future of Animal Law Conference**
Animal Legal Defense Fund. April 9-11, 2010. Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Attorneys, law students, professors, and activists from around the world will convene at Harvard Law School for ALDF's **Future of Animal Law** conference, April 9-11, 2010, to explore vital issues relative to animal law and activism. Sponsored by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, this is a conference you don't want to miss!

Keynote speaker:

Bob Barker retired from CBS' "The Price is Right" in June, 2007, after 35 years as the show's host. Since his retirement, Barker has been busy on a number of animal rights-related issues and has become the most visible figure in the animal rights movement and one of its most eloquent speakers. The "Fur Flap" surrounding the 1987 Miss USA Pageant attracted more media attention than any single event in animal rights history. If the swimsuit contestants wore real furs, as planned by the pageant producers, Barker said that it would be impossible for him to participate in the telecast. Barker prevailed, and synthetic furs were substituted for the real thing.

A man of conviction who fights animal exploitation in all of its grisly forms, he has refused offers to do commercials for sponsors because of the animal cruelty involved in the development and manufacture of their products. Bob Barker has established the DJ&T Foundation, the purpose of which is to help control the dog and cat population. He is funding the foundation through his own resources to support low-cost or free spay/neuter clinics. According to Barker, over population is one of our most tragic animal problems.

In June of 2001, the Harvard Law School established the Bob Barker Endowment for the Study of Animal Rights Law to support teaching and research in this emerging field. He has since established similar endowments at Stanford, Columbia, UCLA, Georgetown, Duke and Northwestern University law schools. His work on behalf of animals has garnered him a long list of awards from prestigious humane organizations across the country.

Registration closes April 7th. For full conference agenda see:
<http://www.aldf.org/article.php?id=1020>

Excerpts from the website: Copyright © 2009 ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

- **People & Animals: For Life**
12th International IAHAIO Conference, 1-4 July 2010. Stockholm, Sweden

Are you interested in the field of Human Animal Bond?

The nonprofit organization Manimalis will be hosting the **People & Animals: For Life** conference in Stockholm. The name of the conference has a double meaning. It symbolizes the increased quality of life experienced by people who want and can be close to an animal, as well as the life-long relationship between humans and animals.

Research for the Future:

The conference attracts the leading researchers and people in the human-animal interactions field and gives a thousand delegates from around the world the chance to listen, learn and network. The focus is on the importance of animal companions for human beings and the society we live in; the physical, social, psychological and economic effects the animals have on us. Here, most of the research done in the field since the last conference will be presented.

This is the research that Manimalis and other neighboring organizations lean on in their arguments concerning the positive effects of pets.

For more information see <http://www.iahaio2010.com/>

- **Cross Cultural Attitudes Towards Animals**
19th Annual Conference of the International Society: Satellite meeting of the 12th IAHAIO Conference, 30 June, 2010. Stockholm, Sweden

Call for Abstracts

The International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ) invites submission of both oral (20 mins. Total) and poster abstracts for its 19th Annual Conference which will be held in conjunction with the 12th Congress of the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations (IAHAIO) in Stockholm, Sweden on June 30th, 2010. The Conference will focus on the general theme of cross-cultural attitudes toward animals, although free papers on other relevant topics are also encouraged.

Research abstracts must include:

1. A list of authors (presenting author in bold), institutional affiliations, and email address for correspondence; 2. An introduction to the study and its objectives; 3. Methodology – including a description of the participants (both human and animal), such as number (n), type, age, gender, and species, and a description of the study design, data collection, and data analysis; 4. Main results, including, when appropriate, statistical test, significance level and actual test value (e.g., $F(df) = ?$, $p < 0.05$), and 5. Principal conclusions and implications for the field.

Critical review abstracts must include:

1. List of authors (presenting author in bold), institutional affiliations, and email address for correspondence; 2. An introduction to the review and its objectives; 3. Key literature references to theory, concepts, evidence or methodology that have been reviewed or re-evaluated; 4. Main findings, and 5. Principal conclusions and implications for the field.

Abstracts must be in English, can be no longer than 300 words, and should be concise, informative and explicit. All abstracts should be prepared in MS Word format and state clearly whether an oral or poster presentation is preferred. A sample abstract is provided for reference below. Submissions should be sent by email only to: Dr. James Serpell at: serpell@vet.upenn.edu.

Deadline for abstract submission: January 31st, 2010.

For further information see: <http://www.isaz.net/conferences.html> or contact [Conference Organizers, ISAZ 2010](#)

- **Changing Cultures: Veterinary Medicine and Literature**
May 10-12, 2010. Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Canada.

A two-day symposium on veterinary medicine and the literary arts. Examining the role of poetry, fiction and essays in veterinary medicine and exploring how literature enriches relationships among veterinarians, their clients and nonhuman animals. The event will bring together writers, veterinarians, veterinary students and scholars in diverse disciplines to explore common themes in veterinary medicine and literature.

Confirmed featured speakers include the internationally known poets [Mark Doty](#) and [Molly Peacock](#). Mark Doty's *Fire to Fire: New and Selected Poems* won the National Book Award for Poetry in 2008 and his *Dog Years* was a 2007 New York Times best seller. Molly Peacock is general editor of *The Best Canadian Poetry in English*. Her most recent collection of poetry is *The Second Blush*.

The symposium organisers welcome papers on any aspect of veterinary medicine and the literary arts, including:

Themes within the healing professions —

- Client communications
- The human-animal bond
- 'First, do no harm'

- Dying, death and grief
- Retaining purpose and joy

The use of fiction, essays and poetry in medicine and the healing professions —

- To enhance understanding and empathy in relation to these professions
- In the context of our personal philosophies of writing i.e., 'Why write?'
- With an interest in personal memoirs
- With regard to veterinary science and the experience of being a scientist
- What I read and why

Future directions for literature in veterinary medicine

- To enrich curricular and extracurricular veterinary medical education and practice.

Proposal deadline February 1, 2010

For more details see: <http://www.barkingdogstudios.com/email/ovc/final.html>

- **‘Real’ Animals and the Humanities**
February 17-18, 2010. Southwestern University, Texas

Keynotes: Dr. Marc Bekoff (U of Colorado, Boulder), Dr. Paul Waldau (Harvard and formerly Director of Ethics program at Tufts Veterinary School), and Carol Adams (author of "The Sexual Politics of Meat").

For more information contact Laura Hobgood-Oster: <mailto:hoboster@southwestern.edu>

- **Antarctic Visions: Cultural Perspectives on the Southern Continent**
21-23 June 2010. University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

Call for Papers

Following the success of the “Imagining Antarctica” conference at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand in September 2008, the University of Tasmania will host “Antarctic Visions,” a second conference examining Antarctica from a cultural perspective.

Drawing on the arts, social sciences and humanities, the conference will focus attention on the ways we perceive and represent the southernmost continent. Connections with other disciplines – particularly scientific disciplines – are encouraged, as are new approaches to familiar challenges, such as the whaling and climate change debates. While the primary focus of the conference is on the far south, papers which combine Antarctic and Arctic material are welcome.

Papers of twenty minutes with ten-minute question times are invited. Panel proposals are also welcome.

Topics might include:

Climate change and the South Polar regions: what can the humanities add to the conversation
 Antarctica in literature, music, art, photography and film
 The influence of perceptions of Antarctica on policy
 Rethinking the heroic era
 Tasmanian connections to the Antarctic

Human-animals relations in Antarctic

Resource exploitation (including whaling)
Gender and Polar Studies
Postcolonial Antarctica
Subantarctic islands: histories and cultures
Polar pastimes
Food in polar history
Cultural geography of Antarctica
Polar psychology
Antarctic travel and tourism
Antarctic archives, libraries, artefacts and museums

Deadline: Friday, 26 February 2010.

Please email your paper and panel proposals, including a brief biography for each participant, to Ralph.Crane@utas.edu.au

Groups, Courses and Networks: Institutes, fellowships, membership

Animals and Society Institute

Human-Animal Studies Fellowship 2010

The Animals and Society Institute invites applications for its [fourth annual summer fellowship program](#) for scholars pursuing research in Human-Animal Studies. In the summer of 2010, this interdisciplinary program will enable 7 fellows to pursue research in residence at Clark University, Worcester, MA. Host faculty are Jacque (Jody) Emel, Professor of the Graduate School of Geography at Clark and Susan McHugh, Professor of English at University of New England as adjunct host.

The October 2009 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* featured an article on the growing field of human-animal studies, highlighting the role played by ASI in the field's development. The ASI HAS fellowship is one of the major linchpins of our efforts.

The fellowship is designed to support recipients' individual research through mentorship, guest lectures, and scholarly exchange among fellows and opportunities to contribute to the intellectual life of the host institution. All fellows must be in continuous residence for the duration of the program, [May 24 – July 2](#), inclusive. The final week of the fellowship, June 28-July 2, is the fellowship conference week, when fellows, peer scholars, and guest speakers will give presentations to the fellowship participants and other guests.

The fellowships are open to scholars from any discipline investigating a topic related to human-animal relationships. Topics of particular interest for this year's program include:

- human-animal relationships in science and technology
- animal issues in legal studies
- the relation between human violence and animal abuse
- human-animal relationships in agriculture
- human-companion animal relationships

Application deadline: [January 31, 2010](#)

For full details including amount of award, eligibility and selection process see: <http://www.animalsandsociety.org/2010fellowship>

Culture and Animals Foundation

Think, Create, Explore, Celebrate

From the CAF website:

“In seeing and understanding kindred animals, we see and understand a part of ourselves. Culture & Animal Foundation advances animal advocacy through intellectual and artistic expression.”

CAF takes a distinctive approach to animal advocacy: it is the only all-volunteer organization exclusively dedicated to intellectual and artistic expression to raise awareness of animal rights.

With a unique approach best described as cultural activism, CAF funds academic and artistic projects that raise public awareness about concern for animals. Moreover, for the past twenty-three years CAF has produced or co-produced the International Compassionate Living Festival, which brings animal advocates together for dialogue, presentations and performances.

For more details see: <http://www.cultureandanimals.org/>

People, Animals, Nature

Pan's Mission is to facilitate international and multidisciplinary dialogue about the benefits of interacting with nature and other animals and to contribute to the Human Animal Studies body of knowledge through research and education.

Accomplishments have been:

- Developed and taught a one year Certificate program in cooperation with DePaul University, Chicago (students from 5 countries)
- Held roundtable meetings to encourage exchange of ideas
- Conducted and published research
- Presented to diverse audiences
- Studied animal health and behaviour
- Worked internationally to understand need in different countries and regions of countries

Pan's advisors include:

Kathy Gerbasi (Education and research), Sherril M. Stone (Learning and Cognition); Ceres Faraco (South American advisor) and Ursula Sissener (European advisor)

For details of [membership, courses and resources](https://www.pan-inc.org/) see: <https://www.pan-inc.org/>

Animal Behaviour Society

The Animal Behavior Society is a non-profit scientific society, founded to encourage and promote the study of animal behavior. ABS members are from all over the world, but primarily from North, Central, and South America. Membership is open to those interested in the study of animal behavior. Based in the US, the Society was formed in 1964 and its website contains a detailed [History](#) and pages on [Awards](#), [Careers Guide](#), [Grants](#), [Films](#), [Conferences](#), the [Animal Behaviour Journal](#) and [News and Announcements](#).

See: <http://www.animalbehavior.org/>

Animal-Human Interaction: Research and Practice

The Section on [Animal-Human Interaction: Research & Practice](#) of Division 17 on Counseling Psychology of the American Psychological Association, is dedicated to professional and scholarly activities that advance the understanding of animal-human interactions as they relate to counseling psychology.

AHI addresses:

- The role of the human-animal bond in empathy development, the ability to form and express attachments, reaction to grief and loss, the challenges of aging, and other developmental passages throughout the lifespan
- The ways in which human interaction with animals promotes health
- The role of animal-assisted therapies in prevention and intervention programs in a variety of settings
- Violence prevention as it relates to the link between animal abuse and family, juvenile, and community violence
- Training programs on topics such as pet grief counseling, assessment and treatment of animal abuse, as well as counseling programs to address the needs of veterinary students, animal shelter volunteers, and animal rescue workers.

For Membership details, Events and Resources see: <http://www.apa-ahi.org/>

Fellowships

[John H. Daniels Fellowship](#) at the National Sporting Library in Middleburg, Virginia Deadline February 1, 2010

[The National Sporting Library](#), a research institution specializing in horse and field sports, invites applications for research fellowships from university faculty in the humanities and social sciences, museum and library professionals, journalists, and independent scholars. Research disciplines include history, art history, literature, American studies, and area studies. Past projects include hunting imagery in 18th-century French portraiture, women in horse sports, and Early Modern horsemanship manuals. Located 42 miles west of Washington, D.C., the Library holds an extensive collection of over 17,000 books, periodicals, manuscripts, and sporting art.

The collection covers many aspects of equestrian and outdoor sports, including foxhunting, horse racing, dressage, polo, eventing, coaching, shooting (particularly upland bird shooting), fly fishing and angling. The F. Ambrose Rare Book Room contains over 4,000 rare volumes from the sixteenth through twentieth centuries in several languages. The Library has a permanent art collection of European and American sporting art, and will open the National Sporting Art Museum next door in 2011.

The fellowship covers approved projects of 12 months or less, and applicants must demonstrate their need to use specific works in the collections. A monthly stipend, workspace, and complimentary housing (for those outside of the immediate area) are provided.

[Applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2010.](#)

For more information, visit our website at <http://www.nsl.org/fellowship.html> or contact the Director of Communications and Research at 540-687-6542 x 11 or fellowship@nsl.org.

Interviews: Academics, activists, researchers.

Peter Sankoff interviewed by Siobhan O’Sullivan



Peter is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland, Faculty of Law, and concentrates his teaching and research on legal issues surrounding the criminal trial process and the relationship between animals and the law.

He is one of the founders and a former Co-Chair of the New Zealand animal advocacy group the Animal Rights Legal Action Network, a group that has been heavily involved in legislative reform, providing submissions on a number of animal related statutes, and campaigning for better protection for animals in a range of industries.

Peter is co-editor, with Steven White, of *Animal Law in Australasia: A New Dialogue* (Federation Press, 2009).

Siobhan: You have been at the fore of animal law teaching and scholarship for quite a while. What do you see as the challenges of researching in such a new field?

There are several challenges, some of which will diminish with time. One is a very basic issue of legitimacy – convincing the legal establishment that animal law issues are worthy of serious consideration. This is no small matter. In order to get animal law research published in places where it will be taken seriously, it’s necessary to overcome some irrational resistance from the establishment, as too many people believe – with little basis to justify such belief – that there is no value in pursuing research in this area. The same problem exists in teaching. Many competent lecturers have had real trouble getting animal law courses up and running simply because of prejudice held by those in power who believe – mistakenly – that animal law is not a serious area of study.

Another challenge is a shortage of primary research. To put it simply, research begets more research, and in order to develop ideas of greater complexity, it is necessary to have basic materials that one can rely upon to advance propositions. For example, when I started writing, there was not a single legal article that had EVER been written on an animal law issue in New Zealand. As such, I felt compelled to spend several years proving some very basic ideas – and I still have a long way to go. Once these propositions have been published, it will be possible to develop more sophisticated critique, building on what’s already been written.

Siobhan: There must also be a lot of positives in pursuing research into animal studies. What is it about the research field that you enjoy most?

That’s easy. When I conduct research on animal law issues, I feel like I’m doing something important – something that matters. I like to think all of my research is important, but the work I do in relation to animals seems to me to be much more closely connected to addressing a real need in society. There is a lot that needs to be done to make the world a better place for animals, and I hope my research is one part of getting us there.

Siobhan: Do you have any thoughts about the future direction of animal related research in law or other related disciplines?

There are two things I think we need to see: more sophisticated legal research and work of an inter-disciplinary nature. To date, as I indicated above, much of the animal law research published – including my own work – has been fairly basic, as it's often been doing nothing more than trying to set out elementary propositions that have never been formally proven, or critique at a very basic level, perhaps by showing how animal welfare laws fail to protect animals. But the truth is that most of the laws governing animals are so poorly constructed that it's fairly easy to dissect and criticize them. While work of this nature is valuable, it's not particularly complex. In future, I'd like to see more work done to develop alternative legal constructs and identify solutions instead of just problems. I'd also like to see more research that focuses on wider societal forces that permit these poor laws to be created in the first place.

More interdisciplinary work also needs to be done. One example of this type of work that I'm currently involved in is some media analysis of a recent New Zealand controversy over pig farming, where the law was referred to frequently – usually incorrectly. Using my background in communication studies, I want to examine how politicians and those in animal industries utilize “animal welfare language” and misstate the law in order to sway popular opinion in a particular direction. I think research of this type has a great deal to add to the existing scholarship, and has the potential to reveal with greater certainty where the true problems with the law lie.

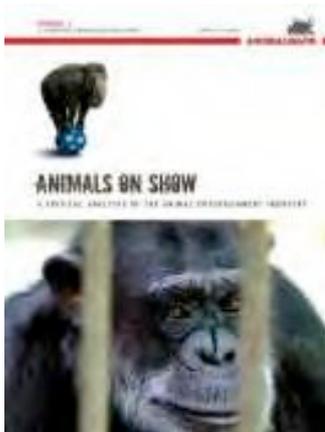
Siobhan: What advice do you have for students or young researchers interested in animal law, or animal studies more broadly?

Don't get dispirited, and accept that we have a long road ahead to make real strides for animals. I find my students often get down about the current state of affairs, and feel defeated, as if there is nothing they can do that will make any real change. Of course it's partly that attitude that got us to where we are right now! Every person interested in making the law better for animals can play a role in getting us there. We need lots of help. Recognize that you can play a small part in making things better and come on board. There is plenty to do.

For more information about Peter's activities and contact details visit the Faculty of Law website: <http://www.law.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/os-peter-sankoff> or his personal website: <http://www.lawstaff.auckland.ac.nz/~sankoff/>

New Books

ANIMALS ON SHOW: A New Education Resource for NZ High Schools by Nichola Kriek and Philip Armstrong.

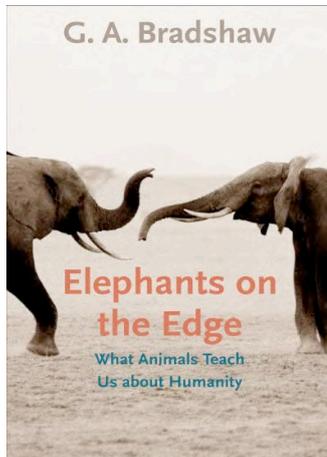


The third volume of the [Animals & Us](#) series of educational resources for high schools has just been published, and copies have been sent to every school in New Zealand.

Animals on Show, written and compiled by [Animals & Us](#) founder Nichola Kriek and NZCHAS co-director Philip Armstrong, focuses on the keeping of captive animals for entertainment in zoos, circuses, aquaria, marinelands and rodeos. It includes material from NZCHAS associates Tanja Schwalm, Professor Randy Malamud and Professor Marc Bekoff.

The [Animals & Us](#) programme can be viewed, and the resource materials downloaded, at <http://www.animalsandus.org.nz/>

ELEPHANTS ON THE EDGE: What Elephants Teach Us About Humanity by [Gay Bradshaw](#). Yale University Press, 2009.

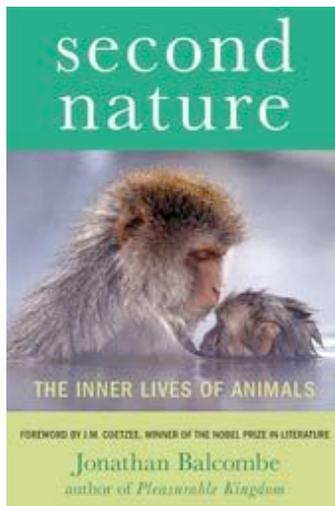


[Gay Bradshaw](#) explores the minds, emotions, and lives of elephants, drawing on accounts from India to and California to Tennessee, and on research in neuroscience, psychology, and animal behavior. Wars, starvation, mass culls, poaching, and habitat loss have reduced elephant numbers from more than ten million to a few hundred thousand, leaving orphans bereft of the elders who would normally mentor them. As a consequence, traumatized elephants have become aggressive against people, other animals, and even one another their behavior is comparable to that of humans who have experienced genocide, other types of violence, and social collapse.

By exploring the elephant mind and experience in the wild and in captivity, Bradshaw bears witness to the breakdown of ancient elephant cultures. However, Bradshaw assures us, all is not lost. People are working to save elephants by rescuing orphaned infants and rehabilitating adult zoo and circus elephants, using the same principles psychologists apply in treating humans who have survived trauma. Bradshaw urges us to support these and other models of elephant recovery and to solve pressing social and environmental crises affecting all animals, human or not.

“Elephants on the Edge is an urgent call to end this strife and for humanity to embrace once more the traditions that kept the peace with our animal kin.” [Archbishop Emeritus Desmond M. Tutu](#)

SECOND NATURE: The Inner Lives of Animals by [Jonathan Balcombe](#). Macmillan, forthcoming, 2010.



From the Macmillan website:

For centuries we believed that humans were the only ones that mattered. The idea that animals had feelings was either dismissed or considered heresy. Today, that's all changing. New scientific studies of animal behavior reveal perceptions, intelligences, awareness and social skills that would have been deemed fantasy a generation ago. The implications make our troubled relationship to animals one of the most pressing moral issues of our time.

[Jonathan Balcombe](#), animal behaviorist and author of the critically acclaimed *Pleasurable Kingdom*, draws on the latest research, observational studies and personal anecdotes to reveal the full gamut of animal experience—from emotions, to problem solving, to moral judgment. Balcombe challenges the widely held idea that nature is red in tooth and claw, highlighting animal traits we have disregarded until now: their nuanced understanding of social dynamics, their consideration for others, and their strong tendency to avoid violent conflict. Did you know that dogs recognize unfairness and that rats practice random acts of kindness? Did you know that chimpanzees can trounce humans in short-term memory games? Or that fishes distinguish good guys from cheaters, and that birds are susceptible to mood swings such as depression and optimism?

With vivid stories and entertaining anecdotes, Balcombe gives the human pedestal a strong shake while opening the door into the inner lives of the animals themselves.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Foucault and Animals – Matthew Chrulew and Dinesh Wadiwel (Eds)

"The animal in man no longer has any value as the sign of a Beyond; it has become his madness, without a relation to anything but itself; his madness in the state of nature."

"it is a technique of training, of dressage, that 'despotically excludes in everything the least representation, and the smallest murmur'."

"for millennia, man remained what he was for Aristotle: a living animal with the additional capacity for a political existence; modern man is an animal whose politics places his existence as a living being in question."

Michel Foucault, History of Madness; Discipline and Punish; and The Will to Knowledge

Michel Foucault had much to say on many things, and the legacy of his thinking can be found across a diverse range of fields of inquiry, including philosophy, sociology, psychology, history, politics, architecture, health sciences, ethics and sexuality. Yet Foucault says very little about animals. And perhaps, as a consequence, while Foucault would seem to be everywhere in social and political theory, the impact of his work is yet to be fully appreciated within the emerging field of animal studies. As has been shown in recent critical engagements with Foucault that have drawn connections with animal life, including those of Giorgio Agamben, Donna Haraway, and Roberto Esposito, Foucault's work is extremely profitable for understanding our conflicted relationships with animals. More than another of the endless applications of his work, we believe this conjunction to be essential: both for the advancement of a new field struggling with questions of power, knowledge, and ethics; and for the study of a philosopher whose antihumanism failed to interrogate the category of species.

We are seeking **abstracts from scholars engaged with Foucault and animal studies** for a proposed edited book collection. The collection will be unashamedly critical in approach, seeking to include articles that challenge systems of power which simultaneously organise conduct, violence, care and domination of nonhuman animals, from wildlife parks to factory farms. However, we also recognize there is an urgent need for in-depth, inter-disciplinary theorisation that is able to map and challenge the lines of distinction between human and animal. We therefore encourage submissions from scholars working in a range of disciplines, interested in how Foucault might be used to consider human and animal relations in a broad sense. We welcome not only philosophical discussion but analysis of science, policy, and activist praxis. We encourage not simply the transfer of Foucauldian concepts but their effective adaptation to multispecies contexts.

Suggested topic areas include:

- Biopolitics
- Ethics and the care of the self
- Power and the political
- Discourse and knowledge
- Governmentality and conduct
- Sovereignty and security
- History of biology and science
- Discipline, training and communication
- Panopticism, surveillance, gaze, spectacle
- Sexuality
- Animal subjectivities;
- Heterotopias of interspecies contact;
- The animality of humanity;
- Humanism, language and the border of species.

Abstract deadline: 28th February 2010. Projected completed book chapter deadline: late 2010.

For abstract submissions (of 500 words), or to discuss proposed contributions, please email either Matthew Chrulew at mchrulew@gmail.com or Dinesh Wadiwel at dwadiwel@gmail.com

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

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

Issue 11 'Insecta' is now online at www.antennae.org.uk.

It is no secret that **insects** are one Antennae's favourite subjects. In 2007, the publishing of our first double issue dedicated to insects firmly assessed Antennae as an alternative publication fierce enough to invest vast amounts of publishing space on 'underground themes'. Our '**Insect Poetics**' volumes are still the most downloaded from our back catalogue. However, insects still are a difficult subject: in mass-culture they are substantially organised through the dichotomic division between 'the useful' and 'the pest', whilst in the field of animal-studies they suffer from neglect as great scrutiny is reserved to mammals and other animals that can return the gaze.

The emblematic moment in which **Jacques Derrida**, emerging from the shower, found himself being looked at by his cat (another mammal), has predominantly shaped the methodologies and approaches of most of the past and current academic speculation on animals and our relationships with them. The main questions triggered by the encounter highlighted the presence of an insurmountable communicational abyss between man and animal. From this point onward, the concept of the 'return of the gaze', extensively contributed to the revisioning of the animal (mammals that is) from object to subject and more recently to 'becoming'.

Discussing the return of the gaze in relation to a butterfly's compound eyes seems however to reveal the limitations involved in this approach. Is the abyss here too wide and too deep? Are there productive opportunities involved in these encounters, exchanges and relationships too? In the attempt of bringing material forward that may be used to answering these questions, this issue of Antennae looks at some of the most challenging and interesting contemporary artists working with insects. The "excuse" for 'Insecta' to be released right now is **Festival 2009 "A festival celebrating insects in art, and the art of being an insect"** which took place at London's Southbank Centre this September. Amongst others, the issue also includes exclusive interviews with international artists **Maria Fernanda Cardoso**, **Jan Fabre** and **Cornelia Hesse-Honegger**.

(From Giovanni Aloï, Editor in Chief of Antennae Project)

CALL FOR PAPERS:

Antennae Seeks Submissions on Animals in Graphic Novels

Antennae is seeking submission for its June 2010 issue. This issue will primarily focus on papers that examine contemporary graphic novels; examples of these might include *Pride of Baghdad* (Brian K. Vaughan), *First in Space*, the works of Osamu Tezuka, *Animal Man* (Grant Morrison), *Rabbi's Cat* (Joann Sfar), *Fables* (Bill Willingham), and *Maus* (Art Spiegelman), among others. Papers that examine the subjects of comics for children and comic strips that appear in newspapers may also be considered, depending on the originality of the contextualisation through which they may be presented. We are looking at gathering a wide range of perspectives, themes and ideas within the broad scope of animals in graphic novels.

These may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Exploring animality in the graphic novel medium
- Representing the human/animal divide
- Positive and negative aspects of anthropomorphism
- Becoming animal
- Links between sexism, racism and speciesism
- Non-western graphic novels
- The challenges of animal first-person narratives
- Ecocriticism and nature in graphic novels

As per usual *Antennae* is open to consideration of academic essays as well as fiction and experimental writing. Submission of abstracts and proposals is 1st of December 2009. Final deadline for submissions is 1st of March 2010.

For any questions please contact Giovanni Aloï and Lisa Brown (Guest Editor of the Animals in Graphic Novels Issue) at: <mailto:antennaeproject@gmail.com>

RECENT ARTICLES:

Libby Robins. 'Dead Museum Animals: Natural Order and Cultural Chaos'. *reCollections: Journal of the National Museum of Australia* 4, no. 2 (2009):

http://recollections.nma.gov.au/issues/vol_4_no_2/papers/dead_museum_animals/

Film and Radio Documentaries

Red Gold

A film by Travis Rummel, Ben Knight, and Lauren Oakes. Co-produced by Felt Soul Media and Trout Unlimited Alaska

The Bristol Bay region of Southwest Alaska is home to the Kvichak and Nushagak rivers, the two most prolific sockeye salmon runs left in the world. Foreign mining companies Northern Dynasty Minerals and Anglo American have partnered to propose development of what could be one of the world's largest open-pit and underground mines at the headwaters of the two river systems. Mine backers claim the Pebble exploration site is the second largest combined deposit of copper, gold, and molybdenum ever discovered, and has an estimated value of more than \$300 billion

Despite promises of a clean project by officials, the accident-plagued history of hard rock mining has sparked deep concern from Alaskans who love and depend upon Bristol Bay's incredible wild salmon fishery. *Red Gold* documents the growing unrest among Alaska Native, commercial, and sport-fishermen. It's a portrait of a unique way of life that will not survive if the salmon don't return with Bristol Bay's tide.

"Red Gold is a truly important film in so many ways. At its core, the documentary focuses on a searing local issue but it really is exploring a much larger, essential topic of our times: how sustainable and indigenous ways of life are being trampled by invasive corporate interests. What sets Red Gold apart is its stunning artistry. From the opening sequence, you know you are in the hands of extremely talented filmmakers who care enormously about their craft." David Holbrooke, *Filmmaker, Director of Mountainfilm*

For more information see: <http://redgoldfilm.com/>

One Planet: Animals and Us

A radio program by [Victor Schonfeld](#) (maker of *The Animals Film*) that asks Why do humans continue to exploit other species? Are we capable of changing our ways?

The documentary covers environmental, development and agriculture stories, dealing with the impact of humankind on the natural world. [Programme One](#) considers the use of animals for food and turns to experts in fields such as psychology, history, language and neurology to find out why humans seem so attracted to eating meat. [Programme Two](#) focuses on the scientific establishment's attachment to using animals, and also concludes the series by considering the future: Might ending the suffering of animals at human hands greatly benefit people too?

BBC World Service podcast:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p005k2zy/One Planet Animals and Us/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p005k2zy/One_Planet_Animals_and_Us/)

FOR MORE FILMS AND AUDIOS SEE:

Animals in Society Collection: Audio-Visuals

At Kansas State University, College of Veterinary Medicine website:

<http://www.vet.ksu.edu/depts/library/ais/av.htm>

Links: Resource pages, blogs

- **The Solution**

This is a blog about [veganism, vegetarianism, animals, and the law](#). SoLVe's (The Society of Legal Vegans and Vegetarians) mandate is interpreted quite broadly, aiming to provide information that will be useful both to veteran vegans who know little about the law and seasoned lawyers who have never considered veganism. This blog is simply their thoughts, reflections, and suggestions, as a group of legally minded Auckland vegans and vegetarians.

<http://thesolution.org.nz/>

- **Animals and Us**

[Animals & Us](#) provides resources on animal issues for teachers and students in New Zealand Secondary schools. Resources are:

- Focussed on the relationship between human and non-human animals.
- Designed for use within the NCEA framework for years 11, 12 and 13.
- Created and peer-reviewed by professional teachers and educationalists.

[Animals & Us](#) resources are designed to encourage critical thinking, advance knowledge and develop values of empathy and compassion.

<http://www.animalsandus.org.nz/>

- **On the Human**

OTH is a community of scholars conducting research and teaching courses on the relations of humans, animals and machines. They are especially interested in the question of human singularity: the properties, if any, that distinguish us from other biological creatures and artificial intelligences. As these properties often have ethical implications, those implications are in our sights as well.

<http://onthehuman.org/>

- **Vegatopia**

Promoting ethical veganism through academic research and teaching.

Vegatopia is dedicated to providing a comprehensive academic resource on all things vegan. If you are a student, researcher or teacher interested in any aspect of veganism this is the site for you. It aims to provide access to as wide a range of academic resources on veganism as possible and hope that through the inter- and multi- disciplinary sharing of ideas, this site will facilitate new areas of research into vegan-related issues.

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

- **RAAT**

Replace Animals in Australian Testing is an information resource on replacement technologies currently available in Australia and an emerging network of people and organisations working towards replacement of animals in research. Their vision is to reduce the number of animals used in scientific experiments and medical research in Australia. Their aims:

- to advocate non-animal based research
- to strengthen the application of the *Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* in university ethics committees

Contact Dr Denise Russell: deniser@uow.edu.au or Dr Melissa Boyde: boyde@uow.edu.au to help build the RAAT network and expand the information on the RAAT website:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/research/raat>

- **Centre for Animal Alternatives**

University of California Davis webpages with information on Research, Topic Specific Searches, Animal Welfare and Related Websites.

The aim of the Centre is to gather and disseminate information concerning animal alternatives, not only to improve the well-being and quality of life of research animals wherever possible, but also to optimise their contribution to education and research. Current programs include: develop resources to enable access to the literature of alternatives to animals and to provide guidance in efficient use of existing information resources, in both print and electronic formats.

<http://www.lib.ucdavis.edu/dept/animalalternatives/mission.php>

Dr Kirrilly Thompson



I hold a PhD in anthropology from the University of Adelaide based on ethnographic fieldwork undertaken in Southern Spain (Andalusia) from 2000-2001, to research mounted bullfighting. My thesis – ‘Performing Human-Animal Relations in Spain: An anthropological study of bullfighting from horseback in Andalusia’ – considered the ways in which the mounted bullfight can be understood as a performance of the fluidity of the human-animal boundary. This involved an engagement with issues of gender, class, identity, embodiment, socio-historical construction, symbolic anthropology and mutual embodiment (including actor-network theory). It extended my honours research into the idea of dancing horses invoked in discussions of freestyle dressage to music (drawing from sport theories and Foucauldian ideas of discipline), where I considered the ways in which docile bodies can be generative, artistic bodies.

At the same time, my doctoral research into the mounted bullfight redressed an anthropological bias towards the footed bullfight. By considering the triadic human-horse-bull relation, I was able to move beyond binary interpretations of human-

animal relations. By identifying moments of boundary blurring I was able to reconsider structuralist analyses of human-animal relations in Spain based on the footed bullfight which present Andalusian culture as being based on a highly policed exclusion of animals (materially and symbolically) from the human realm.

A recently funded ARC linkage project to understand the cultural drivers of food waste will allow me to expand my human-animal relations research from animals in performance arenas to animals on kitchen plates, or animals disposing of food scraps. I am publishing articles based on my doctoral research and synthesising my interests in human-animal relations with the activities of the Centre for Sleep Research in which I am a Postdoctoral Fellow. I am currently working on a project to evaluate the Delta Dog Safe program in South Australia, which promotes dog safety amongst primary school-aged children.

In 2010 I will research risk perception amongst equestrians and will travel to the University of Chester in the UK to collaborate in this area with the Equine Welfare Research Unit. I am also liaising with researchers in physiotherapy to developing research around ergonomic saddle design (for horses and riders). The Human-Animal Relations Group (HARG) in SA provides me with a network of researchers with similar interests and the potential for further multi-disciplinary human-animal relations projects.

My research interests in human-horse relations derive from being a 'horse-person'/'dressage queen' (I have provided a picture of myself with my gorgeous 5 year old Arabian Warmblood mare Lavazza). My efforts to combine work with pleasure works both ways, as riding frequently provides a space from which I can reflect critically on research (my reflections on the ethics of riding being the least comfortable). Both dressage and anthropology discipline my passion and impassion my discipline.

Dr Carol Freeman



Carol and Toto

My interest in human-animal studies began in 1998 when I took an interdisciplinary third year unit at University of Tasmania called Literature and Environment. An essay by Edward Hoagland, 'The Moose on the Wall' – an eloquent and devastatingly restrained account of an encounter with taxidermy – moved me to concentrate my future studies on representations of nonhuman animals in literature and visual media. This unit, unfortunately, was only offered for a few years and has not been available again in comparable form.

My Honours long essay, 'Feathering the Text: (Re)reading the Animal in Medieval Writing', was an experimental 'animalist' reading of three medieval works at a time when there had been few attempts to decentre the human in such analyses. At the end of this project in 2000 I was awarded a University medal for work in History, Literature, Cultural studies and Geography and in 2005 I finished an interdisciplinary doctoral thesis, 'Figuring Extinction: Visualising the Thylacine in Zoological and Natural History Works' in the School of Geography and

Environmental Studies, where I had moved to more easily pursue animal-related topics and where I am now based. This research explored the political relations between visual images in zoological literature, magazines and newspapers and the extinction of the thylacine c1936. The pivotal image in the project was a hoax photograph published in an Australian Museum publication that depicted the Tasmanian 'tiger' as a danger to stock, just as numbers of the species were reaching a critical low.

Now, as an Honorary Research Associate, my work focuses on representations of extinct and threatened species, animals in popular culture and wildlife documentaries. I am particularly interested in how specific constructions affect public perceptions of animals and the potential role of images in wildlife conservation. The inaugural Australian human-animal studies conference in Perth provided me with focus, encouragement and much needed interaction with colleagues involved in similar research and writing. I became a co-convenor of the second Animals and Society (Australia) Study Group conference in Hobart, while attendance at the intimate Kindred Spirits conference in Bloomington, Indiana, and the recent conference in Newcastle, fostered strong connections with interstate and overseas animal studies academics. A local e-bulletin I edited to raise awareness of HAS activities at University of Tasmania evolved into the editorship of this national news bulletin in 2008, on the suggestion of Natalie Edwards. It continues to be the primary 'voice' of animal studies in Australia.

In the last three years I have published papers in *Society and Animals*, *reCollections: Journal of the National Museum of Australia*, *Australian Zoologist*, and an essay in *Leonardo's Choice: Genetic Technologies and Animals* edited by Carol Gigliotti. I am currently preparing two books: The first co-edited with Elizabeth Leane and Yvette Watt—*Considering Animals: Contemporary Studies in Human-Animal Relations* to be published by Ashgate Press and the second, *Paper Tiger: A Visual History of the Thylacine*—a book from my PhD thesis which will be published by Brill in 2010.

Dr Natalie Edwards



Natalie and Megsi

Animals Studies has been a formative influence on my academic writing and career. This career now spans three animal history research projects (with associated publications) and my role as a convener of the Animals & Society (Australia) Study Group.

In the early 2000s, as the field emerged internationally, I was writing a PhD at the University of Western Australia on the history of Australian Zoological Gardens. Through exploring the scholarship of animal historians such as Jonathan Burt, Nigel Rothfels, Erica Fudge and Harriet

Ritvo I was inspired to, as much as possible, place the animals and their experiences at the heart of my narrative. This approach, allowing for animals to be a central concern of historical research and writing, along with a developing interest in animal health, were carried over to my post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Auckland, commenced in 2007. This project addressed the exchange of veterinary knowledge between Australasian centres of livestock production in the first part of the twentieth century. It focused on cases where the extension and intensification of farming led to outbreaks of disease among the animals and to the industry's increasing reliance on scientific interventions. The animal history approach continues to be important in my most recent project, a comparative study of Danish and New Zealand slaughterhouse and meat inspection practices to be co-written with Danish veterinary historian Anne Katrine Gjerløff.

I currently hold an honorary research associate position with Massey University's Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences where I have begun oral history interviews with retired members of staff. The interviews will provide a foundation to ongoing research into changes in human-animal relations and veterinary practices within the livestock industry.

Over the course of the past five years I have also facilitated the Animals & Society (Australia) Study Group (after co-founding the Group and convening its first conference in Perth in 2005). I now look forward to further involvement in the Group and its important initiatives.

For a full list of publications and activities please see:

<http://massey.academia.edu/NatalieEdwards>

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

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