

Animals and Society (Australia) Study Group

*News Bulletin * September 2009*

Regional News

- **New South Wales**

Conference review:

The week-long Minding Animals conference – an International Academic and Community Conference held in Newcastle 13-19 July 2009 – featured 300 presenters, speaking in 6 concurrent sessions. Together with keynote speakers Dale Jamieson, Marc Bekoff, Deborah Rose, James Serpell, Bernard Rollin, Jennifer Wolch, Michael Soulé and Peter Singer and dinner presenters Carol Adams and Jill Robinson, they gave Australian delegates exposure to a wealth of ideas and cutting-edge research in human-animal studies from many different countries and cultural backgrounds. Activist, government and non-government approaches to issues involving nonhuman animals also broadened the scope and interest generated by the event.

A highlight of the conference was the 15 art exhibitions that participants could visit after the sessions finished each day. These events and the animal documentary films provided a valuable visual dimension to proceedings that enabled discussion and additional enjoyment for attendees.

The conference also provided a stimulus for a more formal organisation of the Animals and Society (Australia) Study Group, up till now a loose network of somewhat isolated scholars. Flowing from discussions at the event, we hope to establish a visible and active Web presence and strengthen and encourage links between state groups and interested members. Already there are plans for more conferences, a good sign that animal studies is a vital and growing academic field in Australia.

Minding animals Conference co-convenor, Rod Bennison: “The conference was hugely successful, with good feedback from participants. It established ‘minding animals’ as a global concept. Most importantly, it generated relationships across disciplines, which bodes well for Australian animal studies researchers interested in collaborative work with overseas academics.”

Conference Photos:





Photo Dermot Kavanagh



Photo Dermot Kavanagh



Photo Dermot Kavanagh



Photo Dermot Kavanagh



Notices from NSW:

*The Minding Animals conference program and abstracts are still available on the conference website <http://www.mindinganimals.com/>, along with photos (more will be added shortly) and vegan and vegetarian recipes from the event. There is also a link to Minding Animals on Twitter and Facebook – do a search for ‘Minding Animals’ and become a fan!

*Presenters who are interested in publishing their presentation from the conference, please forward your paper in Word 2003 or 2007 format to the Conference Co-convenor, Dr Rod Bennison. Papers MUST be in Times New Roman 12pt and no more than 7,000 words (5,000 if you want to be considered for a journal only). The date for submissions has been extended to October 9. Submissions can also be sent to mindinganimals@gmail.com

*Planning has begun for a second Minding Animals conference to be held in Europe (most likely The Netherlands or Belgium) in July 2012. Provisionally titled *Minding Animals 2: The Human Dimension*, the planning committee includes Rod Bennison, Carol Adams, Steve Baker, Marc Bekoff, Mateus da Costa, Dale Jamieson, Marti Kheel, Dominique Lestel, Susan McHugh, Vivek Menon, Clive Phillips, Deborah Rose, Kim Stallwood, Linda Williams and Wendy Woodward.

*Plans are also underway for *Global Animal: An Animal Studies Symposium* at the University of Wollongong, 27-28 September 2010. A Call for Papers and information on session themes will be posted in the December issue of the Bulletin.

- **South Australia**

Human-Animal Research Group

The Human-Animal Research Group (HARG) is a group with common interests and goals in researching and studying human-animal interactions. Please visit their recently launched website: <http://health.adelaide.edu.au/psychiatry/links/HAIG/>

HARG have regular meetings and interested people are always welcome to attend. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to be notified of upcoming events please contact [Susan Hazel](mailto:susan.hazel@adelaide.edu.au) at susan.hazel@adelaide.edu.au

- **Tasmania**

Seminar series

The Utas Animals and Society Group’s seminar series has featured the following presentations:

*August 13: **Special seminar** by [Joanna Zylinska](#), Reader in New Media and Communications at Goldsmiths, University of London: ‘Bioethics Otherwise, or, How to Live with Machines, Humans and Other Animals’

Joanna is author of three books: *Bioethics in the Age of New Media*, *The Ethics of Cultural Studies* and *On Spiders, Cyborgs and Being Scared: the Feminine and the Sublime*.

*August 26: [Undine Sellbach](#): ‘Insects and their Vicissitudes’

Undine is a research associate and part-time lecturer at the University of Tasmania. Her areas of investigation include philosophy and the arts, Wittgenstein, memory, the unconscious and animality. In this talk, Undine discussed Mark Copeland and Sarah Munroe’s “Great Travelling Insect Circus Museum & Peep Show Mechanical Menagerie” and Udo Sellbach’s Floating Isles of Insects.

*September 9: [Helen Tiffin](#): ‘Sex and the Species Boundary’

Helen Tiffin is adjunct Professor of post-colonial and animal studies at the University of New England, Armidale and is currently a Visiting Professor in the Department of Philosophy at

UTAS. Helen's paper discusses the ways in which three contemporary writers – Peter Goldsworthy (*Wish*), Marian Engel (*Bear*) and Zake Mde (*The Whale Caller*) – deal with the sensitive and difficult issue of inter-species love and sex.

*Further seminars this year (dates to be confirmed) include:

September 30: [Carol Freeman](#): 'Blurring the Boundaries in Wildlife Docudrama'

October: [Melissa Boyde](#): 'Mr Boss! We gotta get those fat cheeky bulls into that big bloody metal ship': Live export as romantic backdrop in Baz Luhrmann's *Australia*'

[PhD Scholarship in English Studies](#). University of Tasmania

Once valued primarily as commercial resources, the animals that inhabit Antarctica, such as whales, seals and penguins, have in recent years become environmental icons and tourist drawcards. Yet most people never directly see animals in an Antarctic habitat, gaining their knowledge and views of them through highly mediated encounters.

This PhD research project investigates the way in which Antarctic animals are represented to the public through popular scientific and other non-fiction texts. Depending on the candidate's background and interests, genres analysed may include expository science books, children's animal books, magazine articles, television documentaries, museum and zoo exhibits, and websites. The project will require an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on literary and cultural studies, Antarctic studies and human-animal studies. It will further understanding of the role that textual representation plays in determining human attitudes towards animals in the Antarctic regions.

The scholarship is funded by a University of Tasmania Rising Stars Grant and is closely related to the ARC Discovery Project 'Creatures of the Ice: An Cultural Analysis of Human-Animal Relations in Antarctica'. The primary supervisor for this project will be [Dr Elizabeth Leane](#) (School of English, Journalism and European Languages). The scholarship offers a tax-free stipend of \$25,000 p.a. for up to three years. Applicants should hold a first or upper second-class honours degree, or research masters degree, in an appropriate discipline.

For more information on the project please contact Dr Elizabeth Leane by email: Elizabeth.Lean@utas.edu.au.

- **Queensland**

*Preliminary meetings have been held to organise the [Fourth Animals and Society Conference](#) at Griffith University in 2011.

- **Western Australia**

[Perdita Phillips](#) is showing the results of her 2009 artist in residence at [Murdoch University School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Perth, Western Australia](#):
28 August -25 September 2009.

Monday to Friday 9:00am — 5:00pm
Saturday, Sunday 12:00pm — 5:00pm

See the 'Exhibitions' section of this bulletin for further details.

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

- **Festival of Dangerous Ideas**

Denise Russell: No Human Cure Justifies Animal Experimentation. Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House. 4pm, 3 October 2009.

Dr. Denise Russell (University of Wollongong) makes a powerful case against animal testing, comparing it with the now largely illegal practice of human slavery. The founding editor of the journal *Animal Ethics* argues that animal slavery is condoned and supported by government grants, charitable organizations, honours and awards:

The slave owners are given vast sums of money and praise. The animals who die are the lucky ones, as their suffering has ended. The supposed status of science and the secrecy involved in animal experimentation protects these practices from critical scrutiny. Yet millions of animals suffer and die in Australian experiments each year. Meanwhile in other countries, alternative ways of seeking knowledge about pharmaceuticals, biological responses to injury, surgical interventions or psychological processes have been developed. Entrenched power structures mean that in Australia there is resistance to implementing alternatives. Scientific experiments using animals could and should be abolished.

For bookings see:

<http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/priority/nohumancurejustifiesanimalexperimentation.aspx>

- **Asia for Animals Conference**

The 2010 AFA Biennial Conference: Making a Long-Term Positive Change. Singapore, 15-18 January, 2010

Asia for Animals (AFA) is the largest, most representative Asian animal protection conference. It is a platform for animal protection experts, members of the public and government officials to consolidate and share experiences, with an eye to developing new strategies and facilitating long-term change. Since 2001, this biennial conference has each time welcomed over 200 delegates from all across the world. It has been held previously in Manila, Hong Kong, Singapore, Chennai and Bali. Next year, more than 300 delegates are expected to attend.

'Making a long-term positive change' will focus on developing and implementing concrete long-term solutions for ongoing animal protection and cruelty problems. "A vision without a task is but a dream. A task without a vision is drudgery, But a vision and a task is the hope of the world." The conference theme is in line with this quote – that is, the urgent need for a common vision for the animal protection movement and the development of long-term, concrete steps to take to achieve this vision.

Presentation topics are:

- Running effective education projects
- Improving the welfare of animals in captivity
- Effective stray animals management
- Running a sustainable rescue centre
- Achieving long-term changes for farm animals
- Engaging and collaborating with government agencies on animal protection
- Wiping out the wildlife trade
- Campaigning for change
- Religion as a tool for change

Deadline for submissions: 30 November 2009

Deadline for early bird rates: 15 December 2009

For Submissions, Workshop Topics, Call for Papers, Exhibition Space, and Registration see <http://www.asiaforanimals.org/>

- **Cruelty/Crime Connection: Breaking the Chain**
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. October 8 & 9, 2009

The connections between animal cruelty, domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse will be explored in detail at the Cruelty-Crime Connection conference at Edmonton's Mayfield Inn on October 8th and 9th, 2009. Hosted by the Alberta SPCA, this multi-disciplinary conference features a variety of presenters of both international and local acclaim, including Frank R. Ascione PhD, Dr. Melinda Merck DVM, and Christina Risley-Curtiss PhD.

This event will be of interest to professionals in social services, law enforcement, veterinary medicine and anyone who helps victims of violence – both animal and human.

Conference Highlights:

- How animal cruelty and interpersonal violence are intrinsically connected
- How family animals can be a barrier to victims seeking help – and how to overcome them
- How investigators can use signs of animal abuse to help human victims
- How children are affected by animal cruelty
- The role of veterinarians in animal cruelty investigations
- Animal welfare and elder abuse
- Alberta programs that incorporate animal-assisted therapy for victims of domestic violence
- Veterinary forensics

.... and much more of interest to violence-prevention and human service professionals in all disciplines.

For more information, full program information and online registration see:
www.albertaspca.org/conference.asp

- **Translegality**
Law and Literature Association of Australia and Law and Society Association of Australia and New Zealand Joint Conference. Griffith University, Brisbane. LLAA Conference: 2 – 3 December, 2009. LSAANZ Conference: 4 – 5 December, 2009.

What is this era if not one of transformation, both good and bad - of boom becoming bust; tension, becoming truce; climate, catastrophe; despair, the “audacity of hope”? Unless, of course, it is an era in which these differences are transcended, their sublation promising a new synthesis, a law of hybridity that blurs binaries, collapses boundaries.

Trans(l)egalité enacts, as well as engages with, this twinned, yet conjoint thematic, being, itself, a unique institutional merger: that is, the collaborative coming together, for the purposes of this event, of the LLAA and LSAANZ, the former addressing “Transformation”, the latter, “Transcendence”.

Abstracts of approximately 300 words detailing which Association's theme/s your paper reports to, should be emailed to translegality@griffith.edu.au by Friday 25 September 2009.

For more details see: <http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/translegality>

- **Symposium on Animal/Human Studies and Contemporary Art**
Cass Contemporary Arts (CASSCA). London Metropolitan University, Sir John Cass Department of Art Media and Design. Whitechapel, London. October 2010.

CASSCA announces another symposium on animal/human studies and contemporary art at Sir John Cass in October 2010 (final dates to be announced). The event will be developed from practice-led university research in fine art. We welcome practising artists in particular, and participation from all disciplines and from varying research approaches in general, both scholarly

and practice-led. We invite proposals for papers, presentations, dialogues, showings, interventions, performances and workshops in all formats.

Previous exhibitions and symposiums were informed by attendance at meetings of the British Animal Studies Network and subscriptions to the the H-Animal Network, the British Sociological Association's [Animal/Human Studies Group](#) and Giovanni Aloï's *Antennae*, the online Journal of Visual Culture and Nature.

Deadline: March 31st, 2010 (notice of acceptance to be made by May 30th, 2010). Please send proposals and abstracts of no more than 300 words to [Rosemarie McGoldrick](#) at London Met.

To express interest in *attending* the 2010 event (and to receive further details), please click [here](#).

Courses, Groups and Networks: People, new units, membership

Animal Law, Sydney University

Conducted by [Celeste Black](#), this unit has been offered for the first time this semester and has 33 students enrolled.

The unit examines the ways in which the law defines and regulates the relationship between humans and animals. It introduces students to the key issues, debates and documents in this area whilst encouraging a critical examination of these sources. The unit begins with a discussion of the status of animals as property and the implications of this approach and then moves to providing an overview of the moral and ethical arguments supporting an animal protection position and the case for animal rights. The focus of the unit is on the regulatory frameworks which apply to interactions between humans and animals, both domesticated and wild.

The unit covers the following topics:

- Animal welfare legislation and its enforcement
- Issues of standing
- The role of agricultural codes of practice
- Wildlife conservation
- International law issues including whaling and free trade constraints on improved standards for animal welfare
- Trade in endangered species and the role of zoos
- The use of animals in research (including the responsibilities of institutions and animal ethics committees)
- Regulation of companion animals
- Current issues in animal law, such as live export

*Please refer to handbooks for further course information. The Faculty Handbook and the University Calendar are official legal sources of information relating to study at the University of Sydney.

BSA Animal/Human Studies Group

Raising the profile of animal/human related research in Sociology

From the [British Sociological Association's](#) Animal Studies group website:

The study of animal-human relations within the social sciences is an increasingly important, vibrant and burgeoning field. The formation of the BSA Animal/Human Studies Group in June 2006 is therefore an important step towards addressing what Bryant (1979) has called the

'zoological connection', whereby sociologists need to recognise that people co-exist and interact not only with humans but with non-human animals too.

For example, animals are increasingly utilised and involved in biotechnology and genomics; animal experimentation; the production and slaughter of food animals; companion animal-human type relationships and the therapeutic use of animals. Moreover, additional animal-related issues that have attracted attention by researchers are: the potential links between animal abuse and domestic violence; the nature of animal-animal interaction; potential links between women, nature and animals; bestiality; human-wildlife interactions; and human responses to companion animal death/euthanasia. Sociologists have much to offer this emerging area of study and are well placed to engage with the multifaceted, ambiguous and challenging nature of the animal-human interface in everyday life.

The [BSA Animal/Human Studies Group](#) will enable both current and future sociologists to put non-human animals on to the specialist and mainstream sociological research agenda, thus ensuring that animal-human studies becomes a viable and significant area of sociological study.

For News and Events page, Current Projects, Current PhDs, Bibliography, Archives, and Links see: <http://www.ahsg.co.uk/index.html>

New Books

ANIMALS AND AGENCY: An Interdisciplinary Exploration edited by [Sarah E. McFarland](#) and [Ryan Hediger](#). Brill, 2009

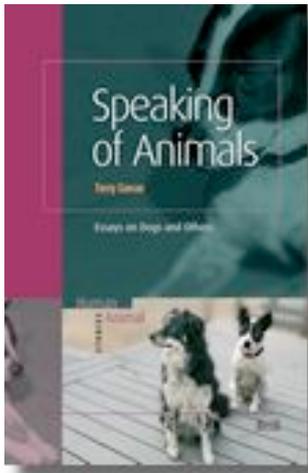


From Brill's website: While many scholars who write about animals deal with animal agency in some way, this volume is the first to position the questions of nonhuman agency as the primary focus of inquiry. Section 1 presents studies of actual animals demonstrating agency; Section II moves agency into new terrain while considering key representations of animal agency in literature; Section III analyzes animals as mediators and as conveyances of human-to-human communication; and Section IV investigates the agency of beings who defy conventional species categories. The Envoi demonstrates how the microscopic polyp is interwoven into notions of agency and mythical supragency. This volume's interdisciplinary explorations press hard on issues of agency to open up space for more questions about how we can understand relationships between the human and the nonhuman.

This collection contains essays by [Rebecca Bishop](#), [Matthew Candelaria](#), [J.J. Clark](#), [Debra Durham](#), [Ryan Hediger](#), [David Lulka](#), [Jed Mayer](#), [Sarah E. McFarland](#), [Debra Merskin](#), [Dipika Nath](#), [Rebecca Onion](#), [Stephanie Rowe](#), [Shelly R. Scott](#), [Laurence Simmons](#), [Traci Warkentin](#), and [Cat Yampell](#).

Editor [Sarah E. McFarland](#) is assistant professor at Northwestern State University. Her publications examine how representations of animals are used to construct human conceptions of animal subjectivity, gender privilege, and contemporary environmental ethics. [Ryan Hediger](#) is visiting assistant professor at La Salle University. His research focuses on the rhetorical function of literary and cultural objects in 20th-century and contemporary America, with emphasis on animals, ethics, and environment.

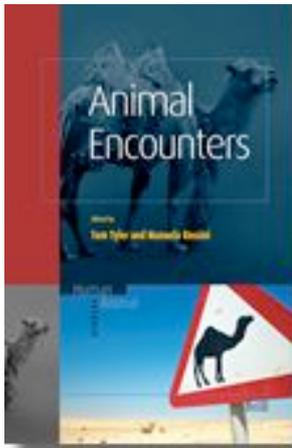
SPEAKING OF ANIMALS: Essays on Dogs and Others by [Terry Caesar](#). Brill, 2009



Speaking of Animals consists of a linked series of thirteen essays about subjects ranging from deciding to castrate a dog, evaluating recent dog memoirs, observing animals in Spain, reading about the training of big cats, watching Animal Planet, and being unable to kill a racoon in Texas. So often personal, even while analysing novels such as *Water for Elephants* or movies such as *Giant* or *Into the Wild*, the essays offer both an implicit critique and a continuation of recent discursive trends in animal studies, whose language is too haplessly abstracted from the animal in whose name we humans strive to speak as well as narrate.

[Terry Caesar](#) has been Professor of American Literature at Mukogawa University as well as Professor of English at Clarion University. He has published seven books (three co-edited with Eva Bueno) on the politics of American and Japanese higher education as well as Latin American popular culture and American travel writing.

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS edited by [Tom Tyler](#) and [Manuela Rossini](#). Brill, 2009

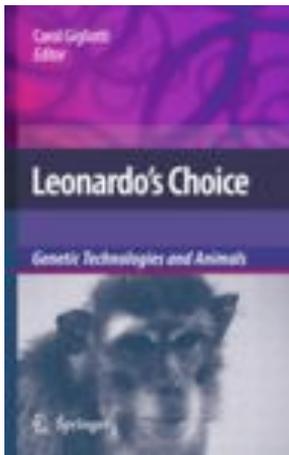


The fast-growing field of Animal Studies is a varied and much contested domain. Engagement with animals has encouraged both collaboration and conflict between researchers within the arts, humanities, and social sciences. *Animal Encounters* comprises a series of meetings not only between diverse beasts, but also between distinct disciplinary methods, theoretical approaches, and ethical positions. The essays here collected come together from literary and cultural studies, sociology and anthropology, ecocriticism and art history, philosophy and feminism, science and technology studies, history and posthumanism, to study that most familiar and most foreign of creatures, 'the animal'. These encounters between leading practitioners in the field highlight the promise and potential of interspecies exchange and mutual provocation.

Contributors include: [Carol J. Adams](#), [Steve Baker](#), [Monika Bakke](#), [Pamela Banting](#), [Jonathan Burt](#), [Donna Haraway](#), [Randy Malamud](#), [Manuela Rossini](#), [Laurie Shannon](#), [Robyn Smith](#), [Susan Squier](#) and [Tom Tyler](#).

[Tom Tyler](#) is Senior Lecturer in Philosophy and Culture at Oxford Brookes University, UK. He has published widely on animals in philosophy and critical theory. His book *CIFERAE: A Bestiary in Five Fingers* is forthcoming. [Manuela S. Rossini](#), University of Basel, is a Project Manager at td-net (Network for Transdisciplinary Research) of the Swiss Academies. She has published in Early Modern Studies, Gender Studies and Science & Literature Studies.

LEONARDO'S CHOICE: Genetic Technologies and Animals edited by [Carol Gigliotti](#). Springer, September, 2009



Leonardo's Choice is an edited collection focusing on the profound affect the use of animals in biotechnology is having on both humans and other species. These essays, unlike the majority of discussions of biotechnology, take seriously the impact of these technologies on animals themselves. This collection's central questions address the disassociation Western ideas of creative freedom have from the impacts those ideas and practices have on the non-human world. This transdisciplinary collection includes perspectives from the disciplines of philosophy, cultural theory, art and literary theory, history and theory of science, environmental studies, law, landscape architecture, history, and geography. Its authors are at the forefront of the growing number of theorists and practitioners concerned with the impact of new technologies on the more-than-human world.

[Carol Gigliotti](#) is a writer, educator, and artist, is an Associate Professor of Dynamic Media and Critical and Cultural Studies at Emily Carr University (ECU) in Vancouver, B.C., Canada where she teaches Environmental Ethics, Critical Animal Studies and Digital Interactive Media courses. She has been involved in new media since 1989 and has been writing about ethics and technologies for the last seventeen years.

Contents:

Part I

1. Genetic Science, Animal Exploitation, and the Challenge for Democracy
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2. Darwin's Progeny: Eugenics, genetics and animal rights
[Vincent J. Guihan](#)
3. Intimate Strife: The unbearable intimacy of human/animal relations
[Beth Carruthers](#)

Part II

4. *Leonardo's Choice*: The ethics of artists working with genetic technologies
[Carol Gigliotti](#)
5. We Have Always Been Transgenic: A dialogue
[Steve Baker](#) and [Carol Gigliotti](#)
6. Negotiating the Hybrid: Art, theory and genetic technologies
[Caroline Seck Langill](#)
7. Meddling with Medusa: On genetic manipulation, art and animals
[Lynda Birke](#)
8. Transgenic Bioart, Animals, and the Law
[Taimie L. Bryant](#)

PART III

9. Dis/integrating Animals: Ethical dimensions of the genetic engineering of animals for human consumption
[Traci Warkentin](#)
10. The Call of the Other 0.1%: Genetic aesthetics and the new Moreaus
[Susan McHugh](#)
11. Landseer's Ethics: The campaign to end "cosmetic surgery" on dogs in Australasia
[David Delafenêtre](#)
12. The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb
[Kelty Miyoshi McKinnon](#)
13. Ending Extinction: The quagga, the thylacine, and the "smart human"
[Carol Freeman](#)

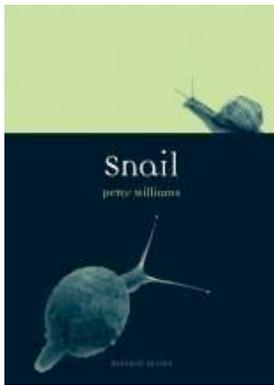
For more information see: <http://www.springer.com/philosophy/ethics/book/978-90-481-2478-7> and <http://www.carolgigliotti.net/>

REAKTION BOOKS: ANIMAL SERIES – Editor Jonathan Burt

From Reaktion's website:

Animal is a pioneering series from Reaktion Books. The first of its kind to explore the historical significance and impact on humans of a wide range of animals, each book in the series takes a different animal and examines its role in history around the world. The importance of mythology, religion and science are described as is the history of food, the trade in animals and their products, pets, exhibition, film and photography, and their roles in the artistic and literary imagination.

Written by authors who are passionate about their subjects, these highly accessible, informative and beautifully produced books will appeal to the general reader as well as to those with a specialist interest, and will be of educational value to college students and school children.



Forthcoming October, 2009

So attached to snails was the author Patricia Highsmith that they became her constant travelling companions. Secreted in a large handbag or, in the case of travel abroad, carefully positioned under each breast, they provided comfort and companionship in what she perceived to be a hostile world.

Containing many surprising and beautiful illustrations, and written in an approachable, informal style, *Snail* will prove instructive to all who thought that this animal was simply a garden pest to be enthusiastically destroyed

For more information and the full list of books in this series see: <http://www.reaktionbooks.co.uk/series.html?id=1>

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

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

Issue 10 is now online at www.antennae.org.uk.

This time, it is fully dedicated to climate change: 'HEAT' pieces together a selection of artists' responses to climate changes as experienced in different geographical, social and cultural realities. In doing so, we have tried to evenly divide our attention through a range of issues related to and departing from global warming.

The issue offers a number of definitions of eco-art and environmental art, through the writings of Max Andrews, international curators Maja and Reuben Fowkes and an interview with [Linda Williams](#), who in 2008 curated an international exhibition, the first on this subject in Australia, exploring issues of degradation, global warming, over-consumption, extinction and man's impact on nature.

Antennae focuses on [Gregory Pryor](#), whose work, capitalising on the botanical diversity for which Western Australia is internationally renowned, generates awareness of the disappearance of a number of indigenous species due to environmental degradation. The issue continues to focus on the “botanical side of things” with the work of [Heather Ackroyd and Dan Harvey](#) whose collaborative work includes installation, sculpture, landscape design, photography, performance, and film, and frequently reflects both architectural and scientific concerns. With them, we explore the use of grass as artistic medium and their long-lasting commitment to Cape Farewell, a UK based arts organisation funded by David Buckland, that has brought together leading artists, writers, scientists, educators and media for a series of expeditions into the wild and challenging High Arctic. Together they map, measure and are inspired by this unique environment and have endeavoured to bring home stories and artworks that tell how a warming planet is impacting on this wilderness.

In its challenging gathering of different voices and perspectives from around the world, the issue looks at the work of artist [Brandon Ballengée](#), whose practice bridges the gap between biology and art as he combines a fascination with amphibians, fish and insects with techniques of fine art imaging. Through the study of young batrachians, Ballengée has been documenting the decline of this class through the analysis of ‘bitterly beautiful’ deformities. From woodlands to the heart of the city, our issue looks at Super Kingdom, the latest project by London Fieldworks; the taxonomical system invented by Julian Montague for “stray shopping carts” and the urban environmentally conscious art of Todd Gillens.

A more direct focus on animals is brought back in place by an extensive interview with Art Orienté Objet, whose work has been concerned with the environment, trans-species relationships, and the questioning of scientific methods and tools, and our relationship to the environment since 1991; and an exclusive interview with [Geraldyn Pezanoski](#), director of MINE, the powerful story about the essential bond between humans and animals told against the backdrop of hurricane Katrina, one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history. This issue ends with the work of [Gregory Pryor](#), an artist committed to raise awareness of botanical extinction by turning a gallery at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts into a big, black Solander box, its walls lined with thousands of black ink sketches of extinct Western Australian flora.

- ***Feminist Theory*** – [CALL FOR PAPERS](#)

Forthcoming special issue: [Nonhuman Feminisms](#)

Editors: Myra J. Hird (Queen's University, Canada) and Celia Roberts (Lancaster University)

Feminist Theory is inviting papers for a special issue on feminism and the nonhuman. Feminist scholars and activists recognise that ‘the human’ materially encompasses a very small proportion of the enormous diversity of living and nonliving matter on Earth. Environmental feminists, for instance, have long attempted to engage with the biosphere from the perspective of humanity as a recently arrived, temporary and rather unruly tenant. At the same time, feminists are cognizant that fetishistic engagements with science and technology (for instance in calls to address environmental crises through technological fixes and in assumptions that solutions to world problems such as poverty will come from scientific ‘discoveries’ such as genetically modified foods) necessitate remembering the majority of humanity, whose poor material conditions demonstrate that techno-scientifically-driven ‘progress’ is unevenly distributed and can work to entrench existing inequities.

These tensions necessarily engage long-standing philosophy of science debates concerning larger ontological and epistemological assumptions, to which feminist scholars have provided significant, timely and diverse inputs. We particularly welcome theoretical and/or empirical interdisciplinary contributions from emerging and established scholars interested in engaging different conceptualisations of what constitutes the nonhuman (can the nonhuman be ontologically differentiated from the human, for instance?) and different epistemological approaches, including standpoint approaches to the body, posthumanism and so on. We also encourage contributions concerned with visual cultures (film, video, art and other media) and the visual forms the non-human might take.

Some questions to consider:

- What does feminist theory have to offer to debates about the nonhuman?
- Is there a nonhuman feminist perspective?
- What are the feminist implications of the nonhuman?
- How might feminist theory move beyond the conflation of nonhuman with animal?
- How might a feminist ethics approach the nonhuman?
- How might we theorise sexual difference from a nonhuman perspective?
- Does sexual difference make a difference from a nonhuman perspective?
- How might the nonhuman contribute to longstanding debates about race, class, disability and so on?
- How might feminists visualise the non-human?

Deadline for submission of articles: 1 December 2009.

Submission guidelines regarding length and format: <http://fty.sagepub.com/>

Please send your article electronically and with six hard copies to Myra J. Hird hirdm@queensu.ca and Celia Roberts email celia.roberts@lancaster.ac.uk . Mailing address: Myra J. Hird, Sociology Department, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7L

- **Journal of Critical Animal Studies – REVIEWERS**

The Journal for Critical Animal Studies (JCAS) is looking for graduate students or Professors with their Ph.D. to be reviewers for the Journal. The responsibility is to review three articles a year. This will help advance Critical Animal Studies in higher education and build your CV/resume. The Journal is also looking for Book and Film Review Editors. If you are a graduate student or PhD - we want you!! You would be responsible for gathering 1 to 2 book reviews an issue. JCAS comes out 3 times a year so you would be looking at gathering/writing 4 Reviews - film or book. The reviews should be around 1000 to 2500 words long.

To access the journal www.criticalanimalstudies.org/JCAS/index.htm

Anyone interested in being a reviewer contact the Editor of the Journal Dr. Richard White: Richard.White@shu.ac.uk

RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM ANIMALS & SOCIETY (AUSTRALIA) STUDY GROUP PARTICIPANTS:

Linda Williams. 'Haraway contra Deleuze and Guattari: The question of the animals' in *Communications. Politics & Culture*, vol. 42 No.1, (2009): pp. 42- 54.

Linda Williams. 'Modernity and the Other Body: The Human contract with Mute Animality' in Z. Detsi-Diamante; K. Kitsi-Mitakou; & E. Yiannopoulo (eds), *The Future of Flesh: A Cultural Survey of the Body*. Palgrave, New York (2009): pp. 221- 239.

Linda Williams. 'The social theory of Norbert Elias and the Question of the Non-human World'. In A. Goodbury and K. Rigby (eds), *Eco- Critical Theory: New European Approaches*. University of Virginia Press (2009). In press.

Carol Freeman. 'On Seeing the Big Picture: A Reply to Paddle (2008)'. *Australian Zoologist*, vol. 34, no. 4 (2008): pp. 471-475.

Natalie Edwards. 'From Beverley Disease to Braxy to Enterotoxaemia: The journey of a disease in Western Australian livestock and the transmission of veterinary science in Australasia'. *Historical Records of Australian Science*, vol. 20, no. 2 (2009). Forthcoming.

AND DON'T FORGET to submit papers to and browse articles in the Human-Animal Studies journals:

- ***Anthrozoös: Journal of the International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ)***

A vital forum for academic dialogue on human-animal relations, *Anthrozoös* is a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal that has enjoyed a distinguished history as a pioneer in the field since its launch in 1987. The key premise of *Anthrozoös* is to address the characteristics and consequences of interactions and relationships between people and non-human animals across areas as varied as anthropology, ethology, medicine, psychology, veterinary medicine and zoology. Articles therefore cover the full range of human-animal relations, from their treatment in the arts and humanities, through to behavioral, biological, social and health sciences.

<http://www.bergpublishers.com/BergJournals/Anthrozo%C3%B6s/tabid/519/Default.aspx>

- ***Society and Animals: Journal of Human-Animal Relations***

Society & Animals is at the forefront of the emerging multi-disciplinary field of Human-Animal Studies, which explores the ways in which nonhuman animals figure in human lives. The journal publishes studies concerning experiences of nonhuman animals from psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, and other social sciences and history, literary criticism, and other disciplines of the humanities.

<http://societyandanimalsforum.org/sa/index.html>

Exhibitions

In Vetland – Art Meets Vet Science Artist in Residence Exhibition 2009
Perdita Phillips



Chimera Portrait from In Vetland

In this exhibition, Perdita Phillips is showing the results of her 2009 artist in residence at Murdoch University's School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences. Her X-ray sculptures, photographs and drawings will be situated in both the clinical and research areas. Working on themes of internal and external surfaces the artist has investigated diagnostic palpation as the point of contact between human and nonhuman worlds. The exhibition includes the participatory drawing work *Animalworld Map* recently exhibited at Newcastle Art Space in conjunction with the Minding Animals conference.

Murdoch University School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Perth, Western Australia.
28 August -25 September 2009.

Monday to Friday 9:00am — 5:00pm
Saturday, Sunday 12:00pm — 5:00pm

Weekdays: Please contact the Murdoch University Veterinary Trust at 08 9360 2731 or vettrust@murdoch.edu.au for a tour. Weekends: Information is available from the hospital reception.



In Vetland exhibition at the Minding Animals conference in Newcastle. This exhibition is reconfigured at Murdoch University.

Sponsored by the Murdoch University Veterinary Trust, the [Art Meets Vet Science](#) program is a first at Murdoch University, with a goal of bringing together artistic, creative, and scientific ways of viewing and understanding the world. Possible outcomes include expanding an artist's understanding of animals by deepening an understanding of vet science, encouraging creative ways of investigating subjects such as ethics, human/animal dynamics etc, and shaping student and staff's ways of understanding how others view animals.

For more information see:

<http://www.veterinarytrust.murdoch.edu.au/> ; http://www.perditaphillips.com/in_vetland_blog/

Links: Resource pages, art spaces.

- **HumaneSpot.org.**

HumaneSpot.org is a unique website tailored to the needs of researchers and animal advocates. We offer a wide range of useful tools and resources, including access to more than 1,000 independent research studies relating to animal issues, conducted by a wide variety of academics, businesses, NGOs, and others. We also provide an alert service to let you know when new research that matches your criteria is added to the database - we can notify you via email, RSS, and/or through the website.

If you're exploring a new topic for a paper or just looking up information for personal interest, please start with HumaneSpot.org. We think you'll be impressed with what you find.

To explore HumaneSpot.org in more detail:

<http://www.humanespot.org/node/2546>

To register for access to the site:

<http://www.humanespot.org/user/register>

- **Research in a Nutshell**

Academic research drives much of our work at the [Animals and Society Institute](#). It is, as our motto goes, the "knowledge and science" that combines with ethics and compassion to promote policies that improve how animals are treated. We publish studies in our two academic journals, support research in our fellowships, and believe firmly that hard science is an important foundation for lasting policy change.

But we also know that many people don't have the time or opportunity to peruse academic publications, or can always make heads or tails of detailed scientific findings. Therefore, the ASI is launching a new feature on our Web site homepage called [Research Nutshells](#). As the title implies, it will be something small to chew on. Every other week (and perhaps more frequently), we will bring you a summary of a recent research study whose findings can be directly applied to the types of policy changes we seek. That way you can keep abreast of these issues and better understand how research of this type is used in the real world....

<http://www.animalsandsociety.org/nutshell/index.php>

- **Animal Studies Bibliography**

Compiled by the [Ecological & Cultural Change Studies Group](#) at Michigan State University, this extensive bibliography is now available on the H-Animal website:

<http://ecoculturalgroup.msu.edu/bibliography.htm>

- **Syllabus Exchange**

This page on the [H-Animal](#) website provides details of courses and a useful overview of the content of human-animal studies units being taught in US, UK and Canada, where the field is relatively well established. These units include 'The Nature of the Beast in American Culture', 'Animals, Literature and Culture', 'Animal Studies as Science Studies: We have never been Human', 'Animals and Social Transformations', 'Animal Histories', 'Animal Minds, Animal Bodies' and 'Wildlife Film and Television'.

<http://www.h-net.org/~animal/syllabus.html>

Profiles: Animal studies scholars and activists

Dr Gail Tulloch



Gail Tulloch is a philosopher whose major interests include liberal feminism, feminist ethics, and bioethics. After completing her PhD on "Mill and Sexual Equality" in the mid-80s, she worked in equal opportunity issues in local government in Victoria, then resumed her academic career in Women's Studies at Rusden State College (now Deakin University), where she taught feminist ethics, equal opportunity issues, business ethics and environmental ethics.

Since moving to Brisbane in 1992, she has focused primarily on applied ethics, particularly margins of life issues - the ethics of stem cell research, and euthanasia. Since the 2005 publication of "Euthanasia: Choice and Death", she has moved increasingly into animal ethics as a natural progression from considering Quality of Life issues, such as the nature of the human person, and the human-animal boundary. Her recent work has been on Martha Nussbaum and the capabilities approach to animal ethics.

In 2009 she has written a chapter on "Ethics and Nonviolence" for ELIOS (the UN Encyclopaedia of Life Support Systems), and given a paper on "Animal Ethics: The Capabilities Approach" at the Welfare and Quality conference in Florence, another on "Animal Ethics and Affective Education" at the Animals and Society conference in Newcastle, and one on "Nussbaum's Capabilities as Criteria of Good Practice" at ANZCCART (the Australian- NZ Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching). She is on the Animals Ethics Committee at Griffith University.

After 8 years at Griffith, she has just become an Adjunct Research Fellow at the Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics at the University of Queensland.

Dr Rick De Vos



I coordinate the Graduate Studies Program at Curtin University's Centre for Aboriginal Studies, where I work with PhD, Masters and Honours students involved in Indigenous community research, and provide consultation on external research projects and research ethics. My background is in cultural studies and performance studies, and over the past twenty years I have lectured in these areas as well as in film studies, literature and Australian studies in Western Australia and in the UK.

My interest in Human-Animal studies could be described as life-long, harking back to when I first visited zoos and museums, later trying to understand the ways in which non-human animals haunted these spaces and brought meaning to them. In particular, I continue to struggle with the concept of extinction: its significance, its construction and the ways human and non-human animals participate in its process. While my academic work does not connect directly with my research interests, it has allowed me to travel widely within Australia and to find new encounters and connections with non-human animals, which in turn has helped me with my research.

I am currently working on a book on extinction, with a primary focus on species extinction and its significance in colonial and postcolonial contexts.

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

The Bulletin is produced on a voluntary basis. Please send items for the next issue to:

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