

# Animals and Society (Australia) Study Group

*News Bulletin*  
*February 2008*

## Workshops, Symposiums and Conferences

### **Reflecting On Our Relationships: Animals and Agriculture**

A Multidisciplinary Workshop

**University of Auckland, New Zealand. 18 July 2008**

The Animals and Agriculture Research Group at the University of Auckland is pleased to invite your participation in a multidisciplinary one-day workshop that will explore relationships between human and non-human animals in agricultural industries. This is a field of inquiry especially resonant for the cultures, ecologies and economies of New Zealand and the broader Australasian region. A range of proposals for papers that reflect on human/animal relationships in agriculture from across the disciplinary spectrum will be welcomed. In recent years the interdependences of human and non-human animals have been subject to increasing levels of critical analysis by sociologists, historians, geographers and anthropologists, to name a few. It is hoped that this workshop will provide an opportunity for scholars from the humanities, social and life sciences, working across the breadth of agriculture-related topics, to engage and discuss some of the relevant themes in human/animal studies.

Papers might address:

Cultures and identities in livestock farming

Veterinary and agricultural science and research, and their influences on livestock and farming

The formulation and implementation of animal welfare policy in agriculture

Developments in animal control, health, nutrition, diseases and biotechnologies

Relationships between livestock, farmers, landscapes, ecologies

Livestock economies and the consumption of animal products

Competition and cohabitation among agricultural, indigenous and 'feral' animals

Please send enquiries and **expressions of interest** to Natalie Lloyd (n.lloyd@auckland.ac.nz) by **15 February 2008**.

### **The Welfare of Animals - It's Everyone's Business.**

Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) Advisory Committee international animal welfare conference.  
**Conrad Jupiters, Broadbeach 31 August - 3 September 2008.**

The conference will bring together global leaders in animal welfare science and practice for three days of presentations, discussions, posters and networking.

Plenary speakers include:

Ivan Caple, Professor, Australia

Peter Sandoe, Professor, Bioethics, Centre for Bioethics and Risk assessment, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Donald Broom, Professor, Animal Welfare, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Marian Dawkins, Professor of Animal Welfare, Animal Behaviour research Group, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Conference program:

- Animal Welfare and Australia
- The New Social Ethics for Animals
- Understanding Animal Welfare
- Measuring Animal Welfare
- Making Sustainable Improvements in Animal Welfare
- The International Scene in Animal Welfare

Call for abstracts : 31 January 2008

**ABSTRACT DEADLINE : 30 April 2008**

All authors notified of outcomes : 6 June 2008

Deadline for receipt of final draft of papers : 31 July 2008

For more information, refer to the conference website:

[www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/aaws/aaws\\_international\\_animal\\_welfare\\_conference](http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/aaws/aaws_international_animal_welfare_conference)

Or contact Justin Trefry at [justin.trefry@daff.gov.au](mailto:justin.trefry@daff.gov.au).

## **2009 International Academic and Community Conference on Animals and Society**

### **Minding Animals**

**University of Newcastle, NSW . 13-19 July 2009**

The University of Newcastle and the Animals and Society (Australia) Study Group are about to announce their hosting of the 2009 International Academic and Community Conference on Animals and Society. The Conference is bound to be a benchmark event in the study and interpretation of human nonhuman animal interrelationships. This conference will bring together a broad range of academic disciplines and representatives from universities, non-government organisations and the community, industry and government from across the planet. Conference delegates will examine the interrelationships between human and nonhuman animals from a cultural, historical, geographical, environmental, moral, legal and political perspectives. Further, the conference will bring together an unheralded number of leading scientists, philosophers and social theorists, academics and community leaders, all committed to animal protection and welfare, but never having all met at the one event.

Our confirmed dinner and plenary speakers alone will provide you with an idea of breadth of knowledge and importance of this conference:

- Professor Carol Adams
- Professor Emeritus Marc Bekoff
- Professor J Baird Callicott
- Nobel Laureate Professor JM Coetzee
- Professor Dale Jamieson
- Professor Val Plumwood
- Professor Emeritus Tom Regan
- Distinguished Professor Bernard Rollin
- Dr Andrew Rowan
- Professor James Serpell
- Professor Peter Singer
- Professor Emeritus Michael Soulé
- Professor Paul Waldau
- Professor Jennifer Wolch

Planning for the conference is well advanced. Our website is now launched <http://www.mindinganimals.com/> and you can at least complete our 'Expression of Interest in Attending' form. Alternatively, you can email me directly at: [rod.bennison@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:rod.bennison@newcastle.edu.au) . Or, please feel free to call me anytime (Australian Eastern Summer Time) on +61-(0)41-491-4040 to discuss the conference.

**Antipodean Animal**  
**King's College London. 7-8 July 2008**

Co-organised by Menzies Centre for Australian Studies  
Annual Conference of the International Studies Group

**CALL FOR PAPERS - closing March 14, 2008** - on Animals and Animality in Australian or New Zealand literature, theory, film, television, philosophy, history, and culture.

Possible topics: animality, animal-becoming, totemic animals, animals and Indigenous Knowledge, anthropomorphism, Social Darwinism, stamps and coins, plague, the post-human, bestiality, pastoralism, domestic and working animals, animation, religion.

Send abstracts to Dr Ian Henderson: [ian.r.henderson@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:ian.r.henderson@kcl.ac.uk)  
For more information click on 'Events' at [www.kcl.ac.uk/menzies](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/menzies)

### **Third Symposium on Whaling and History**

Commander Chr. Christensen's Whaling Museum, Sandefjord, Norway

18-20 June, 2009

#### **CALL FOR PAPERS - closing March 31, 2008**

The Whaling Museum is focusing on both social and environmental history and would like to have papers on topics such as:

People – The Whaling Man and his Family  
Production and Use of Whale Products through the Centuries  
The Economic Aspects of Whaling  
Opposition to Whaling  
The Environment – Ecology – Resource Management  
Cultural Heritage Aspects

We will, however, consider any suggested theme within the broad topic of 'whaling history'. If you would be interested in participating in the main part of the symposium, please register your lecture about one of the above subjects by sending us the title and a brief summary of its contents, to [jan.erik.ringstad@sandefjord.kommune.no](mailto:jan.erik.ringstad@sandefjord.kommune.no)

The Whaling Museum does not pay a lecture fee, but **will cover travel and accommodation costs**. We plan to publish the lectures after the symposium and would therefore like a data version of the lecture notes. For information concerning the second symposium held in 2005 see: <http://www.hvalfangstmuseet.no/Default.asp?Cat=80>

Contact person at the Whaling Museum: Curator Jan Erik Ringstad +47 33 48 46 51

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## **Journals**

### **The Winter issue of *Antennae* is now online!**

This issue of *Antennae* is marked by a philosophical imprint. As the title reveals, its content revolves around the thought of Gilles Deleuze (and his co-writer Felix Guattari) whose anti-psychoanalytical approach and rhizomatic structures expounded the very concept of philosophy over the end of the twentieth century. The issue focuses on two of the key ideas brought forward by these unconventional writers: the concept of 'becoming animal' and that of 'deterritorialization'.

To download the new issue please visit [www.antennae.org.uk](http://www.antennae.org.uk) and click on the front cover of the Journal.

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## New Books

***Ethics and the Beast: A Speciesist Argument for Animal Liberation*** by Tzachi Zamir, Princeton University Press, 2007

***The Feminist Care Tradition in Animal Ethics***, edited by Josephine Donovan and Carol Adams, Columbia University Press, 2007

***Making a Killing: The Political Economy of Animal Rights*** by Bob Torres, AK Press, 2007

***Brutal: Manhood and the Exploitation of Animals*** by Brian Luke, University of Illinois Press, 2007. The first integrated theory of manhood's relationship to hunting, animal experimentation, and animal sacrifice.

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## Book Reviews

***Animals Matter: A Biologist Explains Why We Should Treat Animals with Compassion and Respect.*** Marc Bekoff, Shambhala Publications, 2007

### **From Publishers Weekly:**

Animal behaviorist and biologist Marc Bekoff follows his most recent in-depth work, *The Emotional Life of Animals*, with another well-written, more generalist argument for responsible behavior toward animals of all kinds. A revised and updated edition of his 2000 *Strolling with Our Kin*, an introduction for young readers to ethical issues relating to the use of animals, the writing still feels aimed at younger readers, but the new elements include an excellent review of current debates regarding animal sentience, animal relocation efforts and medical school dissection and vivisection. He also offers the evidence that "zoos actually do little to increase biodiversity," failing both to advocate for conservation and in their attempts to reintroduce captive animals into the wild. This levelheaded brief for animal rights deserves to be read by people of all ages, from teens and 20-somethings turned on to animal activism by vegetarian pop stars like Moby, to parents, teachers and other adults with the hope that they will

"make more responsible decisions after reading this book and discussing the issues with family and friends."

<http://www.shambhala.com/html/catalog/items/author/11723.cfm>  
[http://www.amazon.com/Animals-Matter-Biologist-Explains-Compassion/dp/1590305221/ref=pd\\_bbs\\_sr\\_1/105-0201173-7090051?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1192486552&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Animals-Matter-Biologist-Explains-Compassion/dp/1590305221/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1/105-0201173-7090051?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1192486552&sr=1-1)

***The Animals Reader: the essential classic and contemporary writings.***  
Edited by Linda Kalof and Amy Fitzgerald, Berg, 2007

### Reviewed by Yvette Watt

For many animal advocates the writings of Peter Singer have been hugely influential. His book *Animal Liberation*, first published in 1975, has been instrumental in raising awareness of the many terrible things that humans do to other animals. Singer's book has prompted many people to make ethically based changes in their own lives and lobby for change in the public attitudes toward animals that allow these practices to continue. While Singer's approach comes from his background in philosophy and ethics, his thinking and writing is part of a much broader interest in human-animal relationships that has a particularly strong representation in the humanities, but which is also of fundamental importance to the sciences.

A newly published book, *The Animals Reader*, brings together the work of 35 thinkers, including Singer, who have made important contributions to our understanding of the relationship between humans and other animals across many disciplines. Spanning almost 2500 years of thinking, from Aristotle and Plutarch to contemporary writings of recent years, *The Animals Reader* charts a history of thinking about human-animal relationships. With a subtitle of "The Essential Classic and Contemporary Writings" the editors, Linda Kalof and Amy Fitzgerald, imply that this volume is a vital addition to the bookshelf of anyone interested in human-animal studies. I think they are right. This is an incredibly well chosen collection of writings and a valuable reference book. It is a taster for those new to the field of human-animal studies and a useful reference for those who are more familiar with the subject. While primarily aimed at an academic audience, it is also a great read for animal advocates who want to get a grasp of how both historical and contemporary thinkers influence the way we think about, and thus treat, non-human animals. At the beginning of each piece of writing a short biography is given for each author. Many animal advocates are aware of the famous quote from Jeremy Bentham: The question is not, Can they *reason*? Not "Can they *talk*?" but Can they *suffer*? *The Animals Reader* places this quote in the context in which it was written.

The writings are brought together under 6 different headings: Animals as Philosophical and Ethical Subjects; Animals as Reflexive Thinkers; Animals as Domesticates – "Pets" and Food; Animals as Spectacle and Sport; Animals as Symbols; and Animals as Scientific Objects. With such a breadth of themes it may well be that some sections will be of more interest than others to many readers, and that some people may already be familiar with a number of the included writings. This is to be expected of a book such as this. But if you take the time to read the whole book (or at least those writings you aren't already familiar with) you will be rewarded with a sense of just how complex our relationship with other animals is. You won't agree with everything that is written

but you will gain a better understanding of the basis of many of the main arguments that persist into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Contributors include Carol J. Adams, Aristotle, Steve Baker, Marc Bekoff, Jeremy Bentham, John Berger, Gilles Deleuze, Rene Decartes, Pliny the Elder, Felix Guatarri, Donna Haraway, Claude Levi-Strauss, Jim Mason, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, Martha Nussbaum, Tom Regan, Peter Singer, Plutarch.

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## Exhibitions

### **Fierce or Friendly: Humans in the Animal World**

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

Art Galleries 1–5

**Until Sun. 6 Apr 08**

Bookings & Enquiries: [03] 6211 4177

Fierce or Friendly is about humans and their fascination with other animals. A fascinating exhibition of zoological specimens, art and artefacts selected from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, the Museum of Old and New Art at Moorilla and other important private collections from around Tasmania.

Assembled by TMAG Curators Craig Judd, Kathryn Medlock, Peter J Hughes and Vicky Farmery, Fierce or Friendly will explore our cultural and symbolic, aesthetic and functional relationships with animals.

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

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

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