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## National News

### Australian Animal Studies Group Membership Fees

The AASG will soon be collecting membership fees via PayPal on its website. This is long overdue, as members of the committee have been working on making the Study Group viable with some difficulty for the last few years. Collection of fees will mean we can provide you with services such as the website—already a popular point for accessing information about other scholars and their areas of interest, finding funding opportunities, taking part in discussions about current issues, and accessing past issues of the Bulletin. It will also ensure a listing of your profile on the website and it will mean that the task of producing this Bulletin every quarter is maintained and the publication improved. Most importantly, it allows you to vote at the AGM. Fees have been kept reasonable, with a cost assessed according to the results of the AASG survey last year.

Please join the AASG  
Contribute to AASG growth and activities  
Support production of this Bulletin

Visit the website at <http://www.aasg.org.au> : PayPal coming soon!

### Australian Animal Studies Group incorporation

Members of the AASG committee: Natalie Edwards, Siobhan O'Sullivan, Rod Bennison, Yvette Watt, Carol Freeman, Melissa Boyde, and Leah Burns have been organising rules and conventions to make this milestone event happen. The Study Group is incorporating in Western Australia where the first conference was held in 2005. Submission of the incorporation application will occur after March 14. The initial AGM and election of office bearers will take place at the 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial conference in Brisbane in July (see below).

To vote in this historic election you must be a paid up member, so please exercise your voting privileges by joining AASG online as soon as the process is available before the conference.

### CONFERENCE NEWS . . . .

**Nigel Rothfels** (University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin; editor of new book series: *Of Animals and Cultures*) now a keynote speaker

**Art Exhibition** at POP Gallery and QCA Project Space from July 11

**Call for Artworks:** see under Conferences below

Fourth AASG Conference, Brisbane  
Animals, People – a shared environment  
10-13 July, 2011. Brisbane, Australia



For full details see [www.aasg2011.com.au](http://www.aasg2011.com.au)

The organisation of the conference is gaining pace, with abstract submissions now closed. papers have been submitted and the committee are working their way through them and will advise potential speakers asap. Art exhibitions are being arranged, organisation of a book stall and book launches are underway. The possibility of a 'Flood Panel' is also being explored and a dinner speaker has been suggested.

Art exhibitions have been a feature of previous conferences, with participants at Newcastle in 2009, for example, enjoying early evening excursions to venues close to the conference centre. The Co-op book stall at the Hobart conference in 2007 was the most successful the bookshop had ever held at a conference.

If you have any questions please contact coordinator Jacqui D'Ath: [jacqui@hievents.com.au](mailto:jacqui@hievents.com.au)

### **Online Artworks Survey**

The Australian Animal Studies Group is looking for contemporary artworks that explore human-animal relations to feature on the AASG website. Artists are invited to post links to their work or email an image and short text to Natalie Edwards [n.j.edwards@massey.ac.nz](mailto:n.j.edwards@massey.ac.nz) .

Deadline: 31 March, 2011

### **Review of ERA ranked journals**

The Australian Research Council (ARC) has begun public consultations on the ranking of journals, and the Field of Research (FoR) codes attached to them, in preparation for the next 2012 ERA round.

We urge human-animal studies (HAS) academics and postgraduates to take an active role in this process by registering at the ERA review website <https://roci.arc.gov.au/> , providing feedback on as many journals as possible, and identifying the peak body which is best qualified to evaluate your submissions. Our aim is for four outcomes:

- no HAS journal slips in its ranking
- some new HAS journals achieve ranking
- the Australian Animal Studies Group (AASG) achieves peak body/consultative status
- we try to improve the ranking of already ranked HAS journals where possible.

The closing date for submissions to ERA is 8:00am (AEST) 4 April 2011

The deadline for the submission of new journal proposals is 21 March 2011

For more information regarding how you can help achieve these aims, contact Siobhan O'Sullivan: [siobhano@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:siobhano@unimelb.edu.au)

### **Million Paws Walk**

Sunday, 15 May 2011

The 17th Annual RSPCA Million Paws Walk is being held across Australia and is **the** big day out for animal lovers! Whether you have pets in your family or not, you're invited to join the pack and walk with tens of thousands of people and pets throughout Australia to help raise vital funds for the RSPCA and the animals in our care.

This year the RSPCA is doggedly determined to break the million dollar and million paws barrier and they need your help!

Find venues and walking routes for each state at: <http://www.millionpawswalk.com.au/>

## Publications

Articles and books by Australian animal studies scholars that have been published recently or are forthcoming:

Jill Bough

*Donkey*, London: Reaktion Books. Forthcoming June 2011

Deirdre Coleman

'The "Dog-man": Race, sex, species, and lineage in J. M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*', Special Issue ed. Jonathan Greenberg, *Darwinism and Literary Study*, in *Twentieth-Century Literature*, 55.4 (Winter 2009), 597-617.

Carol Freeman

'Reconstructing the Animal', catalogue essay for group exhibition at Plimsoll Gallery, Tasmanian School of Art, University of Tasmania, March 18-April 15, 2011.

Carol Freeman, Elizabeth Leane and Yvette Watt

*Considering Animals: Contemporary Studies in Human-Animal Relations*, Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing. Forthcoming 2011.

Andy Lamey

'Sympathy and Scapegoating in J. M. Coetzee' in Leist, A. and Singer, P. (eds) *J. M. Coetzee and Ethics: Philosophical Perspectives on Literature*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2010.

Kirrilly Thompson

'Binaries, Boundaries and Bullfighting: Multiple and alternative human-animal relations in the Spanish mounted bullfight.' *Anthrozoos: A Multidisciplinary Journal of the Interactions of People & Animals*, 23.4 (2010): 317-36.

Thom van Dooren

*Vulture*, London: Reaktion Books. Forthcoming June 2011.

'Pain of Extinction: The Death of a Vulture', *Cultural Studies Review*, 16.2 (2010): 271-89.

Linda Williams

'Shadows of the Holocene: Traditions & Transformations of the Non-Human World in Science Fiction Film' in Milner, A. (ed.) *Changing the Climate: Utopia, Dystopia & Catastrophe*, Arena Publishing, Melbourne. Forthcoming 2011.

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

Please send notification of your publications and they will be included in the next issue of the *Bulletin*

## Regional News

### New South Wales

#### University of Sydney

HARN: Human Animal Research Network

Executive team:

Celeste Black (LAW)  
Assoc. Prof Phil McManus (SCIENCE)  
Prof Barry Spurr (Arts/SOC SCI)  
Prof Paul McGreevy (Vet Sci).  
Coordinator: Dr Fiona Probyn-Rapsey

Fiona writes: “At the moment we have 13 Academic staff members and 7 postgraduate members - and that's simply word of mouth, with no website or advertising yet! We hope that the website will be up in April....”

The Human Animal Research Network (HARN) at the University of Sydney is an interdisciplinary and cross-Faculty research group comprising members from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Veterinary Science and the Faculty of Law. From the perspectives of Science, Law, Veterinary Science and the Humanities, both the ‘animal’ and the ‘human’ carry different meanings and unique philosophical genealogies, and much can be learnt when these perspectives interact, consult, teach and learn from each other. HARN aims to promote cross-disciplinary dialogue within the university and between the university and community groups, international human animal studies organizations and other Australian University based organizations.

Enjoying a rapid growth within the Academy, both here and internationally, Human Animal Studies addresses and is inspired by everyday interactions with animals. These might include conservation issues, animal welfare, the meaning of humane research, the roles of zoos and wildlife parks, questions relating to why relationships to pets seem different to feeling for other animals; why some animals have protective legislation and others do not; why some of us eat particular animals but not others; why being an animal is akin to denigration, and what cruelty to animals says about us. Human Animal Studies thus brings both human and animal together, while often interrogating the history of those two terms.

For more information see: [http://sydney.edu.au/arts/gender\\_cultural\\_studies/](http://sydney.edu.au/arts/gender_cultural_studies/) or contact Fiona Probyn-Rapsey, Senior Lecturer, Gender and Cultural Studies, University of Sydney [fiona.probyn-rapsey@sydney.edu.au](mailto:fiona.probyn-rapsey@sydney.edu.au)

#### Macquarie University

The History, Philosophy and Future of Ethology Workshop

The international collaborative workshop “The History, Philosophy and Future of Ethology” was held 19-21 February 2011. It was funded by the International Science Linkages – Humanities and Creative Arts Programme, with additional funding provided by the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion. It was an event of CRSI’s Animals & Society Working Group, which had previously hosted a masterclass and lecture by Marc Bekoff in November 2010. The February workshop was an intensive, intimate three day discussion that brought together a range of guests from various disciplinary backgrounds. Growing out of a panel on “Ethology and Continental Philosophy” at the Minding Animals conference in Newcastle, 2009, it further developed the conversation at this border, as well as engaging with other related disciplines – including neuroscience, anthropology, sociology, film-making, Egyptology, zoömusicology and literary studies.

The opening address was given by French philosopher and ethologist [Dominique Lestel](#). He contrasted what he called the Cartesian-realist and bi-constructivist paradigms, arguing that

ethology can become a subversive science in contemporary western thought by jettisoning the aspiration to be the objective science of *bête-machines* and instead taking account of meaning-making by innovative animal subjects. In the next session, Linda Evans conveyed her research on animal representations in Egyptian art, and how attention to behaviour (rather than just visual form) significantly aids in its interpretation. Zoömusicologist Hollis Taylor evoked and mused on her fieldwork with pied butcher birds and their remarkable singing. Lesley Rogers complemented the philosophical critique of human exceptionalism with neurological evidence of brain lateralisation in animals (a trait recently thought to be unique to or stronger in humans). Norwegian biosemiotician Morten Tønnessen illustrated his use and development of Jakob von Uexküll's *Umwelt* theory to understand contemporary wolf management. The day concluded with a magical violin performance by Hollis Taylor, accompanied by field recordings of songbirds and their milieu.



Left to right:  
Jeffrey Bussolini, Deborah Bird  
Rose, Gisela Kaplan, Lesley  
Rogers

The second day opened with New York sociologist Jeffrey Bussolini's presentation of his ethnographic research on urban human-feline cohabitation. Continuing the previous day's challenge to human exceptionalism, Bussolini refuted Paul Rozin's strange yet telling hypothesis that humans are the only animals to eat chile peppers. Karola Stotz detailed the importance of development in understanding animal behaviour, prompting a robust exchange regarding the limits of biological explanation. Gisela Kaplan took the example of magpies to explain the importance of learning and development in conservation efforts, articulating a scientifically informed ethics of care to combat the widespread stress and trauma associated with human intervention and habitat destruction. In the afternoon, Natasha Fijn showed some of her experimental video footage, which combines and reinvents the differing visual conventions traditionally used to represent humans and wildlife. One film made in collaboration with Deborah Rose portrayed practices of care for endangered flying foxes, treated as "pests" and harrassed out of their breeding grounds. Rose's paper described this latter project and took up the challenge of witnessing to the narrativity of animal lives. The final session expanded these threads with a roundtable discussion of different methodological techniques opening up at the borders of the human and natural sciences such as ethno-ethology and multispecies ethnography.

The discussions of the third day focussed in on literary and philosophical questions. American philosopher Gary Steiner explored the value of postmodern philosophy for understanding animal experience. He argued that while the critique of scientific reason in thinkers such as Heidegger and Derrida opens a space for animal subjectivity, it may also foreclose the tools to understand its specificity. Christopher Peterson explored the connection of animality and desire in Coetzee's novel *Disgrace*. Chris Danta delved into the representation of animals in post-Darwinian literature, showing how these fables of metamorphosis and death stage human finitude. Thom van Dooren's reflections on death and mourning among crows opened a space to explore our deathly entanglement with the nonhuman. Matthew Chrulew took up a set of concepts in philosophical

ethology, advocating a more open-ended and experimental practice of interspecies comportment. The workshop closed with Canadian philosopher Brett Buchanan's exploration of the inadequacy of "behaviour" as a concept and various alternatives formulated by Uexküll, Deleuze, Haraway, Stengers, Sloterdijk and Latour. His patient probing exemplified the workshop's spirit of open engagement. The obvious profit so many took from the three days of discussion bodes well for future interdisciplinary collaboration and exchange at this crucial meeting point of philosophy, ethnology and ethology.

## Tasmania

### University of Tasmania

Exhibition: Reconstructing the Animal  
Plimsoll Gallery, Tasmanian School of Art, 18 March - 15 April 2011

Opening: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 5pm

Yvette Watt has curated an animal-themed exhibition for Tasmania's biennial Ten Days on the Island Festival, an international multi art-form event in Hobart.

Participating artists:

Bryndís Snæbjörnsdóttir and Mark Wilson  
Angela Singer  
Harri Kallio  
Kate James  
Alicia King  
Adam Geczy and Jan Guy

The artists have been chosen by Yvette because, while their work displays a diversity of approaches to the subject of animals, it also provokes a reconsideration of and engagement with the ethics of human-animal relationships. These artists 'reconstruct' animals in ways that persuade us to rethink both the animal and how we relate to them. They expose often overlooked uses of the animal body, enlighten us to the way animals feel or behave, inform about different ways people live with and relate to animals over time, and ask us to rethink our attitudes and consider how we will interact with nonhuman animals in the future. It's a compelling and thought-provoking exhibition with an international line-up of first-class artists!

For more information see:

[http://tendaysontheisland.org/webapp\\_727993/Reconstructing\\_the\\_Animal](http://tendaysontheisland.org/webapp_727993/Reconstructing_the_Animal)

## Victoria

### Monash University

Online survey: Animal Welfare Science Centre

Can pet ownership tell us anything about ourselves? Do certain personality traits predict the type of pets we own and how we behave towards them? At the Animal Welfare Science Centre, Monash University, we are trying to find out what people think about companion animal ownership and to figure out ways to improve the welfare of cats and dogs.

This work follows a series of projects with the Soi Dog Foundation that suggest the potential relevance of cultural factors in predicting attitudes towards pet ownership behaviours, such as sterilisation. While research shows that concerns about animal welfare appear to be universal (Coleman, 2008), the manner in which those attitudes translate into action may be influenced by local beliefs and values. By exploring this in detail, we hope to use this information to inform western implementation of animal welfare management and educational programs in a way that is culturally sensitive and capacity building.

The Centre is looking for pet owners AND non-owners aged 18 and over who are fluent in English.

Please consider completing the survey at:

<http://www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?AE8AE6FCAAEDFFFA4>

## **South Australia**

### **University of Adelaide**

Human-Animal Research Group (HARG)

This is a group with common interests and goals in researching and studying human-animal interactions. Understanding humans, animals and the ways they interact requires a multidisciplinary approach. Disciplines represented in HARG include anthropology and psychology right through to law and veterinary science. Our diversity and collaborative approach is further demonstrated with members across all three of the South Australian universities and in the community. The goals of HARG are to:

1. Facilitate communication between people researching human-animal interactions in South Australia
2. Enable collaborative projects, from the initial ideas to grant application and project management stages
3. Provide a forum for presentation of research results, particularly for postgraduate students

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

### **University of South Australia**

Call for Honours/Masters candidate

“The impact & opportunity of climate change on Australia’s horse industry: Surveying industry awareness, attitudes and beliefs”

An exciting honours opportunity exists for a student in psychology, anthropology, business studies, sports management, environmental science or related fields on the following project. Preference will be given to students commencing study in March 2011 but there may be scope to negotiate a mid or late year start.

For more information see:

[http://www.horsesa.asn.au/zdocument/file/2138/Horses\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Honours\\_PD\\_start\\_date\\_included.pdf](http://www.horsesa.asn.au/zdocument/file/2138/Horses_Climate_Change_Honours_PD_start_date_included.pdf)

### **Horse SA**

Project on Risk Perception Amongst Eventers

Horse SA is a not-for-profit community based organisation growing the horse industry in South Australia. Whilst there has been research into the type & frequency of injuries that horse riders and eventers are likely to sustain, there has been little research asking eventers about their experiences and perceptions. In 2010, the project undertook research with eventers to learn more about how they perceived risk.

This project was led by Dr Kirrilly Thompson with the assistance of honours candidate Chanel Nesci, together with Dr Sophia Rainbird and Dr Matthew Thomas from the University of South Australia. It was funded by the University of South Australia's Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences Divisional Research Performance Fund.

A summary of findings can be found at: <http://www.horsesa.asn.au/zeolite/zdocument/2115>

### Thought Leaders Dinner

Recently Horse SA invited approximately 20 horse organisations to send a representative to a dinner which had the aim of commencing dialogue between organisations on the topic of horse welfare.

Dinner Guests were: Professor Paul McGreevy University of Sydney, Dennis Edmonds HorseSA, Helen Whittle HorseSA, Jane Evans PRE, Dr Kirrilly Thompson Uni SA/Pegasus Pony Club, Di Birmingham PCA SA Vice Chair/Gawler River Pony Club, Kay Milton RDA State Manager, Leanne Maynard PCA SA; President Lower North Zone, Dr Samantha Franklin University of Adelaide Vet Faculty Roseworthy, Mark Boon RDA, Julie Fiedler Horse SA/Facilitator, Dr Robyn Stokes Note taker

Professor McGreevy opened the dinner discussion with a brief history of animal welfare: "Horse Welfare was officially recognized first in England in 1824, with concern about carriage horses amongst other animals. There has been so much improvement in the treatment of many other species, but still, tired horses are having the whip used on them as an accelerator, when a new study shows that it just does not work. There are examples across other horse pastimes too, for example, where nosebands are exceedingly tight on dressage horses. We need to be able to celebrate good horsemanship, good breeding & good training."

Full details of the discussion can be found at: [http://www.horsesa.asn.au/zdocument/file/2146/THOUGHT\\_LEADERS\\_DINNER\\_Article\\_Vs2.pdf](http://www.horsesa.asn.au/zdocument/file/2146/THOUGHT_LEADERS_DINNER_Article_Vs2.pdf)

## Western Australia

### Curb Gallery

On 16-21 January, Perth's Curb Gallery was the venue for Sentience: an exhibition of life and it was a great success. Put together by Animal Rights Advocates, works by 14 artists looked at the ways animals experience emotion, pain and suffering in an attempt to persuade people to question their relationship with animals as commodities.

From the catalogue for this exhibition:

"We are not in any way speaking or thinking anthropomorphically when we say that dogs and cats are sentient beings with distinct personalities. That is simply a matter of fact. We have no doubt that they have an interest in avoiding pain, suffering, and death. We grieve when they die. But our dogs and cats are no different from the animals whose bodies we eat or who are used to produce dairy and eggs."

— Gary Francione

The catalogue can be downloaded at: <http://sentience.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Sentience-Catalogue-2011.pdf>

## Special Report

*In January 2011 a series of floods occurred in Queensland, one of Australia's northern states. They caused loss of lives and enormous damage to property and many stories of stranded people and animals were read around the world. This is a first-hand report of the difficulties experienced by one cat in the suburb of Rocklea Brisbane, as told by her rescuer.*

### The Brisbane Floods: Puss's Story



The mud that was left behind after the Brisbane floods had receded smelt like manure, swamp lands and rotting fish heads. When the sun came out for the first time in three months it was humid and oppressive and the mud thickened and stuck to anything, individually coating every single leaf in the trees. Inside homes it soaked into walls and cupboards. A team of us went out to Rocklea, 12km south of the city, to help clean up the house of someone we knew that had flooded half way up the second storey. We opened up the roller door to underneath the house and were hit by the thick damp smell and faced with piles of junk that had washed in from everywhere.

A tiny "mew" came from beneath a chair in the backyard. A muddy knotted clump peered up at me with bright green eyes and it took me a second to realise it was a cat. I had not expected to see any animal left behind after this devastation. 'Puss' had spent three days on the roof of the house after her owner had to flee without her as Puss was absent at the crucial moment when it came time to leave. It was soon established that Puss's owner had no-where to take her (still overcome with shock, standing in her destroyed home), and I was on the phone arranging for a cat cage. I hadn't thought it through further than bringing her home.

Out of the cage emerged a pathetic sight. A knotted long haired grey-coloured cat that should have been an elegant long haired black and white tortoise-shell beauty. "I'm sorry kitty," I said while trying to unsuccessfully dunk her in a bucket of water as her paws shot out to hang onto the sides with the strength of a grizzly bear. I was aware that in trying to help her, I was making her relive the experience of being wet and afraid. Instead, fully clothed, I clutched her tight and turned on the shower with both of us under the stream. Muddy water flew about the shower, razor sharp claws hooked into the plastic curtain like the famous scene from psycho (complete with shrieking and yowling tortured cat sound-effects) and all while I'm instructing my boyfriend to "gently rub the dog shampoo into her fur until you get a nice lather". Thankfully for both of us, it was soon over and she began to gracefully extend a leg to groom herself as I tended to my scratches with disinfectant.

Puss then spent one week under the desk in the study, surfacing only for meals and the occasional brush down. Three days covered in mud and sitting on the roof also eventuated in two vet visits for constipation and cystitis resulting in a week on medication to get her system back in order. I shudder to think of the trauma that animals endure after natural disasters and the lasting effects it will have on them. Slowly but surely we gained Puss's trust and could coax her out for longer periods of time but any sudden noise or movement would send her back under the desk for hours. While Puss may have been a shy cat to begin with, it was clear that the floods had affected her temperament. However, with constant coaxing and affection she was beginning to recover. After a few weeks in our house Puss moved to another foster accommodation where she will receive a few months of unconditional love while her owner waits for the insurance claim and can start rebuilding.

Puss's case is not isolated, with hundreds of animals currently in foster care (300 alone evacuated from the RSPCA Shelter at Fairfield) and more flown in from North Queensland due to cyclone Yasi. Many foster organisations are sending out desperate pleas for new foster carers or for permanent homes to be found for the lucky ones who survived. While the human death toll from the floods in South-East Queensland stands at 22, it is unknown what the cost has been to livestock, domestic and native animals. Flash flooding meant that many people and animals had no warning and little chance to survive. But as they say, they breed them tough here in Queensland and for those who are left, life continues as we get things back to normal.

Story and pictures by Lauren Carr



The house where Puss lives. Note the dark line halfway up the windows: it marks where the water level reached at its peak.

## **New Zealand Earthquake**

Many human-animal studies scholars were concerned for Annie Potts and Philip Armstrong, Directors of the New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies at the University of Canterbury, when a second earthquake occurred in Christchurch on February 22. News soon arrived that they, along with their extended family and animals, were safe and there was relatively little structural damage to their home.

Here is an excerpt from a recent email:

*“The university is closed at the moment, so we are working from home, in between helping rehome cats for Cat Rescue and dogs for Dogwatch. We have taken in a rugged old puss ourselves from Cat Rescue (photo attached) - he suits Lyttelton as he's very much a working class seaport cat. We're also fostering another lovable moggie who lost his nose to cancer and now finds himself homeless (he makes impossible noises without his snout!). There are so many displaced animals around post-quake, but people in Christchurch and the rest of New Zealand are rallying around amazingly to reunite lost animals with their folks and to rehome the abandoned of all species.”*

Charles, the rescued cat who is living with Annie and Phil, is pictured below.



And remember the ‘rescue dogs’ who helped in the search for survivors after both these events . . .

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**Conferences and Symposiums:** Updates, international conferences and seminars

- **Fourth Australian Animals Studies Group Conference: Animals, People – A Shared Environment**

10-13 July, 2011. Southbank, Brisbane, Queensland

Abstract submissions are now closed.

Earlybird registration deadline: 21 May, 2011

**CALL FOR ARTWORKS**

As part of their fourth conference, the Australian Animal Studies Group is joining with the Queensland College of Art to hold an exhibition that responds to the conference theme: Animals, People – a shared environment.

The event will take place at POP Gallery ([www.poppgallery.com.au/](http://www.poppgallery.com.au/)) and the QCA Project Space ([www.griffith.edu.au/visual-creative-arts/queensland-college-art](http://www.griffith.edu.au/visual-creative-arts/queensland-college-art)) from 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

Artists are invited to submit a proposal for works that might respond to one or more of the following questions:

- What experiences of and vulnerabilities to their environments do human and non-human animals share? When are these experiences and vulnerabilities different?

- How do animals and humans co-construct their environments?
- When do animals and humans communicate through their environments?
- How do animals and humans respond to each other's destructive actions and desires within their environments?
- Where have animal-human relationships broken down? Where are they robust? Where are these relationships present and where absent?
- How do animals resist/defy/disrupt human attempts to record/represent/regulate them?
- What emotions characterise animal-human relationships in rural, urban, suburban, sustaining, neglected, damaged, sacred, conserved, indigenous, public, private, industrial, technological, playful, cross or multi cultural places?
- What moral considerations do animals and humans pay to each other and to their environments?

All artists working in any media are eligible to submit a proposal. Artists will be required to pack, freight and insure their own works.

Deadline for submissions: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

Critical essays accompanying artworks are invited and will be considered for publication. Submissions should include dimensions and media along with an artist's statement. Please send your proposal to Professor Ross Woodrow: [r.woodrow@griffith.edu.au](mailto:r.woodrow@griffith.edu.au)

Further information can be obtained from the conference website [www.aasg2011.com.au](http://www.aasg2011.com.au) or email conference coordinator Jacqui D'Ath: [jacqui@hievents.com.au](mailto:jacqui@hievents.com.au)

- **Global Animal: An Animal Studies Conference**  
7-8 July, 2011. University of Wollongong, New South Wales

Call for Papers has now closed.

For more information see: <http://ro.uow.edu.au/global10/> or email Melissa Boyde [boyde@uow.edu.au](mailto:boyde@uow.edu.au)

- **Hot Science, Global Citizens: The Agency of the Museum Sector in Climate Change Interventions**  
5-6 May, 2011. Powerhouse Museum & Australian Museum, Sydney

**REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN**

Climate change is an environmental, cultural and political phenomenon that is reshaping the way we think about ourselves, our societies and humanity's place on Earth. This symposium presents the research findings of the Australian Research Council international Linkage project, *Hot Science, Global Citizens: the agency of the museum sector in climate change interventions* along with other leading research to develop new knowledge about what constitutes effective action around climate change, the critical roles that institutions can play and visions for the future of museums and science centres. The second day will feature an 'unconference' session to tease out innovative programming ideas and engage participants in discussions.

Speakers include:

Professor Mike Hulme School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia, UK  
 Elaine Heumann Gurian International Museum Consultant  
 Dr Emlyn Koster CEO Liberty Science Center, USA  
 Professor David Karoly Climate scientist and public commentator  
 Giles Lane Director Proboscis, London, UK  
 Tara Morelos d/Lux/MediaArts  
 Wayne LaBar Vice President, Exhibitions and Programs, Liberty Science Center, USA

Seb Chan Head of Digital, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney  
Declan Kuch Australian Youth Climate Change Network  
Tim Hart Director, Information, Multimedia and Technology, Museum Victoria

Partner organisations and researchers: Museum Victoria, Melbourne; Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; Australian Museum, Sydney; Questacon, Canberra; Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, US with the University of Melbourne, Earth Sciences and the School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester, UK.

Draft program available: [www.hotscienceglobalcitizens.net](http://www.hotscienceglobalcitizens.net)

- **New Voices in Animal Studies Global Animal: An Animal Studies Conference**  
17 March, 2011. Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

A one-day colloquium exploring connections between animal studies and gender studies.

Session speakers:

Toward a Planetary Concept of Mass Death: Extinction, Species-Thinking, and the Human of Precarious Futures - Neel Ahuja English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
This Way to the Zoo: Feminist Approaches to the American Zoo Archive - Lisa Uddin Smithsonian Institution.  
Becoming Zoo-Curious: Reading Sexual Differences in the Field of Animal Life - Adeline Rother French and Italian, Vanderbilt University  
The Gendered Process of Cattle (Re)production - Colter Ellis Sociology, University of Colorado at Boulder  
Against the Flow of Time: And Say the Microorganisms Responded? - Astrid Schrader Science, Technology & Society, Sarah Lawrence College  
Response - Donna Haraway Emerita, History of Consciousness, University of California at Santa Cruz

For more information: [fhi@duke.edu](mailto:fhi@duke.edu) or Christina M. Chia: [christina.chia@duke.edu](mailto:christina.chia@duke.edu)

- **Nonhuman Narratives**

27 April, 2011. The Media School, Bournemouth University, Dorset, UK

The Narrative Research Group based in the Media School will be hosting their second symposium at the Executive Business Centre on Wednesday 27 April. The theme of the symposium is 'Non-human Narratives'. Nonhumans feature in multiple narratives, from myth and fable to wildlife photography and documentary, children's literature, cartoons and comics. They can act as metaphors, take on human characteristics, or inform our understanding of the Other. The symposium will use analyses of representations of the nonhuman to question assumptions about human superiority and to explore alternative means of narrating the lived experiences of creatures or entities whose composition differs from our own.

The symposium's keynote speaker, Professor David Herman of Ohio State University, will be talking about 'Stories, Minds, and Media: Nonhuman Experiences in Graphic Narratives'. Other papers will focus on inhuman narratives (including representations of monsters and serial killers), animals in the movies, issues surrounding environmental and technological change, and the activities of fans of the nonhuman. Members of the Narrative Research Group will be exhibiting their work and running workshops throughout the day.

For more information contact Bronwen Thomas ([bthomas@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:bthomas@bournemouth.ac.uk)) or Julia Round ([jround@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:jround@bournemouth.ac.uk))

- **Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy Inaugural Conference**  
28 –29 April, 2011. Gallaudet University - Washington, DC

The Purebred Paradox: On the Health and Welfare of Pedigree Dogs

The conference will focus on problems associated with the selective breeding of purebred dogs. What are the welfare and ethical issues arising from dog breeding practices? And what do science, history, sociology, and public policy perspectives have to say on the subject? Day One presenters will address breeding practices and problems from the perspective of health, behavior, and genetics, with an emphasis on both direct and indirect effects of selection for accentuated conformation traits. Day Two will explore public attitudes to dog breeding from historical and contemporary perspectives, as well as the contribution of commercial breeding operations (puppy mills) to the welfare problems of purebred dogs.

Presenters include:

Professor Patrick Bateson FRS (Cambridge University)  
 Dr. Brenda Bonnett (Former Tenured Faculty, University of Guelph)  
 Dr. Bruce Fogle (Portman Veterinary Clinic, UK)  
 Dr. Randall Lockwood (ASPCA)  
 Dr. Frank McMillan (Best Friends Animal Sanctuary)  
 Dr. Frances Smith (AKC Health and Welfare Board & Orthopedic Foundation for Animals)  
 Dr. Gail Smith (University of Pennsylvania)  
 Dr. Linda van den Berg (Leiden University).

The conference is being co-sponsored by The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy, the University of Pennsylvania Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society, and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

To learn more and to register, please visit:

<http://www.humanesociety.org/about/departments/hsisp/>

- **The International Research Group in Animal Law (GRIDA) 2<sup>nd</sup> Animal Law Conference**  
May 20, 2011. Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada

Does the Law Consider Animal Suffering?

The main goals of the conference will be to evaluate the state of our knowledge about animal suffering and to address the strategies implemented by different legal systems - international, European and Canadian - for the legal protection of animals against unnecessary suffering. The conference will provide a platform for interdisciplinary exchanges between Canadian and international researchers and practitioners who will have the opportunity to propose new and innovative outlooks on the legal treatment of animals. The overall goal is to continue the discussion that began in Montreal in 2009 relating to behaviors that human beings exhibit towards the animal species. Although mainly a scientific and legal undertaking, the conference shall be open to researchers from other disciplines such as biology, zoology, philosophy and veterinary medicine. The event will be of interest to policy-makers, members of professional organizations, animal protection associations, scientific organizations and more generally to all those who are concerned with the use and exploitation of animals by human beings as well as sources of animal suffering they would like to see stopped or reduced.

Speakers include:

Eric Baratay Jean Moulin Université  
 Stephen Wells Animal Legal Defense Fund  
 Vaughan Black Dalhousie University  
 Denis Simonon Animal Welfare Unit, European Commission  
 Martine Lachance University of Quebec in Montreal

Earlybird Registration ends: 31 March.

For more information see: <http://www.grida.uqam.ca/en/scientific-events/7-lanimal-souffre-t-il-en-droit.html>.

- **Animals as Religious Subjects: A Transdisciplinary Conference**

21 - 24 May, 2011. University of Chester, England and Gladstone's Library, Hawarden, Wales

Call for papers is now closed.

Pre-Conference Event for the 'Minding Animals Conference', University of Utrecht in 2012

For details see:

[http://www.mindinganimals.com//index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=224&Itemid=250](http://www.mindinganimals.com//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=224&Itemid=250)

- **Creaturely Lives: A Symposium in Animal Studies**

25 May 2011. The University of Notre Dame's London Centre

To mark the publication of *Creaturely Poetics: Animality and Vulnerability in Literature and Film* (Columbia University Press, 2011), the Centre for Cultural Studies Research (CCSR) at the University of East London, and the University of Notre Dame in London are holding a symposium to discuss new developments within the field of animal studies.

Debates on animal ethics have been dominated by utilitarian and rights-based moral philosophy, seeking out the shared capacities of humans and animals as a gateway to the moral inclusion of nonhuman animals. Could the idea of creatureliness as the condition of vulnerability, the finitude of all living bodies, offer an alternative to these ethical models? Creatureliness has philosophical, religious, and artistic overtones; it features in the work of Walter Benjamin, in the mystical philosophy of Simone Weil, and resonates with recent developments in "vital materialist" thought. If creatureliness signals a properly universal condition rooted in the materiality and perishability of existence, might it also map out new horizons for theorizing (and living) a transhuman ethics? Point the way to new directions in literary and critical practice?

Speakers:

Dr Simon Glendinning Reader in European Philosophy, Director of the Forum for European Philosophy, the London School of Economics.

Dr Erica Fudge Chair of English, the University of Strathclyde.

Dr Robert McKay University Teacher in English, School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics, the University of Sheffield.

Dr Anat Pick Senior Lecturer in Film, University of East London

For more information and contacts see: <http://culturalstudiesresearch.org/>

- **Eating Meat. The Social Relationship of Humans and Animals and the Meaning of Meat.** Conference of the Group for Society and Animals Studies.

July 1, 2011. University of Hamburg,

Deadline for abstracts: April 1st, 2011

Pre-Conference Event for the 'Minding Animals Conference', University of Utrecht in 2012

For details see:

[http://www.mindinganimals.com//index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=224&Itemid=250](http://www.mindinganimals.com//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=224&Itemid=250)

- **L'animal dans le soin: entre théories et pratiques (Animal Assisted Therapy: theories and practices)**

2 July, 2011. Institute of Psychology, Paris, Descartes University

Pre-Conference Event for the 'Minding Animals Conference', University of Utrecht in 2012

For details see:

[http://www.mindinganimals.com//index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=224&Itemid=250](http://www.mindinganimals.com//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=224&Itemid=250)

- **International Society for Anthrozoology 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

4-6 August 2011. Indianapolis, Indiana

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

The theme of the meeting is "Human-Animal Interactions: Challenges and Rewards"

Keynote speakers: Nigel Rothfels and Stanley Coren.

(ISAZ) invites submission of both oral (20 mins. total) and poster abstracts for its 20th Annual Conference which will be held immediately following the meeting of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) July 30-August 4, 2011 and the joint meeting of the International Ethology Congress (IEC) and Animal Behavior Society (ABS) July 25-30 at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. The ISAZ Conference will focus on the general theme of Human Animal Interactions: Challenges and Rewards, although free papers on other relevant topics are also encouraged.

Deadline for abstracts: **April 1, 2011**

Additional information is available at [www.isaz.net](http://www.isaz.net)

- **Vital Powers and Politics: Human Interactions with Living Things**

13-16 September 2011. University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, Lampeter, Wales

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

It's our world too! The title of a World Wildlife Fund book of cartoons located humour in the attribution of human peculiarities to non-human animals in order to decentre human perspectives on the occupation of habitats. The aim of this conference is to invite contributors to consider human interactions with other living things from a perspective that does not always put human beings in centre stage. Anthropologists have, from the outset, placed human subsistence and how such living-in-the-world cuts across

language, classifications, cognition, knowledge and other phenomena at the core of the discipline. They have produced sophisticated strategies for examining ecologies and biopolitics in ways which interact with other disciplines in the sciences and humanities, including that of Philosophy. Philosophers have addressed the concept of biopower and the Aristotelian notion of the role of a political existence as a characteristically human form of existence that is qualitatively different from that of other living beings. At this early stage in what has been called the new 'biological century', this conference will provide an opportunity to consider anthropological and philosophical frameworks for examining recursive relationships between living organisms in their social and cultural contexts and processes. In particular we ask contributors to consider the constraints or resistances encountered when human beings attempt to dominate other living things and to explore possibilities for other forms of relationship of human beings to non-human kinds. The scope of this conference is designed, inter alia, to encompass human interaction with non-human animals and humans with other domains such as plants and fungi, as well as including forms of interactions such as organ transplantation.

The concept of investigating the interactivities of living entities from an anthropological perspective also provides scope for studying processes of growth, life cycles, entropy and death. The challenge is to address the new biopolitical economies of vitality (or morbidity and death) that bring human and non-human species together in changing configurations of collectivities.

Deadline for abstracts: **29 April**.

For more information: <http://www.theasa.org/conferences/asa11/index.shtml>

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

### **Centre for the Integrative Study of Animal Behaviour**

Macquarie University, Sydney

From the Centre's website: The Centre for the Integrative Study of Animal Behaviour is an interdepartmental community of staff, postdoctoral fellows, postgraduates and honours students. They believe that many of the most exciting advances in understanding behaviour will come about through interdisciplinary studies, and that a fundamental knowledge of behaviour can make important contributions to fields in which it has typically been ignored.

Research supported by the Centre spans temporal and spatial scales. Work on comparative cognition and neuroethology (Barron, Burke, Cheng & Evans) uses natural behaviour as a window on mental processes in non-human animals. Studies of behavioural ecology (Evans, Griffith & Taylor) are concerned with predator-prey interactions and mate choice, using molecular tools to study the evolution of social behaviour. Several of their current projects involve the exploration of sensory processes and the way in which these have shaped the design of animal signals (Burke, Evans, Griffith, & Taylor).

They study a diverse array of species in captivity and in the wild. A partial list includes mammals, monotremes, birds, reptiles, insects, and arachnids. Current field sites include Australia, Canada and Tunisia.

For more information see: <http://galliform.bhs.mq.edu.au/~cisab/index.html>

### **Jane Goodall Institute Australia**

Roots and Shoots program

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) Australia is involved in global and local environmental, conservation and humanitarian action. It supports programs in wildlife research, education and community centred conservation. It promotes informed and compassionate action to improve the environment shared by all of Earth's living creatures.

Objectives:

- Foster public understanding of the interconnected nature of the human, animal and ecological community.
- Inspire and engage Australians to take action in local and global environmental and humanitarian projects.
- Increase public awareness of the plight of endangered animals in Australia. They believe education inspires understanding and compassion.
- Increase support for habitat and species conservation, particularly for wild chimpanzees and other Great Apes.
- Promote activities that will help to facilitate the health and general well-being of wild and captive chimpanzees.
- Provide training and support that will enable environmental and humanitarian action.

- Provide an excellent educational environmental program through our educational program, Roots and Shoots. This program encourages children and young people in general to take action in order to solve a variety of environmental and social problems. There is a particular emphasis on Aboriginal schools throughout Australia.

For details see: <http://www.janegoodall.org.au/>

## **Animals and Society Institute**

### **Winners of the Animals and Society Course Awards for 2010**

The Humane Society of the United States and the Animals and Society Institute are pleased to announce the winners of the 12th annual Animals and Society Course awards. This prestigious award recognizes academic excellence in college and university classes that explore the relationships between animals and people. Of the dozen submissions received, several were from universities overseas - including Germany and Wales.

Distinguished New Course Award: "Food, Animals, and the Environment." Christopher Schlottmann, Environmental Studies and Animal Studies Program, New York University (New York, N.Y.)

Food, Animals, and the Environment plows new ground in situating animals both conceptually and practically within the environmental studies curriculum. The course embodies a searching approach to the place of animals within the food system and the environment, a topic gaining increased public and scholarly scrutiny.

Distinguished Established Course Award: "Human-Animal Interactions in Anthropological Perspective I." Samantha Hurn, Lecturer in Anthropology, School of Archaeology, History, and Anthropology, University of Wales Trinity Saint David (Lampeter, Wales)

The course demonstrates the maturity of the field of anthrozoology within anthropology, and embodies the rich conceptualization and rigor that anthropologists have achieved in reconsidering the place of nonhuman animals in their discipline.

Honorable Mention, Distinguished Established Course Award: "Animals, Literature, and Culture." Susan McHugh, Assistant Professor of English, University of New England (Biddeford, Maine.)

The course demonstrates the value of literary studies in showing how and why species differences endure as the most lasting markers of social distinction.

For more information visit the ASI website:  
<http://www.animalsandsociety.org/content/index.php?pid=101>

## **Horses and Humans Research Foundation**

### **Grants for Research Funding 2011**

#### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

Horses and Humans Research Foundation (HHRF) exists to facilitate universal understanding and appreciation of the significant influence of horses on humans. The primary goal is to support, promote and fund scientific research that explores the claimed, yet unsubstantiated benefits of equine-assisted activities and therapies, leading to the discovery of the most effective methods and techniques for conducting thousands of existing and future programs. The secondary goal is to educate the public (including parents, donors, insurance companies and physicians) on research findings so that equine-assisted activities become more accessible to those in need.

The purpose of Horses and Humans Research Foundation (HHRF) funded research is to investigate the therapeutic effects of horses on humans. The broad research agenda includes basic research as well as clinical studies that will ultimately impact the physical and mental health

and quality of life for people with disabilities who are involved with equine-assisted activities/therapies (EAA/T).

Next application deadline: **May 15, 2011**.

For details and application form see:

<http://www.horsesandhumans.org/Research.html#Applications>

### **Centre for Animal Welfare & Anthrozoology, University of Cambridge** **Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law Course 2011**

Through a combination of lectures, videos and discussions, this course at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge from **11-23 September, 2011** is designed to give attendees a solid background in animal welfare science, ethics and law.

Past attendees have included veterinarians (working in practice or for government or animal charities), animal welfare researchers and students, and animal charity workers/campaigners, and have come from a wide variety of countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, the UK and the USA.

The Course, made up of five Sections, is taught by academics and professionals from many universities and organizations: Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge; Department of Biomedical Science and Biomedical Ethics, University of Birmingham; Department of Law, University of Aberdeen; Department of Veterinary Science, University of Bristol; Royal Veterinary College, University of London; University of Edinburgh; Department of Biological Sciences, University of Lincoln; Chester Zoo; Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA); and the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW). People can book to attend all the sections or just the one(s) they are interested in.

Deadline for registration: **31 August**. A maximum of 20 people can attend any one section.

For more information see: <https://sales.admin.cam.ac.uk/events/eventdetails.asp?eventid=175>

Enquiries: [alp18@cam.ac.uk](mailto:alp18@cam.ac.uk)

### **Institute for Critical Animal Studies (ICAS)** **2011 ICAS Awards**

#### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

#### **Critical Animal Studies Undergraduate Paper/Project/Thesis of the Year**

Awarded to an undergraduate student who has written an outstanding paper/thesis that promotes, or who has established and organized a project that fosters animal protection, liberation, and freedom. We are strongly interested in projects that bridge the gap between academia and the surrounding community. To nominate an undergraduate student for this award, please write a one page letter and include the paper or write a one page detailed description of the project.

#### **Critical Animal Studies Graduate Paper/Project/Dissertation of the Year**

Awarded to any graduate student working on a masters or doctorate degree who has written an outstanding paper/thesis that promotes, or who has established and organized a project that fosters animal protection, liberation, and freedom. We are strongly interested in projects that bridge the gap between academia and the surrounding community. To nominate a graduate student for this award, please write a one page letter and include the paper or write a one page detailed description of the project.

## Critical Animal Studies Faculty Paper/Project of the Year

Awarded to a faculty member conducting research or working at a college, university or institute who has written an outstanding paper that promotes, or who has established and organized a project that fosters animal protection, liberation, and freedom. We are strongly interested in projects that bridge the gap between academia and the surrounding community. To nominate a professor for this award, please write a one page letter and include the paper or write a one page detailed description of the project.

To see last year's award winners, please visit: <http://www.criticalanimalstudies.org/initiative/annual-awards/current-award-winners/>

## Scholar of the Year. Britches Scholar of the Year. Tyke Scholar of the Year

Two scholars will be recognized for an outstanding contribution to the field of Critical Animal Studies.

To see the current Scholars of the Year, please visit:  
<http://www.criticalanimalstudies.org/initiative/scholarfellow-program/current-scholars/>

Deadline: **March 15, 2011.**

Please send nominations to [editor@politicalmediareview.org](mailto:editor@politicalmediareview.org)

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**Interview:** Academics, activists, researchers

## Clive Phillips interviewed by Erin Pearl



Clive with a juvenile saltwater crocodile in the Northern Territory

Clive Phillips is Professor of Animal Welfare, School of Veterinary Science, University of Queensland. He has previous appointments at Britain's Royal Agricultural College and the Universities of Wales and Cambridge, where he researched farm animal welfare and nutrition. His particular interests were the welfare of dairy cows in housed systems and the metabolism of nutritive and toxic elements by farm animals. In 2003, he became the inaugural holder of Australia's first Chair in Animal Welfare at the University of Queensland's vet school, where he established the Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics. Clive has published over 150 articles on animal welfare and management in scientific journals and is the author/editor of 8 books, including *The Welfare of Animals: The Silent Majority*. He edits a book series on the welfare of different species of animals, published by Springer. In 2008 he toured fifty livestock properties to explore how producers viewed animal welfare and is currently writing a book on his experiences.

Erin: **What encouraged you to transition from studying Agriculture to Animal Welfare and Ethics?**

*Agriculture is facing severe challenges today, not least the community's growing concern about the way in which animals are kept in some intensive farming operations. We know now that these intensive farms are not only harmful to the animals, they have serious impacts on the environment and they produce foods that are bad for our health. What more reason do we need to change our eating habits? Regrettably Australia has been slow to change the way in which its food is produced, through legislation, standards and the availability of better products in supermarkets. You can still enter a major supermarket and there are no welfare friendly pork products available, for example. Now it seems that we may be on the cusp of a big increase in the demand for such products, following attention in the media and market changes overseas. All this is very gratifying to anyone working in animal welfare. Providing the research to demonstrate that animals' welfare is adversely affected by high intensity systems may sometimes seem unnecessary, but it is actually needed to make sure that standards are based on sound science, not just opinion.*

Erin: **How did you find out about Animal Welfare in Australia as you grew up in the UK?**

*I always had a keen appreciation of the damage that humans can do to their environment, and when I was young I had a yearning to visit northern Australia because I thought that this was a region that had been untainted by human occupation. Although this is not entirely true, the area still offers a glimpse of a land that has not been modified to support a large human population. In 2008 I was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit 50 properties, mainly cattle and sheep, right around Australia over a six month period. I was able to engage with producers to try to understand how they look after their animals' welfare, what the major problems are on their properties, and how they developed their understanding of animal welfare. I visited cattle, crocodile and buffalo properties in the north and sheep stations in the south, and I observed that the people that I visited mostly had a keen desire to do the best that they could for their animals. We saw some practices that I would consider cruel, such as repeated use of electric prodders on cattle, and some producers that had been mentally affected by the difficulties of the job, with climatic extremes being the biggest challenge that they faced.*

Erin: **How does working in Australia in Animal Welfare differ to the UK?**

*There is more complacency in Australia about animal welfare; most people assume that it is being well looked after. The British public are particularly suspicious of farming practices, which may be because the farming community are considered affluent and in the upper classes of society. In Australia the farming industries are more important to the country's economy and the farming lobby carries much weight when animal welfare is considered. My Centre prides itself on conducting research that is independent and unbiased, and we will not accept funds for research if there are constraints placed upon the interpreting and reporting of results.*

*The animal welfare problems in Australia are often different to the UK. On Australian cattle and sheep properties the vagaries of the weather and the pasture and water shortages that can arise are generally more important than whether the buildings are suitable for overwintering stock, which is a major issue in the UK. Transport of animals is an issue in both countries, but the nature of the problems is very different. A live export of sheep from the UK means a two hour journey across the English Channel, from Australia the journey is likely to take two weeks.*

Erin: **Where did you establish your attitudes towards animals?**

*When I was very young my grandfather used to hand feed wild birds in his living room, and the grandchildren had to be quiet when the birds came in for food. I learnt a respect for animals from that early age, and it grew as I began to devote my attention more and more to the study of man's relationship with animals. More recently I have had the opportunity to learn about some of Australia's fascinating fauna, and this has only increased my desire to ensure that we limit our impact on our environment and provide for all animals, including humans.*

Erin: **What motivated you to establish the Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics (CAWE) at UQ?**

*My position at the University of Queensland had generous support from state and federal government, the Australian Veterinary Association and most importantly some local shire councils. Their vision was for a centre of animal welfare at the University of Queensland at Gatton which could address some of the welfare issues that were beginning to cause concern. This idea was seeded back in the 1980s by cattlemen in Queensland, demonstrating a foresight that would be invaluable for future years. I never forget that the Centre was created by the people of Queensland, and it owes a debt to them for their initiative in recognising the importance of this field of endeavour.*

Erin: **What are some of the key research projects that the Centre has worked on?**

*Our early work focused on some of the welfare problems that may confront cattle and sheep in live export, in particular accumulation of ammonia on the ships. We found that this could cause discomfort, but not as serious as some other welfare problems that livestock face. We have continued to investigate live export and are currently looking at the animals' responses to heavy seas. We are also studying the structure of some of the intensive industries, particularly the meat chicken industry, in different parts of the world, and how this influences the way in which welfare issues are managed.*

*I was lucky to become involved with researchers in the School of Animal Studies that were interested in the captive management of Australia's wild animals, in zoos and sanctuaries, in particular the responses of the animals to high temperatures. This has enabled us to predict adverse effects of global warming on the welfare of the southern hairy-nosed wombats, for example.*

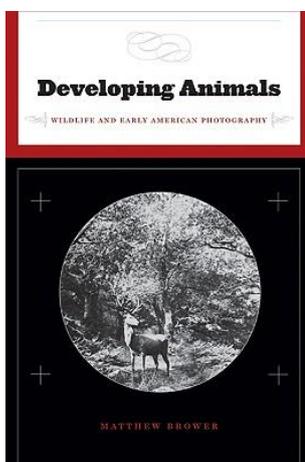
*Increasingly members of Centre are addressing ethical issues, which are at the heart of how we treat animals. Why do people abuse animals? What are the effects of culture and gender on the way in which animals are treated, which is important to understand in a multicultural, gender empowered society like Australia? Is it right to transport animals half way across the world in a ship? Is mulesing of sheep justified, given the risk of fly strike otherwise? These questions and others are important to address if we want to be at the forefront of informing and leading on animal welfare issues.*

Erin Pearl is Communications Co-ordinator at the Faculty of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Veterinary Science, University of Queensland.

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## New Books

***DEVELOPING ANIMALS: Wildlife and Early American Photography*** by Matthew Brower. University of Minnesota Press, 2011.

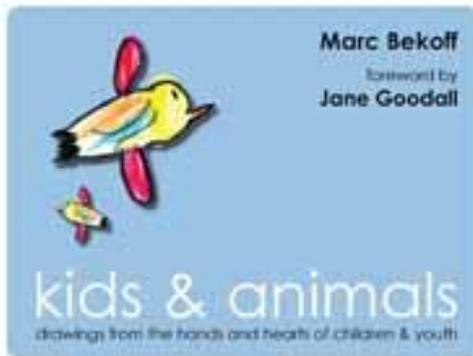


Pictures of animals are now ubiquitous, but the ability to capture animals on film was a significant challenge in the early era of photography. In *Developing Animals*, Matthew Brower takes us back to the time when Americans started taking pictures of the animal kingdom, at the beginning of the twentieth century, the moment when photography became a mass medium and wildlife photography an increasingly popular genre. *Developing Animals* compellingly investigates the way photography changes our perception of animals. Brower analyzes how photographers created new ideas about animals as they moved from taking pictures of taxidermic specimens in so-called natural settings to the emergence of practices such as camera hunting, which made it possible to capture images of creatures in the wild. By combining approaches in visual cultural studies and the history of photography,

*Developing Animals* goes further to argue that photography has been essential not only to the understanding of wildlife but also to the conceptual separation of humans and animals.

**Matthew Brower** is curator of the University of Toronto Art Centre and a lecturer in museum studies in the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto.

***KIDS AND ANIMALS: Drawings from the Hands and Hearts of Children and Youth*** by **Marc Bekoff**. Children, Youth and Environment Centre, University of Colorado, 2011.

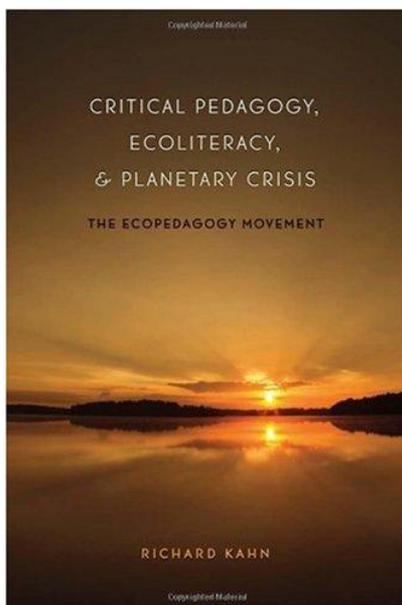


Outstanding humane educator and renowned ethologist, Marc Bekoff, has done it again: produced a wonderful book and tool for humane educators.

Written in collaboration with Roots and Shoots, *Kids & Animals: Drawings From the Hands and Hearts of Children & Youth* shares the beautiful and heartfelt words and drawings of children around the world who are involved in Roots and Shoots work to improve the lives of animals, the environment and communities across the globe. Best of all, the book is **available free online:**

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/ArchitecturePlanning/discover/centers/CYE/Publications/Pages/Books.aspx>

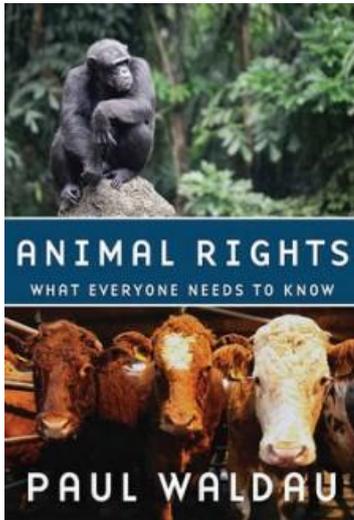
***CRITICAL PEDAGOGY, ECOLITERACY, AND PLANETARY CRISIS: The Ecopedagogy Movement*** by **Richard Kahn**. Peter Lang, December 2010.



We live in a time of unprecedented planetary ecocrisis, one that poses the serious and ongoing threat of mass extinction. What role can critical pedagogy play in the face of such burgeoning catastrophe? Drawing upon a range of theoretical influences--including Paulo Freire, Ivan Illich, Herbert Marcuse, traditional ecological knowledge, and the cognitive praxis produced by today's grassroots activists in the alter-globalization, animal and earth liberation, and other radical social movements--this book offers the foundations of a philosophy of ecopedagogy for the global north. In so doing, it poses challenges to today's dominant ecoliteracy paradigms and programs, such as education for sustainable development, while theorizing the needed reconstruction of critical pedagogy itself in light of our presently disastrous ecological conditions. Students and teachers of critical pedagogy at all levels, as well as those involved in environmental studies, will find this book a powerful provocation to adjust their thinking and practice to better align with those who seek to abolish forms of culture predicated upon planetary extermination and the domination of nature.

**Richard Kahn** teaches at Antioch University Los Angeles. His research specializes in theorizing and promoting ecopedagogy, a radical form of education for sustainability. He is also the author of the forthcoming books *Ecopedagogy: Educating for Sustainability in Schools and Society* and *Education Out of Bounds: Reimagining Cultural Studies for a Posthuman Age*.

**ANIMAL RIGHTS: What Everyone Needs to Know** by Paul Waldau. Oxford University Press. Forthcoming May 2011.

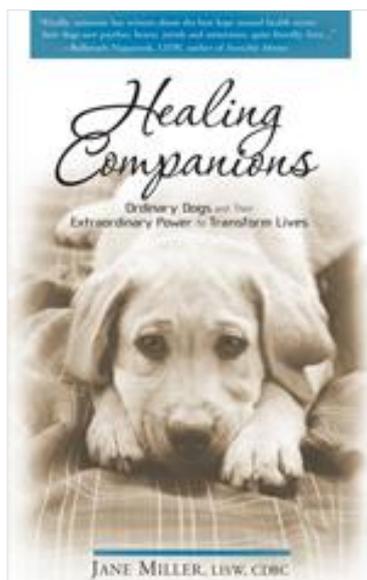


In this compelling volume in the What Everyone Needs to Know series, Paul Waldau expertly navigates the many heated debates surrounding the complex and controversial animal rights movement. Organized around a series of probing questions, this timely resource offers the most complete, even-handed survey of the animal rights movement available. The book covers the full spectrum of issues, beginning with a clear, highly instructive definition of animal rights. Waldau looks at the different concerns surrounding companion animals, wild animals, research animals, work animals, and animals used for food, provides a no-nonsense assessment of the treatment of animals, and addresses the philosophical and legal arguments that form the basis of animal rights. Along the way, readers will gain insight into the history of animal protection-as well as the political and social realities facing animals today-and become familiar with a range of hot-button topics, from animal cognition and autonomy, to attempts to balance animal cruelty versus utility.

With its multidisciplinary, non-ideological focus and all-inclusive coverage, *Animal Rights* represents the definitive survey of the animal rights movement-one that will engage every reader and student of animal rights, animal law, and environmental ethics.

Paul Waldau is the former director of Tufts University's Center for Animals and Public Policy and has served numerous times as the Bob Barker Lecturer on Animal Law at Harvard Law School.

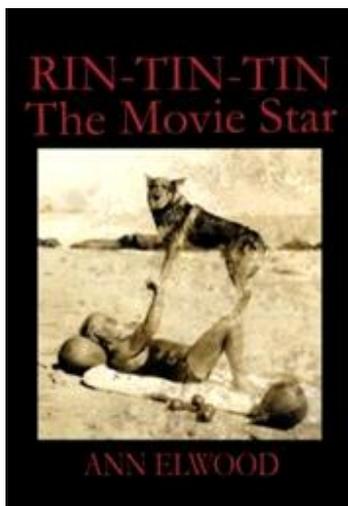
**HEALING COMPANIONS: Ordinary Dogs and their Extraordinary Power to Transform Lives** by Jane Miller. New Page Books, 2010.



In *Healing Companions*, clinical psychotherapist and golden retriever owner Jane Miller reveals a profound truth: ordinary dogs have the power to transform lives. Dogs, she explains, can benefit those who are bedevilled by a range of emotional ills, from eating disorders and anxiety to depression and agoraphobia. Her inspirational book outlines everything prospective owners need to know, including choosing, training, handling and nurturing your pet. "Animals are more complete than people," popular author Dr Bernie Siegel agrees. "They are wonderful teachers, therapists and role models for us all. Read *Healing Companions* and learn about their ability to guide and heal us all." *Healing Companions* will teach you: What criteria to consider when choosing the right dog for you. What kind of training service dogs require. What to expect and how to respond when you take a service dog out in public. How a dog can compliment other forms of therapy. How to navigate the procedural regulations that apply to a service dog. How to recognize the dog's needs and provide proper care.

Jane Miller is a licensed psychotherapist/clinical social worker, with a particular interest in holistic modalities of healing. She currently focuses on educating others about the legal, ethical, and practical criteria of working with Psychiatric Service Dogs (PSDs).

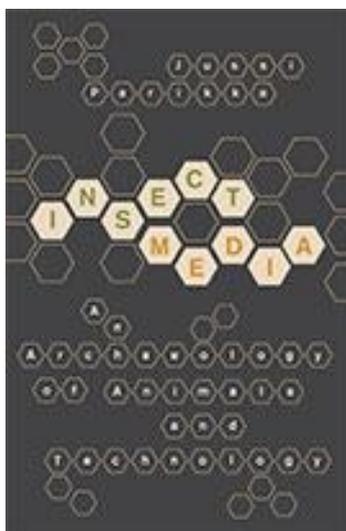
**RIN-TIN-TIN: The Movie Star** by Ann Elwood. CreateSpace, 2010.



Rin-Tin-Tin, a German Shepherd, an icon of the 1920s and early 1930s, was as famous a movie hero as Rudolph Valentino or Douglas Fairbanks. His athletic feats astonished audiences – he could scale an eleven-foot fence, leap over chasms, and climb trees. His acting brought tears, laughter, and amazement. At train stops, when he was on tour, crowds gathered to give him ice cream. Thousands of children wrote him fan letters, and he answered with a paw-autographed photograph. This book is a biography of both Rin-Tin-Tin and Lee Duncan, his owner and trainer. It places their lives in the context of their times, especially France, where they met, and Hollywood, where Rin-Tin-Tin became a star. At the heart of the book are the questions: “Why did a dog, at that particular time, become so famous?” and “How much of the legend of Rin-Tin-Tin is really true?”

Ann Elwood lives in Cardiff-by-the-Sea, California, with six cats, a desert tortoise, seven box turtles, and a German Shepherd, Louis. She teaches history part-time at California State University, San Marcos, spends time with Louis and the other animals, and writes the books she has always wanted to write but never had the time for.

**INSECT MEDIA: An Archaeology of Animals and Technology** by Jussi Parikka. University of Minnesota Press, 2010. Vol 11 Posthumanities series.

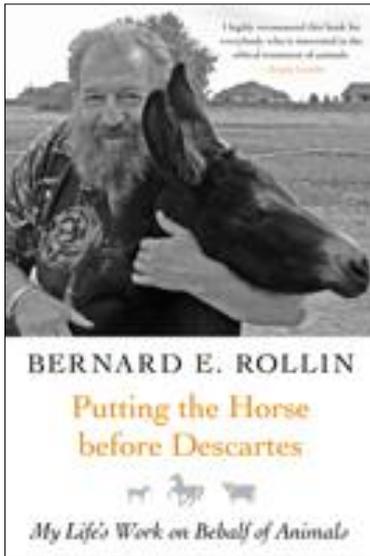


Since the early nineteenth century, when entomologists first popularized the unique biological and behavioral characteristics of insects, technological innovators and theorists have proposed insects as templates for a wide range of technologies. In *Insect Media*, Jussi Parikka analyzes how insect forms of social organization—swarms, hives, webs, and distributed intelligence—have been used to structure modern media technologies and the network society, providing a radical new perspective on the interconnection of biology and technology.

Through close engagement with the pioneering work of insect ethologists, including Jakob von Uexküll and Karl von Frisch, posthumanist philosophers, media theorists, and contemporary filmmakers and artists, Parikka develops an insect theory of media, one that conceptualizes modern media as more than the products of individual human actors, social interests, or technological determinants. They are, rather, profoundly nonhuman phenomena that both draw on and mimic the alien lifeworlds of insects.

Jussi Parikka is reader in media theory and history at Anglia Ruskin University and the director of the Cultures of the Digital Economy (CoDE) research institute. He is the author of *Digital Contagions: A Media Archaeology of Computer Viruses*.

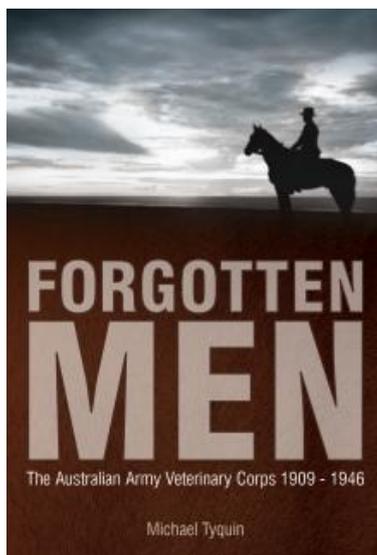
**PUTTING THE HORSE BEFORE DESCARTES: My Life's Work on Behalf of Animals**  
by Bernard E. Rollin. Temple University Press, 2011



When philosopher Bernard Rollin was six years old, he visited an animal shelter and learned that unwanted dogs are put to sleep. That event shaped his moral outlook and initiated his concern for how animals are treated. In his irreverent memoir, *Putting the Horse before Descartes*, Rollin relates how he came to educate himself and others about the ethical treatment of animals and dedicate his life to improving animal welfare. *Putting the Horse before Descartes* showcases this passionate animal advocate at his best. In witty, often disarming detail, Rollin describes how he became an outspoken critic of how animals were treated in veterinary and medical schools and research laboratories. He recalls teaching veterinary students about ethical issues and engaging in face-offs with ranchers and cowboys about branding methods and rodeo roping competitions. Rollin also describes his efforts to legally mandate more humane conditions for agricultural and laboratory animals. As public concern about animal welfare and the safety of the food supply heighten, Rollin carries on his work on a global scale—in classrooms, in lecture halls, in legislatures, in meetings of agricultural associations, in industrial settings, and in print.

**Bernard E. Rollin** is Colorado State University Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and University Bioethicist. He is the author of more than five hundred articles and seventeen books, the most recent of which is *Science and Ethics*. In 2005, Dr. Rollin was awarded the Henry Spira Award by the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing.

**FORGOTTEN MEN: The Australian Army Veterinary Corps 1909-1946** by Michael Tyquin. Big Sky Publishing, 2011



*Forgotten Men* is the long overdue account of the significant contribution to the Australian Army of the Australian Army Veterinary Corps in two world wars. One of the army's smallest and least recognised corps, its humble beginnings and quiet work in the background belie the crucial role of the Corps in supporting wartime operations and dealing with logistical issues never envisaged before 1915. While their place in military history is often overlooked, the men of the Australian Veterinary Corps deserve recognition. Stoic and hardworking, they unselfishly worked among the horrors of war, to provide the support needed for army units and their animals. The Veterinary Corps reached its peak during the Great War, but its role did not end when the guns fell silent in 1918. Instead, the Corps continued to support military activities across Australia until horsepower finally gave way to mechanisation in World War II. The Corps' success in enabling the 1st Australian Imperial Force to fight in two theatres, each with its own peculiar veterinary problems, is an achievement worth recording.

**Michael Tyquin** is a consulting historian based in Canberra. He has published extensively in the areas of Australian social, medical and military history. He is a serving member of the Australian Army Reserve which he joined as a medical assistant with the 4/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse. He is the official historian of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps and is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland's Centre for Military and Veterans' Health.

## Book Series

### Temple University Press

#### **Animals, Culture and Society**

Edited by Arnold Arluke and Clinton R. Sanders, *Animals, Culture, and Society* is concerned with probing the complex and contradictory human-animal relationship through the publication of accessible books that consider the place of animals in our culture, our literature, our society, and our homes.

For submission details see: <http://www.temple.edu/tempres/submissions.html>

### Palgrave Macmillan/Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics

#### **New Animal Ethics Series**

This series is jointly edited by Andrew Linzey and Priscilla Cohn. It aims to publish ground-breaking work written by new and established academics from a wide range of disciplines including anthropology, ethics, history, law, literature, linguistics, political theory, religion and science. The series will provide a range of key introductory and advanced texts that map out ethical positions on animals.

Email [director@oxfordanimaethics.com](mailto:director@oxfordanimaethics.com) to request a proposal form.

### University of Minnesota Press

#### **Posthumanities**

Series editor: Cary Wolfe. An interdisciplinary series that engages the changing shape of the humanities, *Posthumanities* investigates the many ways that the human has been entangled in complex relations with animals, the environment, and technology for which the theoretical and ethical understandings of humanism are no longer adequate.

For submission details see: <http://www.upress.umn.edu/html/about.html>

### Purdue University Press

#### **New Directions in the Human-Animal Bond**

Series editor Alan M. Beck. A dynamic relationship has always existed between people and animals. Each influences the psychological and physiological state of the other. This series of scholarly publications, published by Purdue University Press in collaboration with Purdue University's School of Veterinary Medicine, expands our knowledge of the interrelationships between people, animals, and their environment.

Manuscripts are welcomed on all aspects of human-animal interaction and welfare, including therapy applications, public policy, and the application of humane ethics in managing our living resources.

For submission guidelines see: <http://www.thepress.purdue.edu/pages/prospective-authors>

There will be more *Animal Studies* book series listed in the next issue of the *Bulletin*

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

## ***Animals***

Volume 1.1, 2011

Guest editor: Marc Bekoff

The first issue of this new online journal focuses on papers from the first Minding Animals Conference held in Newcastle, Australia, July 2009.

New articles now online are:

‘Silence and Denial in Everyday Life: The Case of Animal Suffering’ by Deidre Wicks

‘A Conservation Ethic and the Collecting of Animals by Institutions of Natural Heritage in the Twenty-First Century: Case Study of the Australian Museum’ by Timothy Ikin

‘Countering Brutality to Wildlife, Relationism and Ethics: Conservation, Welfare and “Ecodiversity”’ by Steve Garlick, Julie Matthews and Jennifer Carter

‘Conceptualising Animal Abuse with an Antisocial Behaviour Framework’ by Eleonora Gullone

‘Integrating Values and Ethics into Wildlife Policy and Management- Lessons from North America’ by Camilla H. Fox and Marc Bekoff

‘What’s in a Name? Consequences of Naming Non-human Animals’ by Sune Borkfelt

‘Animals Rights as a Mainstream Phenomenon’ by Bernard E. Rollin

‘From “Animal Machines” to “Happy Meat”? Foucault’s Ideas of Disciplinary and Pastoral Power Applied to ‘Animal-Centred’ Welfare Discourse’ by Matthew Cole

‘Challenges to the Development and Implementation of Public Policies to Achieve Animal Welfare Outcomes’ by Margaret Rose

Open access: <http://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/1/1/>

## **CALLS FOR PAPERS**

### ***Journal of Animal Ethics***

Co-editors: Andrew Lizzey Director of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, and Priscilla Cohn Emeritus Professor in Philosophy at Penn State University and Associate Director of the Centre.

An academic journal of progressive thought about animals published by the University of Illinois Press in partnership with the Centre. The Journal is a focus of inquiry, argument, and exchange dedicated to exploring the moral dimension of our relations with animals. Its aim is to put animals on the intellectual agenda and to stimulate discussion within academic and professional institutions. It is multidisciplinary in nature and international in scope, and peer-reviewed. It covers theoretical and applied aspects of animal ethics – of interest to academics from the humanities and the sciences, as well as professionals working in the field of animal protection.

The editors are looking for articles (3-5,000 words), “Argument” pieces (1-2,000 words), reviews and review articles, that have relevance to the ethics of our treatment of animals.

Guidelines for authors and further details of the Journal are available at:

<http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/jane/submissions.html>

Contributions should be emailed to the co-editor, Professor Andrew Linzey, at [director@oxfordanimaethics.com](mailto:director@oxfordanimaethics.com), who would also be pleased to discuss potential contributions.

Books for review should be sent to the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, 91 Iffley Road, Oxford OX4 1EG.

## **Process Studies**

### **Special Focus Section: Animals and Process Thought**

Process thought presumes a relationality that ascribes value and agency to all creatures, including those we call animal. But despite being seen as ecological partners, or even co-creators of the future, "animals" are often rendered faceless, obscured through generalizations, and are not given due ethical weight or consideration in our daily lives. An adequate treatment must instead address the singularity of every creature (and that of every "animal") with its particular location, aims, interpretation, and ceaseless becoming. Each creature remains irreducible to existing philosophical, ethical, theological, linguistic, biological, socio-political, and economic presentations.

Despite its commitment to non-foundationalist ontology, process perspectives have not seriously destabilized the foundations of "the animal," therefore contributing to ongoing discursive and physical entrapment. If process thought seeks novel rationality, how can it be utilized to reimagine both itself and the creatures it claims to affirm? We thus invite submissions that reimagine the animal and challenge, develop, and expand existing frameworks of relationality. Themes might include but are not limited to:

- the formulation of animals as objects or events
- unlearning or unknowing "the animal"
- new perspectives on rights, responsibility, and subjectivity
- the limitations of stewardship and rescue paradigms
- the construction of identities and bodies
- analyses of mourning, loss, and recognition
- the production of the animal through consumption patterns and economic policies
- the implications for metaphysics given a reoriented understanding of animals

Entries are also encouraged that initiate dialogue with other theoretical positions, such as race and feminist theories, post-structuralism, and eco-criticism. Additionally, we invite reflections on the underexplored relations between creaturely life and disciplines such as ethics, religion, education, theology, art, psychology, philosophy, and politics.

Deadline for submissions: **July 1, 2011**

Entries should be between 6,000 to 8,000 words and should be submitted to the editor of this Special Focus Section, Zandra Wagoner, at [zwagoner@laverne.edu](mailto:zwagoner@laverne.edu).

See the latest issue of *Process Studies* regarding style and format or visit: <http://www.ctr4process.org/publications/ProcessStudies/styleguide.shtml>.

## **Antennae**

### **Special Issue: Animal Rights and the Arts**

"I know that physiology cannot possibly progress except by means of experiments on living animals," Darwin wrote. "And I feel the deepest conviction that he who retards the progress of physiology commits a crime against mankind." (Darwin on vivisection – 1881)

The relationship between the arts and animal rights activism has over the past fifty years developed into a complex and at times contradictory ethically and morally entangled web. From the killing of animals in the gallery space or on film, through the difficult imagery produced in order to sensitize viewers to the horrors of slaughtering and animal abuse, to the use of animal derivatives in the making of art materials, *Antennae* is currently planning the publication of an issue entirely dedicated to the topic of animal rights and the arts.

*Antennae* is interested in original and challenging submissions proposing critical views on this subject and considering a variety of media and perspectives.

Deadline: 31 April 2011

Please email abstracts (300 words) and CV to [antennaeproject@gmail.com](mailto:antennaeproject@gmail.com) Final deadline for selected pieces is the 1st of September 2011.

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## Exhibitions

### A Digger's Best Friend: An A to Z of Animals in War



Photographer Ronald Keith Monro. Mascot of the 9th Australian Division, 1943.

The mascot of a cookhouse at the 9<sup>th</sup> Australian Division, a puppy dog, being dried after his bath, in preparation for the visit of General Douglas MacArthur, commander in Chief, Allied Land Forces, South West Pacific Area Photographed at Atherton Queensland, 16/7/1943

1 April 2011 - 15 May 2011

#### Castlemaine Historical Society, Castlemaine, Victoria

A Digger's Best Friend: An A to Z of Animals in War, a graphic exhibition from the Australian War Memorial collection based on their hugely successful A is for Animal, is touring regional Australia. With generous assistance from the Department of Veterans' Affairs commemorations program, A Digger's Best Friend recognises not only military dogs, but all animals that have worked alongside Australians in war for over one hundred years.

Curators of the exhibition have drawn together a fascinating array of images from the Memorial's National Collection. They include working animals such as horses, mules, pigeons and camels – and others equally important as friends: the mascots, pets and companions that gave soldiers affection, hope and relief from the stress of war. In a twist upon the theme of man's best friend, the exhibition also delves into those creepy-crawlies from the animal and insect kingdoms that have made life difficult and even deadly for soldiers. Drawings and photographs reveal rats in the trenches, flies in a ration tin and even a monstrous cobra that moved in with the Australian occupants of a four-man tent in Vietnam in 1967.

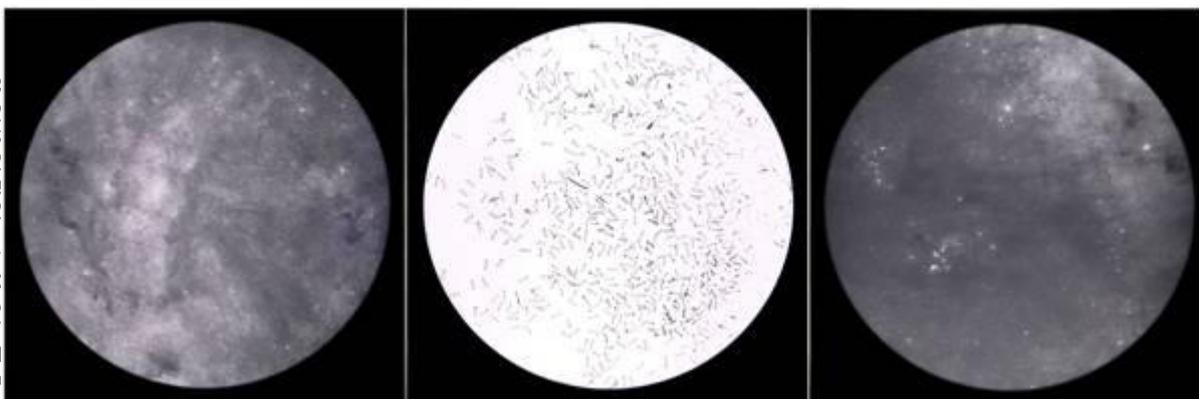
An exhibition for all ages, *A Digger's Best Friend* represents an exciting direction for the Memorial's travelling exhibition program. Recognising the value of providing families with a museum experience that answers the learning needs of children, the curators have worked closely with teachers and literacy consultants to develop a child-friendly exhibition that encourages children to learn in the company of their adult family.

For more information about this exhibition and *A is for Animals* see:

<http://www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/adiggersbestfriend/>

## Harry Nankin

### Syzygy



Scorpius B Triptych, 2010. Toned gelatin silver films mounted on starfire glass with screen-printed masks slotted into hardwood support. Three glass/film objects 337 x 357 x 5mm on base 30 x 80 x 1100mm

12 March - 1 May 2011

Horsham Regional Art Gallery at Jubilee Hall, Horsham Victoria

Lake Tyrrell in the Victorian Mallee once served as an indigenous celestial observatory. The heavens reflected in its shallow waters informed a sacred repository of sky within country, a reciprocity long ago ruptured. *Syzygy* reflects 'photo-poetically' upon this sacrament and its loss by turning the now usually dry salt lakebed into a focal plane upon which specially made photographic films were exposed directly without a camera to starlight. The resulting images are the starlit shadows of live native invertebrates and reptiles gathered from the lakeshore and rare astronomical glass plate photographs brought to the location.

*Syzygy* was a collaboration with artist/scholar Paul Carter and astrophysicist De Maurizio Toscano. It was also a component of *Mallee*, a set of related projects connected by the phenomena of Mallee—country undertaken by sound artist Christopher Williams, film maker Nassiem Valamanesh, painter John Wolseley, dancers Siobhan Murphy and Michaela Pegum, Paul Carter and the artist.

Work on *Syzygy* began in 2007 and was completed in early 2011. The project was made possible by grants from the Arts Victoria *Arts Innovation* and Australia Council *Interarts* programs. (From the HRAG flyer by permission of Harry Nankin)



Detail view of: Syzygy 12/The Scorpius B Triptych, 2010

Hear Harry speak about the making of this exhibition at Jubilee Hall on Tuesday April 5, 6pm.

For information about the concert that follows, and more details about the exhibition contact: [hrag@hrcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:hrag@hrcc.vic.gov.au) or see: [www.horshamartgallery.com.au](http://www.horshamartgallery.com.au)

## Artworks

### Silent Feathers



Martin King. *Flooding is a dream*, 2008, hard ground spitbite, aquatint, multiplate etching. Maroondah Art Collection. Image reproduced courtesy of the artist, Port Jackson Press and James Makin Gallery.

28 Jan - 5 Mar 2011 at

[Maroondah Art Gallery, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood, Victoria 3134](#)

Drawing upon the symbolism of birds and their role as companion animals, food source or as harbingers of environmental loss, 13 artists provocatively examine human complicity in the fate of the bird.

This exhibition considers our changing relationship to the bird. The bird has long held resonance in western culture as a messenger or emblem of peace. Endowed with both flight and song they have also become potent symbols of the human spirit. In some cultures the bird is a deity, while in popular folklore mythical hybrid creatures such as the peryton, part bird-part stag, are cast as villainous beings.

Birds are both companion animals and harvested as a food source, while some species are hunted for sport. Birds have long been the subject of study and bewilderment. During the early years of colonialism in Australia native birds were shot and collected as exotic specimens. Some were stuffed and despatched to enthusiasts and natural history museums around the world. The new science Ornithology fuelled interest in the study of birds and this period coincided with developments in illustrative engraving and lithography. This gave rise to increased demand for images of birds and John James Audubon's seven volume, *Birds of America*, 1840, and John Gould's *Birds of Australia*, 1841-1848, are two notable examples.

The cultural frameworks through which we understand and place value on birds is informed by social, religious and environmental histories. Many Australian native birds were thought to be dull and their song unmusical so black birds, miners, pigeons, doves and sparrows were introduced by early settlers as reminders of their home country. Today the interlopers thrive while many native species are perishing. Already in Australia 23 species of native birds have become extinct while another 49 species are on the critically endangered list or are considered endangered. Introduced predators, road trauma and habitat destruction from development and prolonged drought account for much of the loss. Extreme weather events are also taking their toll and fire, flood and cyclonic winds have destroyed the habitats of many birds, killing numerous populations.

The works in this exhibition draw attention to the vulnerability of birds. Some artists give visual form to anxieties about their impending disappearance while others invite us to consider our complicity in their demise. Some artists celebrate their lively spirit, while others reflect upon their place in the cultural imaginary or the artificial nature of urban encounters. Together the works in the exhibition

invite reflection upon the significance of birds and ask us to heed warnings to ensure their ongoing survival.

For more information about the artists and works shown, find contact details at:  
<http://www.artsinmaroondah.com.au/MaroondahArtGallery.htm>

## Amanda Parer



Amanda Parer. *Souvenirs* 2010. Acrylic on ceramic 20x 50x 30.

**BIG THINGS:** A show of new works at Colville Gallery in January 2011

This exhibition explored the link between Australian identity and the Australian landscape. Some of the works referred to highly noted artists in Australian culture such as Glover and Nolan who have also used the Australian landscape in their work. The center piece was an installation of sixteen life size rabbits, *Souvenirs*. In this work Parer acknowledges the nostalgia we have of a time when our relationship with nature was more benign. During the seventies Parer spent holidays driving in the car with the family up and down the east coast, stopping at tourists spots like the Big Pineapple, the Big Prawn and the Big Merino. These brightly coloured fiberglass structures stood like aliens in the environment. Since this time we understand our direct effect on the nature around us. The rabbit is used as a metaphor, as our souvenir to the Australian landscape. The rabbit has been used as a contradiction of being a cute childhood reference and an introduced destructive species, and as a symbol to represent us, the introduced aspect within the Australian landscape. This constant question through her works are also reflected in the 'Souvenir' sculptures, painted with Tasmanian scenes, where nostalgia of the memento quips the high brow platform of serious art perception.

Amanda is represented by:

Colville Gallery Hobart

<http://www.colvillegallery.com.au/gallery/amandaparer.php>

Libby Edwards Gallery Melbourne:

<http://www.libbyedwardsgalleries.com/artistpage.asp?ACode=51>

## Films and Videos

### POSTHUMANISM AND MEDIA



#### *IN MEDIA RES: A Media Commons Project*

March 7-11, 2011

Last week *In Media Res*, a website dedicated to experimenting with collaborative, multi-modal forms of online scholarship, hosted a series of postings on posthumanism, inviting reader participation and dialogue.

Monday March 7, 2011 [Dominic Pettman](#) (New School) presents: This Dog Wants Cupcakes – A Brief Reflection on the Emergence of the Face

Tuesday March 8, 2011 [Ron Broglio](#) (Arizona State University) presents: The Alien Wonder of Animal Worlds

Wednesday March 9 , 2011 [Eva Rorandelli](#) (Artist) presents: Portrait of a Posthuman

Thursday March 10, 2011 [Timothy Welsh](#) and [Edmond Chang](#) (University of Washington) present: Would You Kindly?: Bioshock and Posthuman Choice

Friday March 11, 2011 [r. d. crano](#) (Ohio State University) presents: "A More Vital Communication": Telepathic Hallucination and the Proto-Posthuman Event

See also *In Media Res* archives October 4-8, 2010 for [Animals in Media](#) week videos.

The goal of *In Media Res* is to promote an online dialogue amongst scholars and the public about contemporary approaches to studying media. It provides a forum for more immediate critical engagement with media at a pace closer to how we experience mediated texts. Theme weeks are designed to generate a networked conversation between curators.

To view videos and for more information visit the website:

<http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/imr/>

If you are interested in being a video curator, please contact the coordinating editor Alisa Perren:

[alisa@mediacommons.futureofthebook.org](mailto:alisa@mediacommons.futureofthebook.org)

## **OUT OF THE ASHES**

Director-writer Dione Gilmour  
Narrated by William McInnes  
Cinematographer David Parer

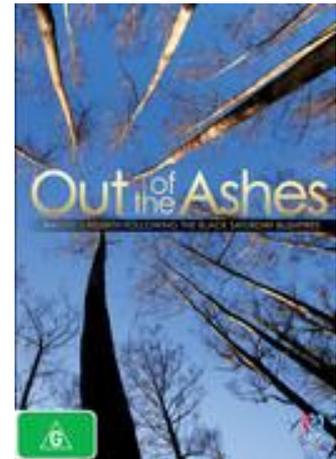
On the 7th February 2009, with the temperature at a record-breaking 46.4 degrees celsius and winds at 100kms an hour, bushfires tore through Victoria, Australia. The fires killed 173 people; destroyed over 2,000 homes and incinerated swathes of prime forest and its wildlife. When the fires finally burnt out, 90 per cent of the area's Leadbeater's possums were dead, 300-year-old mountain ash forests were blackened, and more than 400,000 hectares were burnt.

Fires are a natural process and these mountain forests need fire to regenerate. Focusing on a wildlife shelter, this film shows how plants and animals survive and regenerate. Even in the face of overwhelming devastation animal species bounce back, and the environment has an extraordinary capacity for healing. It is also the story of wonderful human-animal relations and interactions. It features interviews with victims as well as bushfire experts, behind the scenes with injured and displaced animals and spectacular time lapse footage.

Told in superb cinematography, this is the inspiring story of how nature and beauty rise out of the ashes.

Available at ABC shops:

<http://shop.abc.net.au/browse/product.asp?productid=790552>



## **100 YEARS OF WILDLIFE FILMS**

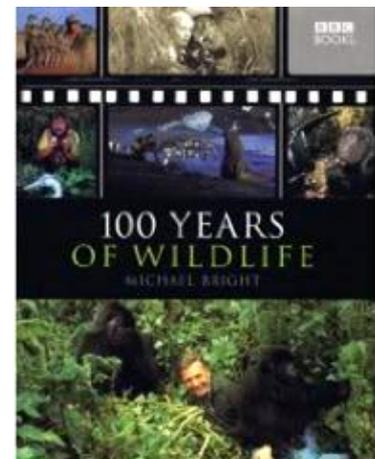
Presenter: Bill Oddie  
Director/producer: Clare Brook  
Camera: Mark MacEwan

Bill Oddie charts the extraordinary changes in technology that have driven the wildlife film industry, and reveals how the last hundred years of wildlife films has as much to do with our social attitudes as it has to do with the animals themselves.

With stunning, exciting and sometimes shocking footage, the documentary explores the changing trends, from shooting animals for fun in the 1930s to campaigning to save them from extinction today. Film-makers explain the challenges that filming animals can pose, we find out more about the pioneers, discover who was first to film underwater - and who narrowly escaped death to get the shots they wanted.

The film explores 100 years of film - from the black-and-white silent footage that started it all to the almost magical photography techniques seen today in programmes like "Planet Earth". From famous faces of wildlife TV to extraordinary animal (and plant) behaviour, natural history filming has changed the way we look at and think about our world. "It's all here - so weird, you couldn't make it up; so wonderful, you wouldn't want to miss it."

Downloads available online . . .



**Links:** Resource pages, blogs

- **Lib Now!**

Lib Now! is the official blog of the Institute for Critical Animal Studies (ICAS) promoting ICAS news, events, projects, programs, and more. Lib Now! is the worldwide blog for college animal rights activism.

<http://libnow.org/>

- **WEAD**

The Women Environmental Artists Directory focuses on women's unique perspectives. They collaborate internationally to further the field and understanding of ecological and social justice art. They aim to provide information regarding the ecoart and social justice art fields to artists, curators, writers, art and public art administrators, educators in art and ecology, cross-disciplinary professionals and others. To facilitate international networking among artists working with ecological and social justice issues.

WEAD is presently expanding its EcoArt-network to include animal rights artists. To become a member email in your artist statement and a sample jpg photo of your artwork to:

[weadartists@gmail.com](mailto:weadartists@gmail.com)

<http://weadartists.org/>

- **Animal Rights Hub Australasia**

This is a trial blog that sources information from key animal rights groups across Australia and New Zealand. It aims to be a one-stop shop for people who want to get an overview of developments across all of the main trans-Tasman animal rights groups. It is a simple blog, no fancy technology. If you like the idea of the blog, please help by spreading the word.

<http://animalrightshub.org/>

- **Animal Architecture**

Animal Architecture is an online project broadly concerned with the role of ecology and biology in architecture. It is a project about what it means as an animal to make and delineate space; a project about the fashion, obsession, and fetishism of nature; not a project about the homes, holes, caves, nests, hives, burrows, or tunnels that animals already architect; a project devoted to bridging the humanist divide between "us" and "them."

It contains book reviews, projects, posts and upcoming events.

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

- **The Random Animal**

This blog features book reviews on human/animal issues. It reviews fiction, nonfiction, and poetry that reflects on the human/animal connection. Between reviews it follows items involving pets and wildlife.

<http://therandomanimal.blogspot.com/>

- **Wildfilm History**

WildFilm History is an online guide to the pioneering people and landmark productions behind one hundred years of wildlife filmmaking. Uncover ground-breaking films, 'behind the scenes' photographs, essential production information, and specially crafted learning resources, as well as a unique collection of personal memoirs from key industry players.

A great resource! This site lists films, people, oral histories and key events from 1872 onwards.

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

- **Animals and Foucault**

A bibliography of publications that use the work of Michel Foucault to differing degrees and in different ways. Compiled by Richard Twine, Tom Tyler, Lewis Holloway, Dinesh Wadiwel & Matt Chrulaw.

<http://www.richardtwine.com/foucaultanimals/>

- **Wildlife Protection Association**

The members of the Wildlife Protection Association of Australia Inc (WPAA) are dedicated and committed to the conservation and protection of native wildlife. They actively engage government and industry to provide accountable and sustainable policies and practices to better manage our fragile environment. They are pledged to campaign against all actions which threaten the current or future existence of our wildlife. They promote positive community attitudes through education, communication and advocacy .

<http://www.wildlifeprotectaust.org.au/>

- **Animal Welfare Science Centre**

The Animal Welfare Science Centre is a Centre of the University of Melbourne, Monash University, The Ohio State University and the Department of Primary Industries (Victoria). It was established to focus and coordinate research and academic resources of the three collaborating organisations, providing the animal industries, animal users, farming communities, Government and the academic and general community with an internationally competitive research, training and teaching resource in animal welfare science. The website contains information about research programs, education and training, employment and opportunities for study.

<http://www.animalwelfare.net.au/about/about.html>

- **Sonya Britz**

Sonya is an artist whose work centres on animals. See her paintings of cows, dogs, animal histories, zoos, and more . . .

<http://www.art.co.za/sonjabritz/default.htm>

## Profiles: Animal studies scholars and activists

### Ms Dominique Thiriet



Some people are blessed with a childhood enriched by relationships with companion animals. As an urban child raised in a family of asthmatics, animals did not play a great role in my younger years. My animal epiphany occurred in my early twenties. Profoundly influenced by a friend's dedication to animals, I became a vegetarian and animal activist. I joined several animal protection organisations, running stalls, attending protests, joining rescue teams at the opening of the duck hunting season, lobbying politicians and participating in various campaigns. A highlight of that era was being the president of Animal Liberation ACT when our campaigning led the ACT government to ban the use of exotic animals in circuses.

After completing studies in wildlife management, I took up a position in the Wildlife Protection Authority, a division of the then Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, naively thinking that my work would contribute to the protection of wildlife. Instead my main task was to process applications for permits to export millions of kangaroos skins and other body parts. The experience was not altogether negative, however, as I learnt a lot about government policies and procedures. This led me to wanting to know more about the law and understanding how it could be used as an instrument to pursue better protection for animals. I completed a law degree at James Cook University and later joined the JCU Law School where I now teach a variety of subjects, including environmental law. I also recently co-taught an Animal Law subject offered externally by Southern Cross University.

My research interests have focused on my twin passions of animal and environmental law, the only two areas of law which regulate humans' behaviour towards non-humans. I have published on traditional hunting, recreational hunting, control of introduced animals and wildlife management. In each of these settings I have examined how the laws, which purport to protect animals from cruelty, generally fail to do so - worse they allow, even facilitate unspeakable cruelty. I have recently commenced a PhD which will explore the joint values that underpin animal and environmental laws and examine whether a holistic legal framework that combines both would provide for better conservation and animal welfare outcomes. I am a member of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (Animals in the Wild) which advises the federal government on matters of wild animal welfare.

At some stage, I needed to make up for my early lack of involvement with animals. In addition to sharing our lives with more dogs than strictly necessary, my partner and I coordinate the rescue, care and rehabilitation of hundreds of orphaned and injured flying foxes in Townsville.

## Dr Simon Lumsden



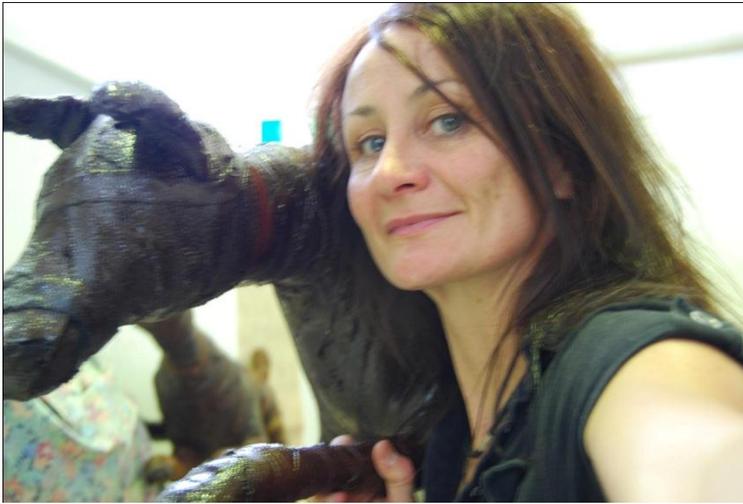
I trained in philosophy and have spent much of my undergraduate, postgraduate and academic career to date examining the thought of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century German philosophers. I joined the philosophy program at the University of New South Wales in 2004 where I am currently a senior lecturer. In recent years I have come to see the necessity for philosophy to devote its considerable resources to a re-conceptualisation of the human-animal relation. At the ethical level much of this work has already been done, though because Peter Singer's work was the pioneering research in this area, much of the philosophical debate has tended to frame the consideration of animals and the human relation to them within a set of concerns that are specific to Anglo-American moral philosophy.

Singer and many others after him have given very good reasons for why much of our treatment of animals has been unethical. Similarly innumerable convincing reasons have been put forward for the ethical superiority of a plant based diet. However the reluctance of individuals and legal codes to adopt a more just and respectful treatment of non-human animals is not because of a lack of good arguments. We don't need more good arguments for why humanity needs to treat animals ethically. The failure of people to change their behaviour when there are so many good arguments around for why they should has lead my research to habit.

Good arguments can convince only a limited number of people to change the way they care for the animal and natural world. The more difficult issue is how to restructure ways of life and transform human self-understanding such that the ethical treatment of animals is central to our customary life. The majority of the norms we hold and the practices we have are not produced through rational argument or deliberation, no matter how modern and sophisticated we take ourselves to be. The resilience of practices and norms such as meat eating and the instrumentalising of the animal and natural world have their origin in customs and habits.

Changing such things requires a wholesale transformation of human self-understanding, a self-understanding that is as much bodily as it is rational. My research brings to bear a set of philosophical resources grounded in European philosophy and the American pragmatist tradition that are better equipped than moral philosophy alone to imagine what is involved in transforming an entire way of life. My first foray into this research was an article 'Habit, Reason and the Limits of Normativity' published in a special issue of the journal *Sub-Stance* devoted to Animality (Dec, 2008). I have a number of papers on habit in the production pipeline. These will be published over the next two years in various journals and edited collections.

## Dr Amanda Stuart

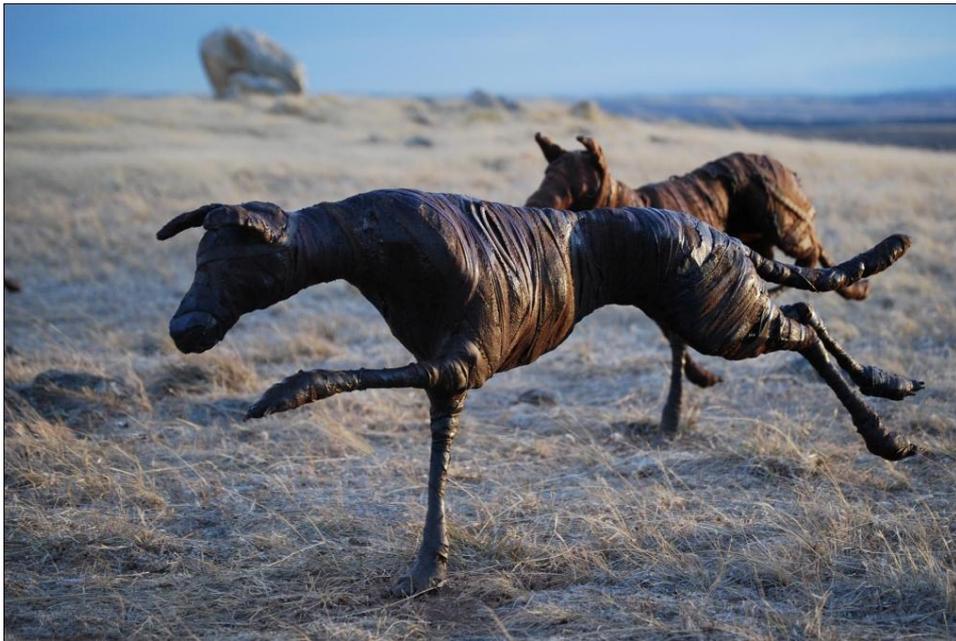


Presently a candidate for PhD in Visual Arts at the Australian National University, School of Art, my current sculptural practice researches the tense relations between wild dogs, dingoes and humans in the South East of Australia. Broadly, my visual art practice explores human relationships with the Australian natural environment, and has a particular focus on “outsider” species. An earlier degree in land management and the natural sciences, enabled me to pursue my passion and work as a park ranger in various national parks and reserves in New South Wales and Tasmania. This profession gave me some rich experiences and insights observing firsthand the conflicts that can exist between humans and native or feral animals. Such observations were crucial in developing my fascination for species that are perceived as repugnant, dangerous or as vermin by humans.

These observations in turn fed directly into my art practice, both at conceptual and formal levels. Conceptually, they inform the research aspect of my work, which seeks to explore the tensions and complexities of shared environments and the multitude of attitudes, both overt and repressed, which arise when animals and non-human animals co-exist. In particular I am interested in the way some animals are revered, whilst others are reviled. Formally, my work is anchored in representational form, and I have a strong interest in materiality.

An early body of work developed for my Post Graduate research, entitled *Mongrel Country – Nil Tenure*, dealt specifically with tensions between farming communities and wild dogs and dingoes in south-eastern Australia. It manifested as a sculptural “ghost pack” of forms derived proportionally from deceased wild canines in this region. This eerie pack, emaciated and restless, reflected sculpturally upon the ways that the farmer and the wild animal are ‘bound’ together – particularly when territories collide. Made from tannin soaked farmers’ pyjamas and bed linens, they refer to sub-conscious relationships. They aim to promote dialogues which are informed by shared histories, and quietly meditate upon relations with country.

Since graduating from the ANU with a Bachelor of Visual Arts 1999 (1<sup>st</sup> class honours and University Medal-Sculpture Workshop), I have exhibited nationally and internationally. In 2009, I was honoured to be selected and exhibit in the inaugural Sculpture by the Sea, Denmark. I have taught and researched in various capacities with the Sculpture Workshop at the School of Art, Australian National University, since 2004.



Amanda Stuart. *mongrel country-nil tenure* 2010. Awarded the Artist's Prize at Palmer Biennale, South Australia. Mild steel, fence wire, sheep bones, farmer's pyjamas and bed linen, wool blankets, tannins and bond-crete. To scale (ie canine size)



Amanda Stuart. *mongrel country-nil tenure* installation 2009. Inaugural Sculpture by the Sea at Aarhus, Denmark

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