



Issue 12, June 2011

News Bulletin

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

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Editorial

Late in 2007, Natalie Edwards approached me with the suggestion of transforming the E-bulletin I was producing for the University of Tasmania Animals and Society Study Group into a quarterly publication with an Australian focus. The result is this newsletter, which has grown from a 7 page document with no pictures, into a 40+ page multimedia production. Such is the growth of animal studies that I must now be super-selective when scrolling through potential items in the month or so before an issue is due. At the same time as the *Bulletin* has expanded, the infrastructure and visibility of the Australian Animal Studies Group has grown and evolved, and Australian items now dominate the news. The AASG website has been a major achievement and next month the Group holds its fourth biennial conference in Brisbane. But this conference is a historic one. The first AGM on Tuesday, 12th July will elect new office bearers for a committee that, for the last few years, has conducted the business of the Group on an informal basis. The incorporation of AASG is a crucial step in strengthening the Australian community of animal studies scholars and activists, and it is important that your votes are cast with deliberation and care—as this committee will represent you and your views. As with most organisations of this kind, the road to formal recognition has sometimes been rocky, but there is no doubt that all on the present committee have worked long and steadfastly to ensure the effectiveness of both the field and its organisation in Australia.

Given that a new committee will make decisions in relation to the *Bulletin*, there may be changes in its format and/or editor. This issue then may be the last of its kind and my last as editor but, whatever the outcome, I'm sure that both the Group and the field in Australia has a solid, flourishing future.

National News

AASG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5pm Tuesday 12th July



AASG Conference, Brisbane
Animals, People – a shared environment

To nominate or be nominated for positions on the committee make sure you join AASG by midday 12 July. Nominations can be made before the meeting and also from the floor.

To become a member please go to our website: <http://www.aasg.org.au/> Or join at the conference, or complete the membership form on the last pages of this *Bulletin*.

First AASG Annual General Meeting

Nominations are sought for 7 positions on a new AASG committee. All positions on the present informal committee will be vacant and two members—Siobhan O'Sullivan and Carol Freeman—will not be seeking election. The other members of the current committee are Natalie Edwards, Yvette Watt, Leah Burns, and Melissa Boyde.

Nominees should have adequate time to undertake the duties involved in the various roles: **Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and 3 other committee members.** Nominations will be received by the present Secretary, Siobhan O'Sullivan siobhano@unimelb.edu.au by **5pm 4 July 2011**, or can be made from the floor at the time of the AGM by someone present. Nomination forms, AGM agenda, and official notice will be sent to this email list by 20 June.

Join AASG

You can now join AASG online and be a paid up member! Membership will ensure listing of your profile on the website and will allow you to nominate and vote for office bearers at or before the forthcoming AGM. Pay fees: 1) by EFT, accessible by hitting the **Join Us** button on the Group's website: <http://www.aasg.org.au/> 2) Join at the conference. 3) Scan, fax or mail a completed membership form (available online or at the bottom of this *Bulletin*) with your payment to yvette.watt@utas.edu.au, fax: 6226 4308, or mail:

Australian Animal Studies Group
c/o Dr Yvette Watt
Associate Lecturer in Painting
Tasmanian School of Art
University of Tasmania
Private Bag 57,
Hobart TAS 7001

Annual membership fees are \$40 for waged applicants; \$20 for student/concession/unwaged. The AASG relies on membership fees to support and improve its initiatives. With them we can continue to provide you with services such as the *Bulletin* and the website – a popular point for accessing information about human-animal studies scholars and their areas of interest, finding funding opportunities, taking part in discussions about current issues, and accessing past issues of the *Bulletin*.

AASG Committee Resignation

Early in April, long-time committee member **Rod Bennison** resigned. Rod has been involved with the Study Group since its beginnings in 2005 and has contributed invaluable expertise and enthusiasm to many areas of the Group's activities. The committee regrets his departure and wishes him well in his work for animal studies through the development of Minding Animals, the unique network that is advancing the field internationally, as well as in Australia. The AASG committee has advised Rod of their continued intention of working in close and friendly cooperation with Minding Animals in all its manifestations.

AASG CONFERENCE NEWS

The conference **Program** is now available
It includes 2 art exhibitions, 2 book launches, a film session
and many other exciting events

Additional registration fees have been added for
Seniors and Unwaged delegates. Registration closes soon!

Conference T shirts are available for sale online!

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

For full details see www.aasg2011.com.au



Publications

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

Jennifer Carter

"Countering Brutality to Wildlife, Relationism and Ethics: Conservation, Welfare and the 'Ecoversity'" by S. Garlick, J. M. Matthews and J. Carter. *Animals* 1 (2011):161-75.

Matt Chrulew

"Managing Love and Death at the Zoo: The Biopolitics of Endangered Species Preservation," *Australian Humanities Review* 50 (May 2011).

"Hunting the Mammoth, Pleistocene to Postmodern." *Journal for Critical Animal Studies* IX:1/2 (2011): 32-47.

"Reversing Extinction: Restoration and Resurrection in the Pleistocene Rewilding Projects," *Humanimalia* 2:2 (Spring 2011): 4-27.

Dianne Gordon

"Differences in social and vocal behavior between left- and right-handed common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*)," *J Comp Psychol* 124 (2010):402-11

Brett D. Hirsch

"From Jew to Puritan: The Emblematic Owl in Early English Culture." In '*This Earthly Stage: World and Stage in Late Medieval and Early Modern England*. Ed. Brett D. Hirsch and Christopher Wortham. Turnhout: Brepols, 2011.

"Lycanthropy in Early Modern England: The Case of John Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi*." *Diseases of the Imagination and Imaginary Disease in the Early Modern Period*. Ed. Yasmin Haskell. Turnhout: Brepols, 2011.

Elizabeth Leane

"Charismatic Krill? Size and Conservation in the Ocean" by Elizabeth Leane and Steve Nicol. *Anthrozoös* 24.1 (2010)

Jennifer McDonell

"A la lisière de l'humanité: les chiens, l'affect et la division des espèces dans l'Angleterre du XIXe siècle" in Annik Dubied, David Gerber et Juliet Fall. Eds. "Aux frontières de l'animal. Mises en scènes et réflexivités", Geneva, Paris: Droz, 2010.

Siobhan O'Sullivan

Animals, Equality and Democracy, London: Palgrave Macmillan, Animal Ethics Series. Forthcoming.

Linda Williams

"Human-Animal Studies in the field of the Arts and Humanities." *Philosophy, Activism, Nature* Issue No.8 (forthcoming, 2011)

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

Regional News

Queensland

Griffith University

Animal Law Course

This undergraduate course, first taught at Griffith Law School (Nathan Campus, Brisbane) in January 2007, has been run annually since then and is available to undergraduate law students and to non-law university graduates with appropriate experience/qualifications. Cross-institutional study is also an option. The course introduces the law relating to non-human animals, with an emphasis on the relationship between law and the ethics of animal welfare. Students critically examine prevailing regulation of the treatment of non-human animals in a range of settings. The course also addresses international developments in animal welfare law, and students have the opportunity to explore the different ways in which lawyers engage with animal law. Animal Law is next scheduled to be taught in semester 2, 2011 and (subject to confirmation) as an intensive course in December 2012.

For further information please contact Steven White: steven.white@griffith.edu.au.

New South Wales

University of Wollongong

Update on the **Global Animal Conference** 7-8 July 2011



The Global Animal Conference will focus on the implications of cultural, political and economic globalised environments and narratives for non-human animals. Animal focused themes include Oceanic, Diaspora and Caged and Captive Animals, Animal Performer, Writing Animal and Representing Animal. The Keynote address will be given by Professor Wendy Woodward, University of the Western Cape, South Africa: "This Animal Which is Not One: Diaspora Giraffes in the African puppet play *Tall Horse* and JM Ledyard's novel, *Giraffe*"

Speakers include

- Professor Helen Tiffin on the 'Personhood of Apes'
- Professor Peat Tait (La Trobe) on the wearing of live leopards as fur collars in circus
- Professor Barry Spurr (Uni of Sydney) on pre and post Darwinian representations of animals in poetry.

An exhibition by artist Michelle Eliot will form part of the program, with an opening on Wed 6 July at 6 pm in the foyer of the Faculty of Creative Arts (FCA). For more details see [Exhibitions](#) below. For further information about the conference contact the convenor Dr Melissa Boyde: boyde@uow.edu.au or check the conference website: <http://ro.uow.edu.au/globan10/>

University of Sydney

HARN: Human Animal Research Network

The first meeting of this new group was held on Tuesday 3 May and the subject was 'The Horse'. Three papers were presented: Assoc. Prof. Phil McManus (Science Faculty) on the thoroughbred racing industry; Professor Paul McGreevy (Veterinary Science) on the use of the whip, in jumps racing and more generally; and Celeste Black (Law) who surveyed animal cruelty legislation over the last couple of centuries, with particular reference to provisions (or lack of them) for the protection of horses.

The papers and the paper-givers were an example of the cross-disciplinary character of HARN, which future seminars will continue to display. Some twenty-two people attended and we hope to build on this number in the future as HARN becomes more widely known on our large campus.

HARN's website has now been launched: <http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/harn/>

HARN August Seminar
Tuesday August 2, 2011
Woolley Common Room, 1pm-3pm

“In Human Care”

In what ways do humans ‘care’ for animals? The contexts in which the term ‘care’ is used demonstrate its multipurpose and also, perhaps, an assumption that we know what care is and what it can do. Can care be motivated, activated or focused on doing certain things and not others? How do we assess, read and measure ‘care’ in relation to the animal human bond?

This seminar approaches the issue of care from three different angles. Malcolm France discusses the perceptions and practice of care in the context of the use of animals in research; Anne Fawcett discusses how veterinarian's reading of the human animal bond impacts on mobilisation of care. Fiona Probyn-Rapsey examines the work of Stanley Cohen (States of Denial) to examine how different ‘cultures’ of denial effect the mobilization of care.

- Dr Anne Fawcett (Veterinary Science, Sydney) "The human animal bond and its role in determining treatment of animals in a veterinary clinical context"?
- Dr Malcolm France (Laboratory Animal Services, Sydney) “Animals in Scientific Research”
- Dr Fiona Probyn-Rapsey (Gender and Cultural Studies, Sydney) “Activating care and thinking through denial”

Chair: Prof Barry Spurr (English, Sydney)

HARN is proud to report that Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG, formerly of the High Court of Australia, has agreed to become their Patron

Macquarie University

PhD Positions: Macquarie University Centre for Research on Social Inclusion (CRSI)
“Multispecies Ethnography at the Edge of Extinction”

A PhD scholarship is available in the CRSI – an interdisciplinary group of researchers undertaking social, cultural and philosophical research into contemporary social and ecological justice issues. This scholarship is attached to an ARC Discovery Grant titled ‘Encounters with Extinction: A multi-sited, multispecies approach to life at the edge of catastrophe in the Asia-Pacific region’. The successful candidate will undertake new research to be directed toward relationships between humans and one or more endangered species in the wider Pacific region.

The specific methodologies will match the strengths of the successful applicants; the applicants must have experience in qualitative research methods and principles. Applicants will be responsive to current ecological issues and will direct their research to include multispecies communities with a particular focus on endangered animals.

Applicants must demonstrate equivalent research qualifications or experience to an Australian First Class Honours degree in one or more of the following disciplines: human geography, anthropology, philosophy, cultural studies, or a related discipline; they will have demonstrated expertise in one or more of the following areas: animal geographies, environmental philosophy, cultural anthropology or other closely related subject areas. Applicants must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

For further information, please contact Professor Deborah Bird Rose
Deborah.rose@mq.edu.au

Symposium: Macquarie University Centre for Agency, Values and Ethics
"Testing Times: a symposium on the ethics and epistemology of animal experimentation"

20 - 21 September, 2011

The Centre for Agency, Values and Ethics provides a platform for dynamic interactions between researchers in philosophy, psychology, cognitive science, law, medicine, applied ethics and bioethics. Animal experimentation is a highly contentious practice. It generates ethical concerns due to harms to animals and epistemological worries because translations between animal experiments and human clinical medicine are problematic. In spite of these issues, the practice continues to expand. This symposium will bring together scientists, philosophers, sociologists, veterinarians and others to discuss animal experimentation and develop new approaches to the ethical and epistemological challenges it generates.

Registration: free, but places are limited, so please book by sending an email

For registration and more information contact: Jane Johnson and Paul Taylor:
Testingtimes.symposiium@gmail.com

This is a Minding Animals pre-conference event

Northern Territory

Museum of Tropical Queensland

Claire Brennan: "Australia's Crocodile Bubble: crocodile hunting in the Australian Tropics"

Local historian and lecturer in history at James Cook University, Dr Claire Brennan, revealed the story of the rise and fall of crocodile hunting in Australia in a free public talk at the Museum of Tropical Queensland on Tuesday 10 May 2011.

The talk looked at the way romance and profit combined to create a crocodile hunting boom from the 1950s. Museum of Tropical Queensland Director Peter McLeod said "Dr Brennan's talk tells how this the hunting boom was replaced with sustainable industries such as crocodile ranching, farming and tourism." Crocodile hunting became the great Australian adventure in the 1950s as the new availability of suitable firearms combined with rising global crocodile skin prices to make 'going on safari' in northern Australia feasible and attractive.

"Tropical Australia's crocodiles had made regular appearances in southern newspapers long before the 1950s and many of the hunters involved in the bubble came from southern Australia to the bemusement of local hunters," Dr Brennan said. "The great northern crocodile adventure was eventually halted in Australia in the early 1970s as state governments legislated to protect crocodiles. The commercial bubble was killed by the very success of hunters in slaughtering crocodiles."

Dr Brennan's research interests include the history of livestock breeding and sport hunting in Australia and New Zealand, acclimatisation societies and environmental history.

The lecture was part of the Museum of Tropical Queensland's Discover More Talk series, held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Tasmania

University of Tasmania

UTas Animal Studies Group seminar on Monday April 11 took the form of a Floor Talk at the Reconstructing the Animal Exhibition at Plimsoll Gallery, Tasmanian School of Art

Yvette Watt and Carol Freeman discussed the artworks in this exhibition near the end of its duration. It was a profitable exercise, generating not only new ideas about the works, but information from Yvette about setting up the exhibition, why she chose the particular works, and the difficulty of getting some of the work through customs.

Australian Capital Territory

Australian National University

ANU School of Art will focus on 'Art & the Bestiary' at its Art Forum. A series of talks by artists whose work engages with animals – be they fantastical, philosophical or observational – this series will continue throughout Semester 2. Art Forum is held in the School of Art Lecture Theatre. Past talks include:

April 27 – Yvette Watt. Tasmanian-based artist Yvette Watt has been actively involved in animal advocacy since the mid 1980s. Her artwork is heavily informed by her activism and her interest in the changing nature of human-animal relations. Her research also reflects an interest in the relationship between how non-human animals are depicted and what this might have to say about how these animals are thought about and treated. Related to this is an interest in the role that art can play in engaging the viewer with social and/or political issues.

May 4 Kate Rohde's recent sculptures and installations utilise an extensive range of craft and hardware materials, including silicone, expanding foam, fake fur, various resins and rice paper. With these she creates collections of zoological, botanical and geological specimens, which offer a playful and decorative interpretation of natural history. Kate also incorporates decorative elements typical of Baroque and Rococo style, with much of the patterning being drawn from flora and fauna sources.

May 11 – Judith Schaechter is a Philadelphia-based artist known for her work in the medium of stained glass. Her pieces often exhibit elements of parable, and her distorted faces and figures, along with her own self-professed atheism ironically clash with her medium's religious tradition. Her narratives are a paradoxical assemblage of medieval depictions, mediated by contemporary tales of human failings. Hers is a demented carnival world, made claustrophobic by dizzying arrays of texture, obsessive detail and intense colour. Judith is a Visiting Artist in the Glass Workshop.

May 18 - Rona Green explored ideas about identity, in particular the darker side of the psyche. She is a fancier of Egyptian art, historical figures, science fiction, B-grade movies, secret societies, tattooing traditions, subcultures and the animal kingdom, all of which inspire her artwork. Her imagery, based on observation and imagination, muses on the nature of the individual. Green also has a taste for characters and the absurd, using humour as an integral part of her work.

May 25 - Steven Holland, Amanda Stuart and Raquel Ormella are each concerned with ideas about the natural world and the interactions between humans and animals. Steven is currently researching the complex symbolism of snakes, Amanda is exploring humans' ambiguous relationships with wild dogs and Raquel's art projects have dealt with the representation of birds. All three speakers are practicing artists, with active exhibiting careers, and are educators at the ANU School of Art. They are also candidates in the School's PhD program.

For more information see: <http://soa.anu.edu.au/art-forum>

Special Report

In 1969 two young travellers from Australia, Ace Bourke and John Rendall, purchased a lion they called Christian from Harrods in London, and later returned him to Africa where George Adamson rehabilitated him back into a wild and natural life. They returned to Kenya to see Christian a year later and, forty years on, the footage of their reunion with him went viral on YouTube. This has brought Ace back into a more direct involvement with animal and wildlife conservation. He will be appearing at the Global Animals conference in Wollongong, New South Wales on July 7-8.

Ace Bourke and the Global Animal



Post operative patient at Kalimpong Animal Shelter Clinic

An Australian couple walking through the narrow streets of Darjeeling in India in 1993 came across a horrible sight. A dog was lying in the gutter, foaming at the mouth from poisoning. This dog did not die in vain. The couple were Christine and Jeremy Townend, and Christine had founded *Animal Liberation* in Australia in 1976, *Animals Australia* with Peter Singer in 1985, and from 1990 to 2007 was Managing Trustee of the *Help in Suffering Animal Shelter (HIS)* in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Strychnine was routinely thrown around Darjeeling by the municipal authorities in the hope of killing the “community” dogs who were blamed for the spread of rabies. At *HIS* in Jaipur in 1994, the Townends introduced a successful dog program set up at the behest of the *World Society for the Protection of Animals*. Jaipur was the first city in India to become rabies-free. Christine and Jeremy were also determined to do something about animal welfare in Darjeeling, but because of the difficulty in finding a suitable site it would be years before the establishment of the *Darjeeling Animal Shelter (DAS)*.

Undeterred, of course, the Townends with core funding from *Animaux Secours (France)* in 1995 bought an acre of land on the outskirts of Kalimpong, a 2 hour drive from Darjeeling. Additional funding also continues to come from *HIS (UK)* and *Animal Liberation (NSW)*. Despite different cultural and geographical circumstances, the *Kalimpong Animal Shelter (KAS)* transposed and modified the successful dog program from Jaipur. *ABC* (animal birth control), which is funded by the *Animal Welfare Board of India*, involves spaying and vaccinations against rabies and it began to have an immediate effect on the health of the local dogs and rabies – cleaning up mange, infections and cancerous growths, and reducing the numbers of litters of pups. The municipal authorities stopped their indiscriminate poisoning and community attitudes and practices have changed remarkably.

I met Christine Townend last year, introduced by a mutual friend who was also interested in animal welfare and conservation. I liked and admired Christine immediately. In addition to her pioneering track record in animal welfare, she also writes and paints professionally. She is one of those people with a rather steely determination who doesn't see obstacles – just the objectives. Any

visitor to India knows how sometimes the simplest task can be a nightmare – so her achievements there are even more remarkable. I have visited India many times and I very quickly accepted her invitation to visit the animal shelters. I had never been to Darjeeling, Kalimpong or that part of northern India before. The road up into the mountains was very narrow, busy and scary, with breathtaking views of the Teesta River. The *Kalimpong Animal Shelter* was in a lovely garden and forest, with guest huts for volunteers, a main house, dog runs, kennels and a cattery. In Jaipur the clients had included elephants and camels, but in the well equipped *KAS* clinic it is mostly pet dogs and cats. The vet and staff however, are always on the lookout around the town for dogs that need the ABC treatment, and village animals are treated for free.

Another important aspect of their work is to periodically set out and often trek into remote villages. I was lucky enough to go on a trip to a pretty village a few kilometres out of Kalimpong and see the *KAS* team in action. As is customary, the people in the village had been advised in advance and all day there was a stream of friendly people bringing their dogs and a few cats to the tent camp that had been set up. I'm quite squeamish and don't like operations, blood or seeing animals – or any owners, worried. Christine however viewed it all as quite beautiful, knowing how much healthier the animals and community would be. The *Animal Protection Network (Sweden)* sponsors the camps and the cat ABC. Overall, since the ABC program began here, more than 7000 dogs have been spayed and vaccinated.

The *Darjeeling Animal Shelter (DAS)* also has the most beautiful mountain views. It was Diwali, the Festival of the Lights, and it happened to be "Honour a Dog Day" and all the dogs and pups had garlands of marigolds and pink tikas on their foreheads. Not to be left out, the cats and kittens also wore their flowers and tikas. Christine is the Managing Trustee of *DAS* and *KAS*, (both are projects of the Indian charitable trust *Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter (DGAS)*), and she is ably supported by Jeremy Townend with his legal, administrative and business expertise. Like all similar organisations funding is always an ongoing task - and they were discussing with the staff the need for a replacement vehicle to collect animals around the town, and even more importantly, another vet. Volunteer vets and vet nurses are urgently needed and welcome, as are donations – \$300 will feed a dog for a year.

Previously rabies was endemic in both Kalimpong and Darjeeling, but it appears that now the human incidence of rabies is virtually nil. While this is an extraordinary achievement, rabies is still prevalent in remote villages, spread by wild animals such as jackals. I reluctantly left for the magnificent Kaziranga National Park in Assam, while Christine and Jeremy concentrated on other Indian projects – the Camel Rescue Centre out of Jaipur in Rajasthan which was inaugurated this March, and the introduction of humane training methods for working elephants.

Story by ACE BOURKE



Christine Townend and Ace Bourke
(photo Jeremy Townend)

Conferences and Symposiums: Updates, international conferences and seminars

- **From Good Care to Great Welfare: Advancing Zoo Animal Welfare Science and Policy**

August 6-7, 2011. Detroit Zoological Society

The Detroit Zoological Society's Center for Zoo Animal Welfare is hosting a two-day symposium, From Good Care to Great Welfare, which will bring together leaders in animal welfare with the goal of advancing zoo animal welfare science and policy. Animal care in zoos has improved over the past decades, but good care does not, in and of itself, ensure great welfare. The development of a more thorough understanding of animals in zoos, especially how they are affected by captive conditions - staff, visitors, social and physical environments, and more - is important to ensuring zoo animal welfare. This requires an active dialogue among animal care professionals and animal welfare specialists regarding these issues.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The symposium will include presentations, posters and panels focusing on four primary topic areas:

- understanding and bridging the gap between providing good care and ensuring great welfare;
- understanding the impacts of - and compensating for - captivity;
- multidisciplinary approaches and assessment techniques to better understand and enhance zoo animal welfare;
- welfare of "non charismatic" vertebrates - birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish.

Papers and posters presenting original/research that examines the impacts of captivity on animals and how we can better align animal care practices with great welfare (e.g., impacts of choice and decision-making with respect to social partners, food, space; impacts of different social situations; investigation of different sensory abilities/perceptions of animals and their impacts on welfare). A special edition of the Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science (JAAWS) will publish invited papers and abstracts of all spoken presentations from the symposium.

Additional information and instructions for registering and for submitting abstracts for presentations and posters can be found at <http://czaw.org/events>

Deadline for abstracts: June 15, 2011.

For more information please contact either: Cynthia Bennett cbennett@dzs.org or Elizabeth Arbaugh Elizabeth@dzs.org

- **Wild Things: 'Nature' and the Social Imagination**

16 September, 2011. St Antony's College, University of Oxford

Annual meeting of the European Association for Environmental History UK Branch, with the European Society for Environmental History.

CALL FOR PAPERS

This is an annual gathering of historians who are interested in environmental subjects and themes. Contributors are invited to explore cultural histories of the natural world. Possible themes might include the following:

- The politics of natural species - how plants and animals figure in political discourses and practices.
- Nature and identity - how natural histories figure in the construction of community, locality and (contested) belonging.
- Native and alien species - as windows on social inclusion and exclusion
- Wildlife and the Arts - the representation of wildlife in film, print, music, architecture, sculpture and other media
- Beasts, plants and the iconography of space
- Nature and Economy - the cultural dimensions of natural resource extraction and exchange
- Forest histories & environmental narratives
- Religious and spiritual histories - transformations in the theology and philosophy of wild things

Proposals for papers in related areas of environmental history are also welcome

Submission deadline: 1st July 2011

For more information contact: Dr Karen Middleton middleton.karen@talk21.com or Dr Simon Pooley simon.pooley@sant.ox.ac.uk

- **Animal Studies: Changing the Subject?**

27 September, 2011: New York, USA

Confirmed speakers:

- Marc Bekoff
- Dale Jamieson
- Una Chaudhuri
- Ralph Acampora
- Susan Crane
- Gary Steiner
- Lori Gruen
- Susan McHugh

Organiser and contact: Una Chaudhuri uc1@nyu.edu

For more details see:

http://www.mindinganimals.com//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=224&Itemid=250

This is a Pre-Conference Event for the Minding Animals Conference, University of Utrecht in 2012

- **Animal Citizens**

7 October, 2011. London School of Economics

Confirmed speakers:

- Will Kymlicka
- Siobhan O'Sullivan
- Robert Garner
- Steve Cooke

Organiser and contact: Alasdair Cochrane: A.D.Cochrane@lse.ac.uk

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

- **IV Crossing Over Symposium**

7 to 9 October 2011. Cleveland, United States

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Cleveland State University. Encounters, confrontations, solutions between cultures, countries, races, religions, genders, ideologies, languages, neighborhoods, generations, social classes, castes, etc. Interdisciplinary dialogue within Humanities and Social Sciences.

Keynote Speaker: Homi K. Bhaba, Harvard University.

Enquiries: a.medinarivera@csuohio.edu

For more information see: <http://www.csuohio.edu/class/crossings/index.html>

- **Animal Ecologies in Visual Culture**

8 October, 2011: University College, London

Host: *Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture* and Minding Animals International

Confirmed speakers:

- Ron Broglio
- Linda Williams
- Joyce Salisbury
- Rikke Hansen
- London Fieldworks
- Heather Ackroyd and Dan Harvey
- Maja and Reuben Fowkes
- Jussi Parikka

For further details and registration see <http://www.antennae.org.uk/> or contact Giovanni Aloï: antennaeproject@googlemail.com

This is a Pre-Conference Event for the Minding Animals Conference, University of Utrecht in 2012

- **Shared Worlds**

14-15 October, 2011. University of Oslo, Sweden

This event is organised by Minding Animals International in association with Nordic Human Animal Studies and affiliated institutions Equine Research Network (EqRN) and Department of Semiotics at the University of Tartu.

Confirmed speakers **Rod Bennison** (Newcastle, Australia) **Tora Holmberg** (Uppsala, Sweden).

The program will include plenary speeches, a roundtable on the shared worlds of humans and horses, a roundtable of the shared worlds of humans and wolves, and a position note workshop on the relation between activism and academia

For more information see: <http://mindinganimals.wordpress.com/>
Or contact: shared.worlds.oslo@gmail.com

This is a Pre-Conference Event for the Minding Animals Conference, University of Utrecht in 2012

- **Reconfiguring the 'Human'/'Animal' Binary - Resisting Violence**

15 to 16 October, 2011. Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

This is the Second Annual European Conference for Critical Animal Studies, hosted by Institute of Critical Animal Studies and Katedra Sociologie, Universitas Carolina Pragensis.

CALL FOR PAPERS

This two-day interdisciplinary conference will critically explore a variety of issues concerning the historic, current, and future situation of nonhuman animals across globally interconnected societies. Adopting a Critical Animal Studies perspective this conference seeks to interrogate not only the 'question of the animal' but also, with urgency, the deteriorating lived circumstances of many nonhuman animals.

Plenary Speakers:

- **Dr. Elisa Aaltola** - Senior Lecturer in Philosophy (University of East-Finland, Finland)
- **Dr. Erika Cudworth** - Senior Lecturer in Politics and Sociology (The University of East London, UK)
- **Dr. Tom Tyler** - Senior Lecturer in Philosophy and Culture (Oxford Brookes University, UK)

Abstracts due: 3 July, 2011

Participation from activists, academics (sociologists, philosophers, geographers, historians, anthropologists etc.) and hybrids of the two are welcome. The conference will be completely vegan.

For more information see: <http://humanimal.cz/CAS/index.html> or contact: casconference@gmail.com

This is a Pre-Conference Event for the Minding Animals Conference, University of Utrecht in 2012

- **Minding Animals Conference 2**

July, 2012. Utrecht University, The Netherlands

This conference is the second in a series of conferences about scientific, ethical and social issues related to human interactions with and uses of animals. The aim of the conference is to bring together academics from different areas (animal welfare, animal ethics, and animal studies in general) with politicians and a broad variety of interest groups. The conference offers a platform for exchange of information about research developments, debates about controversial political and ethical issues concerning the treatment of animals and a variety of cultural activities around animals.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Conference Themes:

Session 1: The Human-Animal Relationship (including animals in art, literature, religion; history of the human-animal relationship; animals in the history of philosophy; psychological approaches towards the human-animal relationship, cultural aspects of human-animal relationships)

Session 2: Animal Capacities

(including animal emotions; animal cognition; extrapolation of capacities from animals to humans and vice versa)

Session 3: Animal Welfare

(including animal welfare at the interface between science and society; approaches of positive welfare; welfare assessment in practice; animal slaughter)

Session 4: Animal Ethics

(including the foundation of duties towards animals; animal welfare; animal rights; animal liberation; the killing of animals; harm of death; vegetarianism and veganism; animal experimentation; animal husbandry; chimeras and hybrids; dignity; integrity)

Session 5: Animals and Sustainability

(including (public-) health aspects, social consequences, landscape, environmental effects, climate change)

Session 6: Animals and Public Policy

(including animals in the law; politics and stakeholders; the use of best practice guidance; national identity versus the level playing field; the role of ethics in politics; sustainability; current themes concerning the future of animal husbandry)

Deadline for Abstracts: 2 October 2011

For submission form and more information see

<http://www.uu.nl/faculty/humanities/EN/congres/mindinganimals/Pages/callforpapers.aspx>

Contact: mindinganimals@uu.nl or visit <http://www.mindinganimals.com/>

Conference Report

Zoosemiotics and Animal Representations

4-8 April 2011 at the University of Tartu, Estonia

This conference was organised with great efficiency and hospitality by a team representing the Department of Semiotics at the University of Tartu and the Estonian Semiotics Association. Semiotics is not a prominent discipline in Australian universities, bio- and zoosemiotics even less so. Building on the work of thinkers such as Jakob von Uexküll, Thomas Sebeok and Gregory Bateson, a central pillar of biosemiotics is that nature is thoroughly imbued with meaning. It thus straddles the divide between hard and human sciences that would restrict the domain of meaning to our species. One aim of the conference was to begin dialogue between this well-established yet somewhat isolated Tartu school of biosemiotics and the interdisciplinary field of animal studies that has grown up recently in the USA, UK, Australia and elsewhere. This intersection was figured through the double-sided notion of animal representations: representations of animals (in culture and science), and animals' own representations of the world.

The day prior to the conference featured a tour of a small animal park and a model Estonian village, with an evening reception including a ceremonial welcome by Kalevi Kull and an assured performance by David Rothenberg. The conference itself was truly multidisciplinary and boundary breaking. Speakers came from throughout western and eastern Europe and the USA, as well as Russia and Brazil, trained in disciplines from cognitive ethology to cultural studies, from art practice to theoretical biology. Animal studies was explored from all angles: in its new humanities sense of inquiry into interspecies relations, and in the sense of an experimental scientific discipline. Questions were asked of our knowledge of animal experience, of the role of biosemiosis in natural selection, of species-specific aesthetic judgments, of fantasy literature, popular culture and advertising, of mimicry and body language and the unintentional effects of neuroscientific experiments. We scrutinised whales, birds, fish, bacteria, insects, guide-dogs, zoo animals and humans.

The backbone of the conference was the range of midday lectures: Colin Allen's hard-nosed philosophy of cognitive ethology, Jesper Hoffmeyer's theoretical biosemiotics, Graham Huggan's postcolonial critique of Attenborough's nature documentaries, and David Rothenberg's playful zoomusicology. These well-chosen plenary speakers each brought something different to the discourse, and the generous question time enabled the debate to develop with some level of coherence, robustness and rapport. Most days featured a roundtable as a final evening session, of which I participated in two. The first, chaired and opened by Morten Tønnessen in an unexpected yet becoming poetic mood, asked about the "Futures of Zoosemiotics": its relationship to other disciplines, and its capacity "to account for the changing global ecological reality". My main

contribution was to promote dialogue with recent work in Continental philosophy, both deconstructive and ontological. The second, which explored the “Zoo as a Semiotic Environment”, featured a number of impressive monologues by Alexei Turovski, the verbose and charismatic director of Tallinn Zoo (who was kind enough to later give me a personal tour), while still allowing some opportunity for questions to be raised as to zoos’ colonial, managerial and quietly violent traits. The third roundtable was on “Animals in Ecocriticism”, and Wendy Wheeler led an interesting and important conversation on the interconnections between ecocriticism and animal studies, which will no doubt continue among scholars from both camps. There were also video presentations by Stephen Pain and Ralph Acampora, with questions made possible through skype—a format that will no doubt become more prominent at academic conferences. Other highlights included Ian Ground on Wittgenstein and zoosemiotics, Jean-Claude Gens on Uexküll and Leopold, and Gerald Ost diek on the fascinating Chauncey Wright.

I must thank Morten Tønnessen for his assistance and comradeship, the Czech crew for heartwarming black humour, and Timo Maran, Kalevi Kull, Nelly Mäekivi, Riin Magnus, and the Tartu grad students, for their genuine hospitality. I was glad to take advantage of an invitation to research at the Jakob von Uexküll Centre and the Thomas A. Sebeok Memorial Library.

Report by Matt Chrulew

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

Minding Animals International

CEO Rod Bennison

Minding Animals International (MAI) is a network of over 2,500 academics, artists, activists and advocates, dedicated to the study and protection of all planetary life through the advancement of Animal Studies.

It provides an avenue for the transdisciplinary field of Animal Studies to be more responsive to the protection of animals. It is recognised that animal protection in this context encapsulates environmentalism, animal liberation, animal rights, wildlife protection, animal welfare and animal justice (in no particular order of importance). MAI aims to enable discourse between the various interests within this rapidly developing transdisciplinary field in ways that will improve the status of non-human animals and alleviate nonhuman animal exploitation. As such, MAI facilitates research in Animal Studies as a conduit of non-governmental politics and action.

Patrons:

Professor Marc Bekoff; Dr Jane Goodall DBE; Dr Jill Robinson MBE; Professor Peter Singer; Professor Dale Jamieson; Professor John Coetzee

Board of Directors and Academic Advisory Council:

Dr Rod Bennison; Kim Stallwood (deputy CEO); Giovanni Aloï; Professor Steve Baker; Dr Hilda Kean; Dr Marti Kheel; Associate Professor Susan McHugh; Vivek Menon; Dr Mara Miele; Professor Clive Phillips; Dr Annie Potts; Professor Deborah Rose; Dr Ken Shapiro; Dr Richard Twine; Associate Professor Linda Williams and Professor Wendy Woodward

Minding Animals Australia Incorporated (MAA)

Chair of MAA and new Board member is Assoc Prof Linda Williams. If you are interested in becoming involved in MAA please contact Linda at: linda.williams@rmit.edu.au

If you are interested in establishing a representative Minding Animals group in your country, drop an email to: mindinganimals@gmail.com Groups in India and Germany have now formed and discussions are underway regarding groups in UK and France.

Please note that these groups are not intended to in any way replace or compete with Animal Studies groups that are already affiliated with MAI. MAI is committed to working alongside all other groups as we all expand and work towards our objectives.

For more information see the MAI website: <http://www.mindinganimals.com/>

Voiceless: The Animal Protection Institute

2011 Grants program

Through their annual Grants Program, grants are awarded for up to \$20,000 to project specific applications that address animal suffering within our core areas of work. Projects that address the following subjects ONLY will be considered eligible for a Voiceless Grant:

- Factory farming. This includes all forms of 'industrialised farming' for food such as meat chickens, hens, pigs, dairy cows, turkeys, ducks and the use of feedlots for meat production. Projects addressing the plight of bobby calves and live export of animals will also be considered; or
- The commercial kangaroo industry. This does not include alleged 'conservation-based' culls undertaken by the Government associated entities; or
- Building animal protection as a social justice movement in Australia. Projects must apply to the whole animal movement (not a single issue) and build up broad social awareness and acceptance of animal protection. Activities may include conferences and workshops, market research, media, advertising, PR campaigns, online resources, publications etc.

All projects must be relevant to animals in Australia

Deadline for submissions: Friday 15th July

For more information including application details see:

http://www.voiceless.org.au/Grants/2011_Grants_Program/2011_Grants_Program.html

Humane Society International

Scholarship

The Humane Society International (HSI), in partnership with the University of Queensland's Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics (CAWE), is pleased to announce the Humane Society International Roz Dixon Memorial Scholarship for Farm Animal Welfare Research. In memory of Mrs Roz Dixon, a dear friend and supporter of HSI, the scholarship of \$10,000 will be provided for research that addresses animal welfare issues in intensive farming that would have the potential to eliminate practices that impact on an animal's ability to express natural behaviours such as:

- nurturing their young,
- interacting with their herd or flock,
- freedom for movement and exercise,
- minimizing stress in their environment and handling,
- alternatives to surgical procedures.

Deadline for applications: 30th August 2011

For further information, email Clive Phillips (c.phillips@uq.edu.au) at the Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics (CAWE) at Griffith University, or tel. +61 7 5460 1158; mobile 0406340133

Animals and Society Institute

Scholar member benefits

ASI has launched a new Scholar page where you can post your CV, bio, research and teaching interest and publications and enjoy the following special offers:

- Discounts on ASI publications including policy papers
- Special subscription rates apply to their two academic journals: *Society and Animals* and *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare*.
- Reduced prices on the Human-Animal Studies Book Series
- Subscription to HAS e-newsletter and HAS list-serv.

ASI/Wesleyan Animal Studies Human-Animal Studies Fellowship

The 2011 Fellowship began last week at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut to conduct their independent study projects. Their names and research topics are:

- **Stephan Blatti**, D. Phil. Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Memphis: "The Dying Animal"
- **Kery Chez**, J.D. Ph.D. Candidate in English, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York: "The Affect of Humaneness: Humane Movements and Pet-Keeping in Late Nineteenth-Century England and America"
- **Kelly Enright**, Ph.D. Writer and Museum Consultant: "Extinction: How we lose, mourn, and live with lost species"
- **Alastair Hunt**, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of English, Portland State University: "The Romantic Rhetoric of the Human"
- **Elizabeth Johnson**, Ph.D. Candidate in Geography, University of Minnesota. "Animating Futures, Reanimating Biopolitics: Animals, Technology and Future."
- **Abebaw Gashaw Kebede**, Ph.D, DVM. Professor of Veterinary Medicine, Jimma University, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine: "Improving Community Animal Welfare in Jimma Zone"
- **Richie Nimmo**, Ph.D. Lecturer in Sociology, School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester: "Primate Visionaries: Constituting Hybrid Knowledges on the Human-Nonhuman Boundary"
- **Joshua Russell**, Ph.D. Candidate, Environmental Studies, York University: "On Lifetimes: Children's Experiences of Animal Death"

The final week conference, to be held June 27-Jun 30 and which is open to the public, will include guest speakers **Paul Waldau**, **Robert Mitchell**, **Kari Weil**, **Lori Gruen**, **Ivan Kreilkamp**, **Andrew Rowan**, **Susan Squier**, **Alastair Norcross**, **Ron Broglio** and **Susan McHugh**.

For more information about the Scholar page, the conference and other events visit the ASI website: <http://www.animalsandsociety.org/>

Animal Studies Round Table in Africa (ASRA)

Formation of New Group

At "Figuring the Animal in Post-Apartheid South Africa", a colloquium held at the University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa on 13 May 2011, it was agreed that participants would stay in contact with each other and would welcome feedback on work in progress.

They will aim for:

- A Roundtable Symposium, Easter 2012. This would include people working in Animal Studies, animal policy, or animal research.
- A Conference in 2012, possibly under the banner of the Literature and Ecology Colloquium
- Inviting established scholars in the Animal Studies field to a conference and/or to give seminars, most likely in 2013.

- To keep the possibility of an edited collection in mind.

For more information please contact Wendy Woodward: wwoodward@uwc.ac.za

University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

PhD Studentship in English Literature and Animal Studies

'Human Origins and the Nature of Literature 1880-1930'

As part of a new research initiative in Animal Studies, the University of Strathclyde is funding a three-year PhD studentship in English Literature, supervised by Professor Erica Fudge and Dr Richard Niland.

The project will explore two ideas that were intertwined in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries: the literary representation of the debate about human origins after Darwin and after the first discovery of Neanderthal bones in Europe in 1848; and the contemporary debates about the nature of literary representation. Central will be the relationship between scientific ideas and popular fiction, and the perception of what distinguished literature from other kinds of writing.

At the core of the project is the work of four writers – two from Britain, two from the United States: H.G. Wells, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Jack London and Edgar Rice Burroughs. In very distinct ways all four writers engaged with contemporary ideas about human identity and all were troubled by what distinguished human from animal; what made humans bestial; what made beasts human-like. All also allow a glimpse of the relationship between, and the chasm that is perceived to separate, scientific and literary writing.

Central to the project will be the perception of the nature of the human itself in the period 1880-1930. By focusing on human origins, on human difference from animals, and on humans as producers and consumers of literature, this thesis will require the student to engage with literary and scientific work from the period and to write a literary thesis that is interdisciplinary in nature and historicist in focus. The thesis will offer an original and detailed understanding of the period, of discussions about the nature of humans and animals, and about literature and its place and role in society.

Deadline is 5pm (BST) 17 June 2011.

The studentship covers the home/EU fees (£3400) and offers an annual stipend of £13590 in the first year, increasing to £13930 in year 2, and to £14280 in year 3. Applications are welcomed from students with a 2.1 or first class degree in English literature or a related subject, and who have, or are currently completing a Masters degree.

Applications should take the form of: • a CV (including the names and contact details of two academic referees) • a covering letter • an example of your writing of no more than 3000 words in length.

These should be sent to Professor Erica Fudge at Erica.fudge@strath.ac.uk. (Please put 'Studentship' in the subject box of the email)

Animal Studies Initiative

New York University

The Animal Studies Initiative in the Environmental Studies Program at New York University promotes and supports research and teaching in the emerging area of Animal Studies. It does so by administering an undergraduate minor in Animal Studies, supporting research and teaching, and sponsoring public events and workshops.

The Initiative draws on NYU's strengths in the Faculty of Arts and Science, as well as the

Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, and the Tisch School of the Arts.

Advisory Committee:

- **Dale Jamieson** Director, Animal Studies Initiative; Director of Environmental Studies; Professor of Environmental Studies and Philosophy
- **Una Chaudhuri** Animal Studies Minor Adviser; Professor of English, Drama and Environmental Studies
- **Colin Jerolmack** Assistant Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies
- **Chris Schlottmann** Clinical Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies; Associate Director of Environmental Studies
- **Jeff Sebo** Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow of Environmental Studies and Animal Studies
- **David Wolfson** Partner at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP; Adjunct Instructor of Animal Studies

For more information see: <http://animalstudies.as.nyu.edu/page/home> and <http://environment.as.nyu.edu/page/home>

WOLFoundation: Web of Life Foundation

Essay competition

A new annual competition for essays or short stories, factual pieces or fiction on any subject to do with environmental and conservation issues has been launched by the WOLFoundation. The annual award looks for the best non-technical, English language writing on any subject related to environmental issues. The Foundation encourages original thinking, compelling ideas and welcome any form of writing – essays, fiction short stories, or any other form of prose in any style.

The winning entry will receive a cash prize of \$1500. A further \$500 will be awarded to the second placed entry. The top 20 entries will be published as a book of collected essays.

Deadline: December 15th

Details of the Foundation, the competition, and guidelines can be found at www.wolfoundation.org

Interview: Academics, activists, researchers

Linda Williams interviewed by **Yvette Watt**



Linda Williams is Associate Professor in Art, Environment and Cultural Studies at RMIT University where she leads the Art and Sustainability Research Cluster and coordinates the Honours program in the School of Art. Along with her work as a widely published art critic, she has published in the field of the history of culture and science, philosophy and critical theory, and is an active member of the Globalization and Culture project in the Global Cities Research Institute at RMIT.

Linda's research is transdisciplinary, with a particular focus on the social history of human-animal relations and the contemporary issues of climate change and mass species extinction.

Yvette: When and why did you first become interested in the animal studies (human-animal studies) field?

I have always had an interest in animals, and how we interact with them, but this interest crossed over into my academic work in the late 1990's when it became clear to me that this was to be the focus of my PhD.

Yvette: Animals/human-animal relations appear to be an increasingly popular subject matter for artists. What do you think might be behind this growing interest? What do you think art/artists have to offer the human-animal studies field?

Though there has long been an interest in human responses to animals in Western art there are probably a number of factors that have led to the turn to the animal in contemporary art. Perhaps a reassessment of the limits of humanism that was also occurring in critical theory was one of the most primary, along with the rather sterile cul-de-sac of aesthetic self-referentiality in art in the late 20th century. There were late 20th century romantics like the German artist Joseph Beuys, or some of the environmental artists that went against the grain of a sterile disengagement from the non-human world, and the recent interest in human-animal relations in contemporary art arises largely from those particular legacies in late 20th century art.

The remarkable modern writer Franz Kafka once said that art is like an axe that has the power to chop up the frozen sea within us. It reminds me of how my heart turned when I looked into one of the crates made by Mark Wilson and Bryndis Snaebjornsdottir in the "Idea of the Animal" exhibition in 2006. Inside was a huge male taxidermied polar bear. It was a warm Australian evening, and here was this enormous wild creature that in its encounter with human beings had been shot, stuffed, and transported to the other side of the earth to end up in a packing case in an art gallery. Mark kept him in the packing case during the exhibition as he wrote the story of its provenance as an 'object' on a huge blackboard, along with an account of the other huge bear in the exhibition, out of its case in a 'rampant' pose nearby. Later, I talked with Mark about the bear Mercedes, the last living polar bear in a zoo in Britain, to whom he and Bryndis had earlier dedicated their book - who had lived many years of her life in a miserable little zoo enclosure. I had recently given a conference paper on the zoo in the UK in which I had argued that for all their cruelty, in the contemporary field zoos formed part of a scopic and spatial regime of proximity which had a kind of social agency not evident in the more abstracted screen culture of film or TV animal documentaries.

Furthermore, in arguing against Ritvo's fairly damning account of how zoos of the 19th century had acted as sites for the fulfillment of colonial fantasies of power and authority in the viewer, I argued that there was likely more to the viewer's response than this and that there was also evidence to suggest that zoo's may also have been sites for responses such as empathy. I still think there is something to this, but the bear in the crate in this art installation made it much more difficult for me to argue for the socially progressive dimension of the zoo. That's the thing about good art, it's not necessarily going to make you feel more comfortable about anything.

Yvette: Steve Baker and Carol Gigliotti have a distinct difference of opinion on the ethical responsibility artists have to animals, with Baker leaning toward a creative process that is not overly hindered by this kind of responsibility and Gigliotti taking very much the opposing view - "for the understanding of aesthetics and ethics as intricately linked practices" (<http://www.ecuad.ca/~gigliott/archive/gtanimal/BAKERGIG.htm>) What is your opinion on this matter?

This is an interesting debate, and though I regard Steve Baker as a personal friend, we certainly don't always agree. For a start, I disagree with Steve's notion of a 'postmodern' animal for example, since I don't subscribe to the view that we are in a period of postmodernity but think that contemporary animals are, like us, subject to a regime of late, heightened modernity.

There are several points in his exchange with Carol Gigliotti (though I haven't read Carol's original article) where I do share his views – his emphasis on 'ambiguous metaphors' in art is a case in point, because metaphor or nuances of political interpretation which cannot always be nailed down to a singular meaning are crucial to art, (as distinct from didacticism), and that is important in art

that engages with environmental critique too. Equally, we cannot afford to throw out formalist values, like the baby with the bathwater. If we could, anyone with a politically 'correct' perspective on animals could make a work and it would receive accolades no matter how weak it was as art.

So Steve's emphasis on how experimental art should risk contradictory readings makes sense to me. Where we part company, however, is when he says he cannot separate that from the risk to animal well-being that may ensue from such artistic experiments. Steve suggests that ethically unsound art can be as politically persuasive as ethically sound art, I am not quite sure what he means by the ethically unsound here, but if he means a dramatisation of an ethically unsound position then as art this would be as subject to aesthetic manipulation as any other kind of art practice, and it doesn't necessarily follow that the artist need engage in practices harmful to animals to achieve those ends. There is, for example, unfortunately no shortage of visual documentary material at hand that demonstrates animal suffering as a result of human activity. To put it more bluntly, if an artist with a different perspective than mine on animal suffering happens to make an interesting work that quite explicitly involves animal cruelty, I am going to be more concerned about the cruelty to the animal than the art work. Such a work of art would probably be illegal anyway, and in my view this is a good thing. Laws prohibiting 'unnecessary' cruelty to animals were hard-won, and if this cramps the artist's style, then so what? In short, I do not believe in unfettered creativity at any cost.

On the other hand, Alba, Eduardo Kac's transgenic bunny is an interesting case. Aesthetics have long been a factor in the history of the genetic manipulation of animals that has not previously required the imprimatur of science, as is clear from the huge genetic variation evident in domesticated species such as dogs or horses. Baker says he thinks that artists messing around with animals in laboratories is wrong, but I am not quite sure why that needs to be the case, especially as he says, that in writing about Eduardo Kac he was seeking to open up a dialogue around Derrida's sense of the hell of genetic experimentation. Moreover, later on he refers to Guattari in suggesting that while Kac may have used a dubious aesthetic strategy to 'rupture bad sense' – ie the bad sense of 'corporate genetic engineering' – the artist may nonetheless be able to facilitate 'changing mentalities'.

If you draw on Bentham's old question about the capacity for suffering, Alba is hardly an extreme case, so I am not sure why Kac's methods are so dubious. A more questionable aesthetics of genetic manipulation is evident in ordinary examples, such as the common practice of neotony in dog breeding. A case in point is the King Charles Spaniel chosen by dog breeders for infantile characteristics like flat faces and small brain cavities, which can result in awful suffering for the spaniels. If an artist came up with something like that there would be public outrage. Nonetheless, Kac clearly set a precedent, but I guess I have less of a problem than Steve with the idea of an artist 'messing around' with animals in labs – provided this does not involve suffering – and I have more of a problem with the projected notion of art unlimited by ethical restraints.

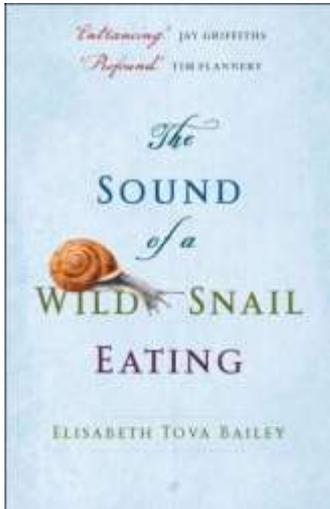
Yvette: You lead the Art and Sustainability Research Cluster at RMIT. Can you tell us a bit about this, and how human attitudes toward other animals is implicated in sustainable living practices?

The research cluster is quite a dynamic group of artists and scholars from various fields – people who are interested in how the arts and humanities can respond to the non-human world- and not least in the cultural adaptation to climate change. There are some people in this group who concentrate directly on human-animal relations, and others for whom the environment has become a primary focus of concern. I try to keep in touch with both in my writing, but the question of the sixth world extinction event is unavoidable, and the issue of global environmental change has become much more central to my thinking. It is the primary question of our age, and while it is already beginning to have an impact on both human and animal life, in the not too distant future this will become much more profound. Hence my current research focus is on how the arts and humanities can respond to the cultural and social adaptation to climate change. The potential of the research cluster is extraordinary, and I'm working on expanding it into a group called 'The Orbis Project' – I just wish I had more time to do it!

Yvette Watt is an Associate Lecturer in Fine Arts at the University of Tasmania

New Books

THE SOUND OF A WILD SNAIL EATING by Elizabeth Tova Bailey. Text Publishing, 2011.



Elizabeth Tova Bailey tells the inspiring and intimate story of her uncommon encounter with a *Neohelix albolabris*—a common forest snail. While an illness keeps her bedridden, Bailey watches as the snail takes up residence on her nightstand. She discovers the solace and sense of wonder that this mysterious creature brings and comes to a greater understanding of the interconnections between species and her own human place in the natural world.

Intrigued by the snail's molluscan anatomy, cryptic defenses, clear decision making, hydraulic locomotion, and mysterious courtship activities, Bailey becomes an astute and amused observer, providing a candid and engaging look into the curious life of this overlooked and underappreciated small animal. Told with wit and grace, *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* is a remarkable journey of survival and resilience, showing us how a small part of the natural world illuminates our own human existence.

"Each evening the snail awoke and with astonishing poise moved gracefully to the rim of the pot and peered over, surveying, once again, the strange country that lay ahead. Pondering its circumstance with a regal air, as if from the turret of a castle, it waved its tentacles first this way and then that, as though responding to a distant melody."

Listen to a snail eating on her website: <http://www.elisabethtovabailey.net/>

Elizabeth Tova Bailey's essays and short stories have been published in *The Missouri Review*, *Northwest Review*, and the *Sycamore Review*. She has received several Pushcart Prize nominations and a Notable Essay Listing in *Best American Essays*. She lives in Maine, USA

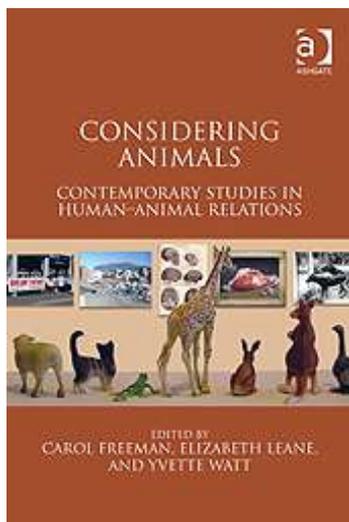
ANIMALS AND SOCIAL WORK: A Moral Introduction by Thomas Ryan. Palgrave Macmillan, Animal Ethics series, 2011.



Since the beginnings of the twentieth century social work has exhibited a thoroughgoing moral indifference to the needs and wellbeing of our fellow animals. This indifference is all the more remarkable given that animals have always been part and parcel of the human world within which social workers practice. Their invisibility is odder still given our own species embeddedness within the natural world.

Social Work and Animals represents a pioneering contribution to the literature of social work ethics and moral philosophy. Lucidly and cogently arguing why it is that animals ought to matter morally to social workers, it engages in a sustained critique of the key moral principles that are deemed to underpin practice. It articulates an alternative moral principle that respects individuals irrespective of species membership. This principle informs a revised code of ethics, one which has profound theoretical and practical implications for social work and its practitioners.

CONSIDERING ANIMALS: Contemporary Studies in Human-Animal Relations by Carol Freeman, Elizabeth Leane and Yvette Watt. Ashgate, 2011



Considering Animals draws on the expertise of scholars trained in the biological sciences, humanities, and social sciences to investigate the complex and contradictory relationships humans have with nonhuman animals. Taking their cue from the specific "animal moments" that punctuate these interactions, the essays engage with contemporary issues and debates central to human-animal studies: the representation of animals, the practical and ethical issues inseparable from human interactions with other species, and, perhaps most challengingly, the compelling evidence that animals are themselves considering beings. Case studies focus on issues such as animal emotion and human "sentimentality"; the representation of animals in contemporary art and in recent films such as *March of the Penguins*, *Happy Feet*, and *Grizzly Man*; animals' experiences in catastrophic events such as Hurricane Katrina and the SARS outbreak; and the danger of overvaluing the role humans play in the earth's ecosystems.

The collection includes contributions from Steve Baker, Wendy Woodward, Kay Milton, Jonathan Balcombe, Marsha L. Baum, Helen Tiffin, Philip Armstrong and Tim Low.

Carol Freeman is a Research Associate in the School of Geography and Environmental Studies, Elizabeth Leane is a Senior Lecturer in the School of English, Journalism and European Languages, Yvette Watt is an Associate Lecturer in Fine Arts. All are based at the University of Tasmania.

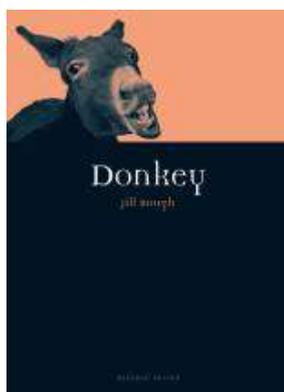
"Examining a remarkable range of human-animal relations – from extinctions and historical dolphin encounters to suburban wildlife control, marching penguins, devouring grizzlies, pests, plagues, and pets – the authors in this collection ask us to (re)consider what we think we know about animals, what we do based on that knowledge, and what, finally, animals think of us. This collection provides compelling evidence of the vitality and urgency of the field, while it forces us to ask neglected questions about our disciplines and practices".

Nigel Rothfels, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA

"Considering Animals lines up fresh and passionate writing from prominent scientists, social scientists and humanities scholars exploring our historical and contemporary relationships with other animals. Sharp, provocative and insightful, this energetic volume is essential reading for those new to and established in the field of Human-Animal Studies".

Annie Potts, New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies

DONKEY by Jill Bough. Reaktion Books, 2011



From giving rides to children at the British seaside to pulling a plough in the poorest of countries, donkeys have served humans faithfully since the time of their domestication more than 10,000 years ago. Despite the critical role that they have played throughout human history, however, donkeys have often received little respect.

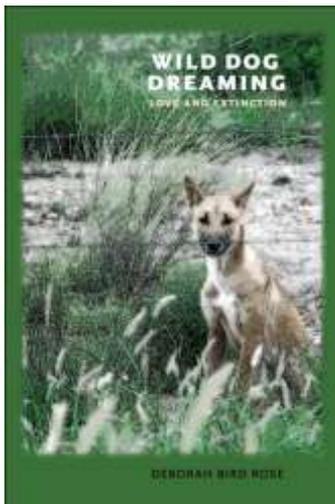
Donkey follows the story of this incredibly hard-working animal. Jill Bough reveals the animal's historic significance in Ancient Egypt where they were once highly regarded and even worshipped. However, this elevated status did not endure in Ancient Greece and Rome, where donkeys were denigrated, ridiculed and abused. Since this time, donkeys have continued to be associated with the poorest and most marginalized in human societies. Throughout the world, donkeys have

been used for innumerable tasks: the main ones being as pack animals during times of peace and war, and to breed mules. Even today, donkeys are considered to be one of the best draught animals in third world countries, where they continue to make a vital contribution.

Jill Bough goes beyond the practical uses of the animal by exploring a variety of social, cultural and religious meanings that the donkey has embodied, especially its symbolic representations in Western literature and art. The story of the donkey makes an important addition to the complex and contradictory history of human and non-human animal relationships. With accounts that are both fascinating and touching, this book will be ideal for anyone with an admiration of the donkey or who is interested by animals in history.

Jill Bough is a Conjoint Academic in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia. She has published articles about the history of the donkey in *Australian Zoologist* (2006) and the *Encyclopedia of Animal Rights and Animal Welfare* (2009).

WILD DOG DREAMING: Love and Extinction by **Deborah Bird Rose**. University of Virginia Press, 2011.



We are living in the midst of the Earth's sixth great extinction event, the first one caused by a single species: our own. In *Wild Dog Dreaming*, Deborah Bird Rose explores what constitutes an ethical relationship with nonhuman others in this era of loss. She asks, Who are we, as a species? How do we fit into the Earth's systems? Amidst so much change, how do we find our way into new stories to guide us? Rose explores these questions in the form of a dialogue between science and the humanities. Drawing on her conversations with Aboriginal people, for whom questions of extinction are up-close and very personal, Rose develops a mode of exposition that is dialogical, philosophical, and open-ended. An inspiration for Rose—and a touchstone throughout her book—is the endangered dingo of Australia. The dingo is not the first animal to face extinction, but its story is particularly disturbing because the threat to its future is being actively engineered by humans. The brazenness with which the dingo is being wiped out sheds valuable, and chilling, light on the likely fate of countless other animal and plant species.

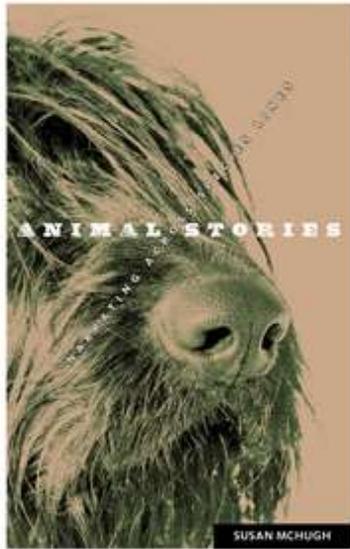
"People save what they love," observed Michael Soulé, the great conservation biologist. We must ask whether we, as humans, are capable of loving—and therefore capable of caring for—the animals and plants that are disappearing in a cascade of extinctions. *Wild Dog Dreaming* engages this question, and the result is a bold account of the entangled ethics of love, contingency, and desire.

"Attuned to the complex harmonics in the howling of wild dingoes, Rose asks what it means to live and die in a time of escalating human-provoked mass extinctions. In her own practice, Rose shows us how to keep the stories rolling and rolling, winding around each other and us in the task of singing back the life and lives of the good earth. A wise and generative book."

Donna Haraway, University of California, Santa Cruz

Deborah Bird Rose, Professor in the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion at Macquarie University, Sydney, is the author of *Reports from a Wild Country: Ethics for Decolonisation* and *Dingo Makes Us Human: Life and Land in an Australian Aboriginal Culture*.

ANIMAL STORIES: Narrating Across Species Lines by Susan McHugh. University of Minnesota Press, 2011.



How cross-species companionship is figured across a variety of media—and why it matters. Beginning with a historical account of why animal stories pose endemic critical challenges to literary and cultural theory, *Animal Stories* argues that key creative developments in narrative form became inseparable from shifts in animal politics and science in the past century. Susan McHugh traces representational patterns specific to modern and contemporary fictions of cross-species companionship through a variety of media—including novels, films, fine art, television shows, and digital games—to show how nothing less than the futures of all species life is at stake in narrative forms. McHugh's investigations into fictions of people relying on animals in civic and professional life—most obviously those of service animal users and female professional horse riders—showcase distinctly modern and human–animal forms of intersubjectivity. But increasingly graphic violence directed at these figures indicates their ambivalent significance to changing configurations of species. Reading these developments with narrative adaptations of traditional companion species relations during this period—

queer pet memoirs and farm animal fictions—McHugh clarifies the intercorporeal intimacies—the perforations of species boundaries now proliferating in genetic and genomic science—and embeds the representation of animals within biopolitical frameworks.

Susan McHugh is associate professor of English at University of New England.

VULTURE by Thom van Dooren. Reaktion Books, 2011

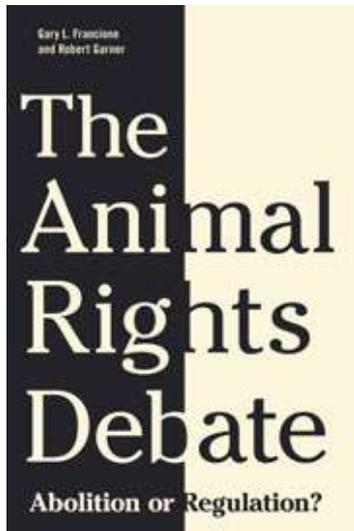


Vultures circling in the sky above, or simply sitting and watching, are almost universally associated with death. But, while it is undoubtedly true that vultures have taken to a life of scavenging with particular enthusiasm, there is far more to this diverse and fascinating family of birds than a simple association with putrefaction and the macabre. *Vulture* offers an enlightening new natural and cultural history of this much-misunderstood bird. There are big vultures and little vultures; vultures that are despised and others that are deeply loved; and there are vultures that eat predominantly bone, and others that have gone (mostly) vegetarian. In human communities vultures have occupied predictable roles like disposing of the dead and officiating over human sacrifices, but they have just as often been viewed as courageous and noble creatures, as indispensable in the containment of waste and disease, as world creators and divine mothers.

Thom van Dooren explores these many histories, from some of the earliest-known Neolithic sites in which vultures are thought to have consumed the dead to the renaming of the California Condor and contemporary efforts to reintroduce the bearded vulture into the Alps. Highlighting the rich diversity of vultures and the many ways in which people have understood and lived with them, *Vulture* invites a new appreciation and wonder for these incredible birds.

Thom van Dooren is an environmental philosopher and anthropologist. He lives in Sydney, Australia, and has published widely on the natural world, conservation and extinction.

THE ANIMAL RIGHTS DEBATE: *Abolition or Regulation?* by Gary L. Francione and Robert Garner. Columbia University Press, 2010

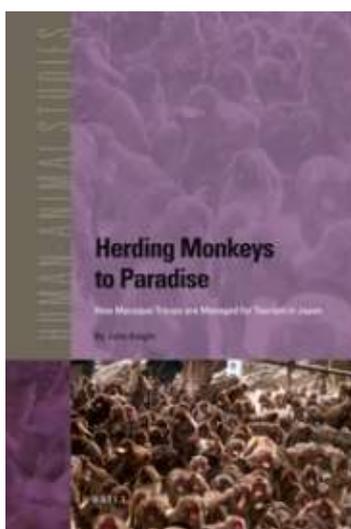


Gary L. Francione is a law professor and leading philosopher of animal rights theory. Robert Garner is a political theorist specializing in the philosophy and politics of animal protection. Francione maintains that we have no moral justification for using nonhumans and argues that because animals are property—or economic commodities—laws or industry practices requiring "humane" treatment will, as a general matter, fail to provide any meaningful level of protection. Garner favors a version of animal rights that focuses on eliminating animal suffering and adopts a protectionist approach, maintaining that although the traditional animal-welfare ethic is philosophically flawed, it can contribute strategically to the achievement of animal-rights ends. As they spar, Francione and Garner deconstruct the animal protection movement in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, and elsewhere, discussing the practices of such organizations as PETA, which joins with McDonald's and other animal users to "improve" the slaughter of animals. They also examine American and European laws and campaigns from both the rights and welfare perspectives, identifying weaknesses and

strengths that give shape to future legislation and action.

Gary L. Francione is distinguished professor of law and Nicholas deB. Katzenbach Scholar of Law and Philosophy at Rutgers University School of Law-Newark. He is the author of numerous books and articles on animal ethics and on animals and the law, including *Animals as Persons: Essays on the Abolition of Animal Exploitation*. Robert Garner is professor of politics at the University of Leicester and the author of, among other books, *Animals, Politics, and Morality*.

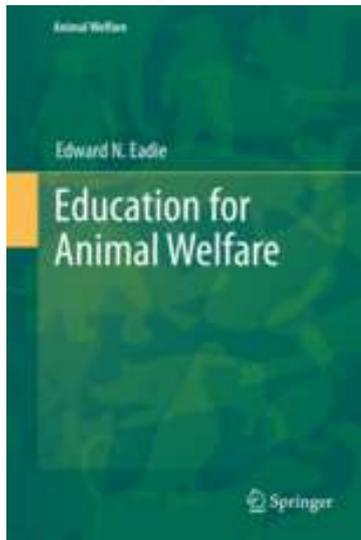
HERDING MONKEYS TO PARADISE: *How Macaque Troops are Managed for Tourism in Japan* by John Knight. Brill, Human-Animal Studies Series, 2011.



The tenth and latest volume in this series deals with the use of monkeys as a tourist attraction in Japan. Monkey parks are popular visitor attractions that display free-ranging troops of Japanese macaques to the paying public. The parks work by manipulating the movements of the monkey troop through the regular provision of food handouts at a fixed site where the monkeys can be easily viewed. This system of management leads to a variety of problems, including proliferating monkey numbers, park-edge crop-raiding, and the sedentarization of the troop. In addition to falling visitor numbers, these problems have led to the closure or fencing in of many parks, calling into question the future of the monkey park as an institution.

John Knight Ph.D. in Social Anthropology, London School of Economics, is Reader in Anthropology at Queen's University Belfast. He has published extensively on rural Japan and on human-animal relations, including *Waiting for Wolves in Japan*.

EDUCATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE by **Edward N. Eadie** Springer, Animal Welfare series, 2011



This book deals with the role of education in improving animal welfare and reducing animal suffering inflicted by humans. It embraces situations in which humans have direct control over animals or interfere directly with them, but it considers also indirect animal suffering resulting from human activities. Education is regarded in the broad sense of creating awareness and facilitating change. First, consideration is given to a number of specific themes in which education can make an important contribution towards reducing animal suffering, and subsequently an examination is made of a number of interrelated contexts in which education can address the various themes.

These are: animal suffering and sentience that have both scientific and moral aspects; human discrimination against animals known as speciesism and the need for attitudinal change by humans; role and existing limitations of legislation in providing protection to animals; matter of enforcement of animal protection legislation; achievement of reform to improve animal protection by legislative and other means; training of professionals, carers, and users involved with animals to provide better protection; the scope for science to contribute to improved animal protection; animal protection as a regional and international issue.

Edward Eadie holds doctorates in science, commerce, and law from Oxford, Adelaide, and the Australian National University. In recent years he has devoted his life to research on animal suffering inflicted by humans with the aim of providing increased understanding of animal protection issues on a broad canvas, and of the role of law and education in improving the terrible situation in which many animals in various circumstances find themselves throughout the world.

THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS by **Andrew Knight**. Palgrave Macmillan, Animal Ethics Series, 2011.



Few ethical issues create as much controversy as invasive experiments on animals. Some scientists claim they are essential for combating major human diseases, or detecting human toxins. Others claim the contrary, backed by thousands of patients harmed by pharmaceuticals developed using animal tests. Some claim all experiments are conducted humanely, to high scientific standards. Yet, a wealth of studies have recently revealed that laboratory animals suffer significant stress, which may distort experimental results. Where, then, does the truth lie? How useful are such experiments in advancing human healthcare? How much do animals suffer as a result? And do students really need to dissect or experiment on animals? What are the effects on their attitudes towards them?

In *The Costs and Benefits of Animal Experiments*, bioethicist and veterinarian Andrew Knight presents more than a decade of ground-breaking scientific research, analysis and experience to provide evidence-based answers to a key question: is animal experimentation ethically justifiable?

Andrew Knight is an Australian bioethicist and a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. He has published a suite of studies examining the contribution of animal experiments to human healthcare, which have attracted a series of awards at international scientific conferences. When not writing, travelling or presenting Dr Knight practices veterinary medicine in London.

HUMAN ERROR: Species-Being and Media Machines by **Dominic Pettman** University of Minnesota Press, 2011.



What exactly is the human element separating humans from animals and machines? The common answers that immediately come to mind—like art, empathy, or technology—fall apart under close inspection. Dominic Pettman argues that it is a mistake to define such rigid distinctions in the first place, and the most decisive “human error” may be the ingrained impulse to understand ourselves primarily in contrast to our other worldly companions.

In *Human Error*, Pettman describes the three sides of the cybernetic triangle—human, animal, and machine—as a rubric for understanding key figures, texts, and sites where our species-being is either reinforced or challenged by our relationship to our own narcissistic technologies. Consequently, species-being has become a matter of specious-being, in which the idea of humanity is not only a case of mistaken identity but indeed the mistake of identity. *Human Error* boldly insists on the necessity of relinquishing our anthropomorphism but also on the extreme difficulty of doing so, given how deeply this attitude is bound with all our other most cherished beliefs about forms of life.

Dominic Pettman is associate professor of culture and media at New School University.

CALL FOR BOOK PROPOSALS

Critical Animal Studies Series

Editors: Helena Pedersen and Vasile Stănescu

This new book series to be published by Rodopi Press, one of Europe's premiere academic presses, is pleased to invite proposals. The main goals of the series, which differentiates it from the pre-existing series in the field of animal studies, are that we are particularly looking to publish works that:

- Focus on ethical issues pertinent to actual animals (as opposed to animals as only metaphors, tropes, or philosophical concepts); i.e. work with a certain normative value;
- Adopt a broad critical orientation to animal studies, including (but not limited to) work that investigates and challenges the complex dynamics of structural, institutional, and discursive power formations that organize life conditions, relations, and experiences of animals, humans, and the environment alike; work that explores diverse forms and sites of human/animal resistance; work that contributes to current global debates by contextualizing critical animal issues within, for instance, processes of globalization, climate change, and biotechnology; work that intervenes in the animal economy of the production, science, service, experience, and culture industries; as well as work that critically analyzes ideologies, practices and effects of the current animal welfare movement;
- Bridge boundaries between academic/activist knowledge, between theory/practice, as well as between existing disciplines. Based on this commitment to interdisciplinarity, all work published must be in language that is as clear and accessible to as wide an audience as possible;
- Contribute to creative, bold, innovative, and boundary shifting knowledge development in critical animal studies.

Further information and submission guidelines are found on the book series website:
<http://www.criticalanimalstudies.org/critical-animal-studies-book-series/>

Book Series

Brill Academic Publishing

Human-Animal Studies Series

Series editor: Kenneth Shapiro, Animals and Society Institute. The purview of the book series includes any topic that allows exploration of the relation between human and nonhuman animals in any setting, contemporary or historical, from the perspective of various disciplines within both the social sciences (e.g., psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science) and humanities (e.g., history, literary criticism).

For proposal guidelines contact: ken.shapiro@animalsandsociety.org

Reaktion Books

Animal series

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

For guidelines for book proposals see: http://www.reaktionbooks.co.uk/contact_sub.html

Pennsylvania State University Press

Animalibus: Of Animals and Culture

Series editors: Nigel Rothfels and Garry Marvin. Books in the series will share a fascination not only with the importance of animals in human life, but also with how thinking about animals can give us insights into human cultures, in different temporal and geographical contexts. Moreover, they will represent a wide range of disciplinary perspectives in the humanities and social sciences, including history, anthropology, social and cultural geography, environmental studies, and literary and art criticism.

For questions or submissions contact: kboileau@psu.edu

Rodopi Press

Critical Animal Studies

This series challenges animal studies and research exploitation of nonhuman animals, by linking theory to practice and practice to theory and emphasizing the immense importance of animal advocacy for a humane, democratic, peaceful, and sustainable world. Critical Animal Studies Book Series is interdisciplinary and intersectional with an emphasis on total liberation and freedom for all. This Series was designed to build up the common activist's knowledge of animal liberation while at the same time appealing to academic specialists to address the important topic of animal liberation, rights, freedom, and advocacy.

For submission guidelines see: <http://www.criticalanimalstudies.org/critical-animal-studies-book-series/submit/>

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

The Minnesota Review

Volume 2010, no 73-74

The Feral Issue

Poetry/Fiction:

- John Fried This Treatment Isn't in Any Way Cruel
- Lydia Conklin By the Wayside
- Daniel Pinkerton Chuck among the Crabapples
- Phil Gruis Healer
- Josh Massey Becoming Animal

Interviews

- Heather Steffen Vegan Feminist: An Interview with Carol J. Adams
- Jeffrey J. Williams Science Stories: An Interview with Donna J. Haraway

Essays

- Boria Sax Who Patrols the Human-Animal Divide?
- Debra Hawhee Kenneth Burke's Jungle Book
- Xavier Vitamvor Unbecoming Animal Studies
- Susan McHugh Sweet Jane
- Matthew A. Axtell Bioacoustical Warfare
- Paula Harrington No Mongrels Need Apply
- Mark B. Feldman Where the Wild Things Aren't: Animals in New York City
- Dennis Soron Meat Consumption and Food Traceability
- Joseph G. Ramsey Rattling the Capitalist Food Chain: (on Food, Inc. [dir. Robert Kenner, 2008])
- Robert McKay Animal Ethics and Literary Criticism
- John Miller Death, Display, and Companionship in Animal Studies: (on Donna J. Haraway's When Species Meet

Full text available at: <http://minnesotareview.dukejournals.org/content/2010/73-74.toc>

Social Text

Volume 29, no 1, 2011

Special Issue: Interspecies

Eds Julie Livingston and Jasbir K. Puar

- Ed Cohen The Paradoxical Politics of Viral Containment; or, How Scale Undoes Us One and All
- Alphonso Lingis Outside
- Lesley A. Sharp Monkey Business: Interspecies Longing and Scientific Prophecy in Experimental Xenotransplantation
- James Delbourgo Sir Hans Sloane's Milk Chocolate and the Whole History of the Cacao
- Suzanne Anker and Sarah Franklin Specimens as Spectacles: Reframing Fetal Remains
- Neel Ahuja Abu Zubaydah and the Caterpillar
- Clapperton Chakanetsa Mavhunga Vermin Beings: On Pestiferous Animals and Human Game
- Carla Freccero Carnivorous Virility; or, Becoming-Dog

For access see: <http://socialtext.dukejournals.org/current.dtl>

Journal for Critical Animal Studies

Volume XI Issue 1-2, 2011

Continental Philosophical Perspectives on Non-Human Animals

Guest Editor Chloe Taylor

- Brett Buchanan Painting the Prehuman: Bataille, Merleau-Ponty, and the Aesthetic Origins of Humanity
- Matthew Chrulew Hunting the Mammoth, Pleistocene to Postmodern
- Hasana Sharp Animal Affects: Spinoza and the Frontiers of the Human
- Alain Beaulieu The Status of Animality in Deleuze's Thought
- Karen L. F. Houle Animal, Vegetable, Mineral: Ethics as Extension or Becoming? The Case of Becoming-Plant
- Astrida Neimanis "Strange Kinship" and Ascidian Life: 13 Repetitions
- Jen McWeeny Sounding Depth with the North Atlantic Right Whale and Merleau-Ponty: An Exercise in Comparative Phenomenology
- Sarah Hansen Infancy, Animality and the Limits of Language in the Work of Giorgio Agamben
- Stephen Thierman The Vulnerability of Other Animals
- Rebecca Tuvel "Veil of Shame": Derrida, Sarah Bartmann and Animality

For access see: <http://www.criticalanimalstudies.org/journal-for-critical-animal-studies/about-jcas/>

Australian Humanities Review

Volume 50, May 2011

Special Issue: Unloved Others: Death of the Disregarded in the Time of Extinctions

Edited by Deborah Bird Rose and Thom van Dooren

- Anna Tsing "Arts of Inclusion, or, How to Love a Mushroom"
- Mick Smith "Dis(appearance): Earth, Ethics and Apparently (In)significant Others"
- Thom van Dooren "Vultures and their People in India: Equity and Entanglement in a Time of Extinctions"
- James Hatley "Blood Intimacies and Biodicy: Keeping Faith with Ticks"
- Kate Rigby "Getting a Taste for Bogong Moth"
- Donna Haraway "Speculative Fabulations for Technoculture's Generations: Taking Care of Unexpected Country"
- Deborah Bird Rose "Flying Fox: Kin, Keystone, Kontaminant"
- Matthew Chrulew "Managing Love and Death at the Zoo: The Biopolitics of Endangered Species Preservation"
- Freya Matthews "Planet Beehive"

This issue is now available online: <http://www.australianhumanitiesreview.org/>

Print copies can be ordered from ANU E Press: <http://epress.anu.edu.au/ahr/050/index.html>

Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Science and Technology

Volume 18 Issue 1-2, 2010,

Special Issue: Ecocriticism and Biologyguest

Guest Editor Helena Feder.

- G. A. Bradshaw An Ape Among Many: Animal Co-Authorship and Trans-species Epistemic Authority

- Jennifer Calkins How Is It Then with the Whale?: Using Scientific Data to Explore Textual Embodiment
- Ursula K. Heise Lost Dogs, Last Birds, and Listed Species: Cultures of Extinction
- Greg Garrard How Queer Is Green?
- Michael P. Cohen Evolutionary Works and Texts: Reading Dobzhansky in an Age of Genomics
- Glen A. Love Shakespeare's Origin of Species and Darwin's Tempest
- Simon C. Estok Narrativizing Science: The Ecocritical Imagination and Ecophobia
- Louise Westling Merleau-Ponty's Human-Animality Intertwining and the Animal Question
- Susan McHugh Real Artificial: Tissue-cultured Meat, Genetically Modified Farm Animals, and Fictions

For access see: <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/configurations/>

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Transitions

Special Issue: Rethinking the Seasons: New Approaches to Nature

Cultural Studies is not very good at thinking about the place of nature in today's technologically mediated life as it's mainly concerned with "constructivism" or the production of cultural objects, identities and affects. Nature always comes to foil such things, exceeding them, breaking them down, returning them to the earth. The problem is how to "think" nature in this context. And how does this thinking of nature help us to relate to the sciences, with their particular way of thinking of nature as objectified, managed environment.

A number of recent cases in point stand out. One is "climate change" as it problematizes a hard and fast distinction between nature and culture. It also upsets an orderly progression and change of the seasons. The seasons are a cultural construction of nature, and the four European seasons imposed in the case of Australia on Aboriginal seasons (often 6) are a colonisation of time. Similarly politicians and journalists referring to recent disasters as natural and as exhibiting the wrath of "Mother Nature" is problematic both for their Janus-faced construction of nature and for not acknowledging and appreciating "her" bounty and generosity.

This special issue of *Transformations* co-edited by Rod Giblett and Warwick Mules invites submissions from those interested in contributing to the discussion of the cultural construction of nature around the issues of climate change, seasonality, disaster, and so forth, as well as broader theoretical and philosophical issues concerned with the rethinking of nature as a category of Western thought.

Submission deadline: 17 June 2011, with a view to submit articles by 16 September 2011.

500 word abstracts should be forwarded to: Rod Giblett r.giblett@ecu.edu.au or Warwick Mules w.mules@uq.edu.au

Journal of Popular Romance Studies (JPRS)

Special issue: Animals and/in Romance

JPRS seeks essay submissions for a special forum examining the role of animals in popular romance media (fiction, film, TV, music video, etc.) from around the world.

How and why do animals mediate, complicate, or facilitate romance narratives? What role do animals—both real and imagined—play in courtship rituals or the articulation of sexual desire? In fiction and film, the romance genre abounds with creatures of all kinds, from the leopard in *Bringing Up Baby* and the dogs in Jennifer Crusie's novels to the werewolves and dragons and undefined "Beasts" in fairy tale and paranormal love stories. Why does romance need animals, and what

does this say about the relationship between love, desire, animals and human beings? How do invocations of the “animal” in romance differ from culture to culture, era to era?

Essays might explore a variety of questions and concerns, such as:

- If animals have traditionally been aligned with the oppressed (women, slaves, the lower classes), how might the representation of animals shed light on issues of gender, race and class?
- Conversely, since animal metaphors are often deployed to construct masculinity (the “alpha male”) as well as femininity (woman as horse to be broken, or falcon to be tamed), how might the representation of animals shed light on those same issues?
- Are there similarities in the representations of love for an animal and romantic love between humans?
- How might recent Animal Studies theory be brought to bear upon popular romance media?
- Conversely, what do theories of popular romance have to contribute to Animal Studies?
- How are historical changes in petkeeping or animal rights activism reflected in romance media
- How might recent scientific discoveries about the nature of animal sexual behavior (the flourishing of homosexuality among animals, for example, or new research into the non-monogamous behavior of species previously believed to mate for life) influence contemporary romance narratives?
- What does it mean to be human in a narrative world filled with animals? How does the representation of animals relate to the representation of human desire, emotion, and subjectivity?
- What role do Bestiality and Zoophilia, broadly defined, play in the genre of paranormal romance, or in romantic deployments of animals more generally?

Submission deadline: 1 December, 2011

Essays of up to 10,000 words (MLA citation style; Word documents preferred) should be submitted to An Goris, Managing Editor of *JPRS*, at managing.editor@jprs.org. Please note in your subject line that your submission is for the Forum on Animals in Romance Media. **Suggestions of potential peer reviewers are welcome.**

Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare

Special issue: Redefining Social Welfare: Connections across Species

A growing body of research supports the notion that human well-being is inextricably connected to the welfare of other animals. Social scientists are exploring these connections in research in social work and various subfields of sociology, including those focusing on the environment, deviance, the family, health, social inequality, and religion, as well as the emerging field of animals and society. This special issue in 2013 will tap researchers and theorists in a wide range of subfields in order to capture the breadth of the connections among species that affect all aspects of human well-being.

We want articles that address every aspect of the ways that animals' well-being intersects with human well-being. These could include many subfields of sociology, such as environmental sociology, sociology of health and medicine, deviance and violence, sociology of sports, sociology of religion, and so forth.

We envision having articles on any of the following:

- Socio-emotional connections between species, e.g., the role of companion animals across the life course and other related topics
- The connection of animal agriculture to climate change and environmental destruction, which of course is inextricably connected to human welfare
- Health issues--the impact of consumption of animal products on health--cardiovascular disease, diabetes, etc.--directly plus the impact of antibiotics and hormones fed to animals plus pesticides and poisons and contaminants--a big topic
- Animals and science ranging from the impact of dissection on young people to genetic engineering and cloning of animals (and of course, the impact on human welfare)
- Animal abuse and interpersonal violence
- Contributions of companion animals across the life course from children to older adults (of course!)
- Animals in sports and entertainment (hunting, zoos, circuses)
- Animals and religion (ranging from symbolism and its meaning--or lost meaning--in some traditions to animal sacrifices continuing within some groups)

All these issues are inextricably linked to human well-being. This is an opportunity to articulate the idea that animal welfare is inextricably connected to human welfare through all the ways that human and animal lives intersect.

Submission deadline: 31 December, 2011

Author Guidelines: The journal website. Submit to: Dr. Christina Risley-Curtiss at risley.curtiss@asu.edu

Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture

Animals in Advertising Issue

Animals are seemingly omnipresent in the world of advertising. Whether photographed, illustrated, animated or filmed the ambivalent presence of the animal facilitates the delivery of consumeristic messages. What does the animal sell to us and what do we effectively buy through these instances of visual consumption?

Antennae is currently accepting submissions for an issue entirely dedicated to the subject. As per usual, we are looking forward to receive a varied range of proposals from a very varied range of voices.

Submission Deadline: 1 July, 2011

Please email your 300-500 words proposal along with an up to date CV to antennaproject@gmail.com. Deadline for finished publishable material is the 1st of October 2011

Exhibitions

Animals, People – a shared environment

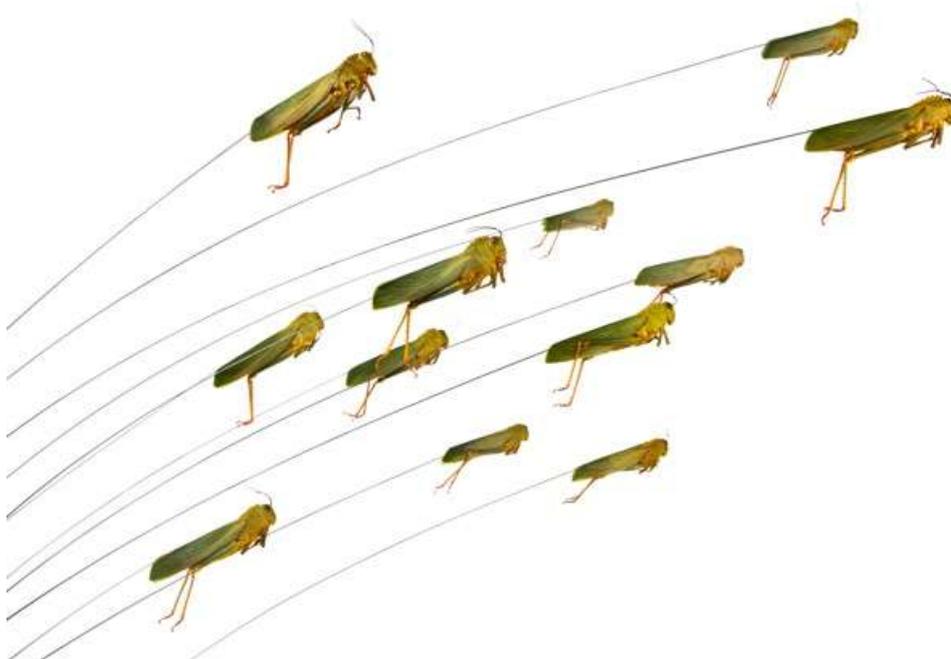
3 - 23 July 2011

POP Gallery, 12 Ipswich Road, Wolloongabba, QLD . . .QCA Project Space, 226 Grey Street South Bank QLD . . .White Box, 3rd Floor Grey Street Studios, QCA South Bank Campus

As part of their fourth conference, the Australian Animal Studies Group is joining with the Queensland College of Art to hold exhibitions that respond to the conference theme. Twenty–six artists will take part, including:

Maria Fernanda Cardoso

Garden of Insects



Saltamontes/Jumping grass 2010 60 x 40 cm Archival pigment print on 300g watercolor paper
Photo setup of preserved *Lophacris cristata* (Peru) on wire.

Artist Statement

The metaphor of mimicry for survival can be quite a powerful one, and can be extrapolated to human behaviour as well; but what interests me the most is what scientists have called "an excessive degree of perfection", and the fact that there is a precise morphological control on the part of a specie as it evolves, demonstrating the use of "intelligence and sensory awareness" as evolution drivers. The moment of surprise when you realise that what you are looking at is actually an animal and not a plant shows how effective their strategy is. I see people observe and discover, this body of work. It fools predators, and fools us. We can do nothing but wonder in awe at their precision.

When I look at a garden, I see a lot of invertebrates. They are there, we need to understand that things don't exist apart and isolated, but that complex systems can be generated even in the tiniest of gardens. Observation is the first stage in the appreciation for complex systems. My works makes people not only look, but see.

Barry Fitzpatrick



Self portrait as a cuttlefish, 2010, oil and synthetic polymer paint on board, 160X122 cms

These works are from a series of paintings in which marine and invertebrate forms in the environment become the source of ideas about energy, biological efficiency, alternative technology, beauty, mystery and abstract design. At a time when we are becoming aware of the horrific scale of biodiversity loss on the planet due to unsustainable anthropogenic impacts, it seems appropriate to put aside our narcissism and look entirely outside the human condition for imagery that speaks eloquently about other ways of being. Painting 'portraits' of the mysterious cuttlefish and stingray, or even a 'self portrait' as a tortoise beetle, strengthens the notion that our lives are intimately entwined with the lives of these and other creatures, in spite of their 'distance' from us.

Vanessa Barbay

Vanessa uses the process of representation to assert the importance of nature and natural systems with which she identifies to counter nature's reduction to resources within industrial human culture. Many of the animals she finds are feral and therefore symbols of entropy: dislocated within new ecosystems, they disrupt and corrupt in order to survive. She uses a spare fastidious approach which has a metaphoric relationship to the emaciated state of the animals who stand in wretched contrast to the reckless plundering of the natural world by industrial societies.



'Expulsion', date: 2010-11 size: 69 x 162.5 cm.
Medium: decomposition pigments from a Currawong and rust stains from a bed frame, rabbit skin glue and collected ochres mixed with wattle gum on canvas treated with vinegar and dyed in eucalyptus leaves

For more information about the Animals, People exhibition contact:

Professor Ross Woodrow at the Queensland College of Art r.woodrow@griffith.edu.au

Pop Gallery <http://popgallery.com.au> / or
Queensland College of Art <http://www.griffith.edu.au/visual-creative-arts/queensland-college-art>

Global Animal

An exhibition will be held in conjunction with the Global Animal Conference in Wollongong in July. A discussion panel, open to the public, will be held on July 8 at 2pm as part of the conference. Panellists are the artist with Professor John Simon, Dean of Arts at Macquarie University and leading curator and wildlife advocate Ace Bourke (see article on page 9).

Opening 6 July at 6 pm

Foyer, Faculty of Creative Arts, Bldg 25, University of Wollongong

Michele Elliot

the vanishing



the vanishing, 2010. Fibreglass, cotton, velvet, 6,000 glass bullets, thread, wax. Variable dimensions.
Photo: Derrick Choo

Artist Statement

In the late 1800's, an Englishwoman wrote in her journal that during the course of a British Officer's posting to India, he could expect to shoot and kill an average of 1,000 Royal Bengal Tigers.
(Artist's notebook, Kolkata 2009s)

the vanishing is a body of work that considers the concepts of borders, dislocation and post-colonialism. A slow build, it has been gathered from local research, chance encounters and a desire to question entrenched narratives within cultural and personal histories.

The form as installation is important in that the relationship between material and meaning is integral, where making becomes a working through and thinking via a tactile response. It provides the passage, the transition from one state to another. This is the 'fabric' of the work. Material is there to make something possible and my choices are specific, to elicit a transformation so that the viewer may ask not only what the work is, but also what it does.

the vanishing focuses on the tiger as signifier, a vulnerable site of contention across geographies. The tiger skin, the claws and teeth as trophy were coveted and terrible 'souvenirs', raising issues of imperialism and violence, power and control, fear, reverence and dispossession. The tiger's decimation that began at the peak of British rule in the 1870's is a bleak legacy.

These tigers were designed and constructed in collaboration with a Bengali idol-maker, using traditional methods and then cast in fibreglass. Two have been sewn and sealed into a calico skin by India Parcel Post. They are stitched and shrouded 'blanks', an embodied absence, erased and ready for dispatch. Stripped of their distinctive skin, the tigers become metaphoric screens of loss. The third tiger is a tightly worked surface of hand-stitched red velvet, visceral and seductive. It arouses a sense of flesh, of the abject and speaks of the plight this animal in the face of its ever-diminishing population.

Thousands of small glass objects resembling bullets or spent cartridges distort and shift in a small sea of uncertainty. At once solid and liquid, the pool of ghost bullets are both transparent and reflective like traces of history that surround us. Not always visible or obvious but instead a lingering presence.

Finally, a group of three embroidered texts float on lengths of white Bengali cotton. One records a disturbing entry from a Victorian woman's journal on tiger shooting in Bengal, another tells of a glimpse of tiger prints on a river bank. The third brings in a personal and poignant aspect that tells a story about Calcutta in the 1920's and my grandfather, who was given a tiger cub.

the vanishing conjures a powerful and ghostly presence that calls to mind spectres of the past and how they haunt us today. It is a telling reminder of the fragility of the natural world in which we live.



the vanishing, 2010. Detail

Etching Dogs

Deborah Williams



Projection, 2011. Engraving & roulette 21.5 x 19cm, edition 20

27 May -15 June

Colville Gallery, 91 Salamanca Place, Hobart

Artist Statement

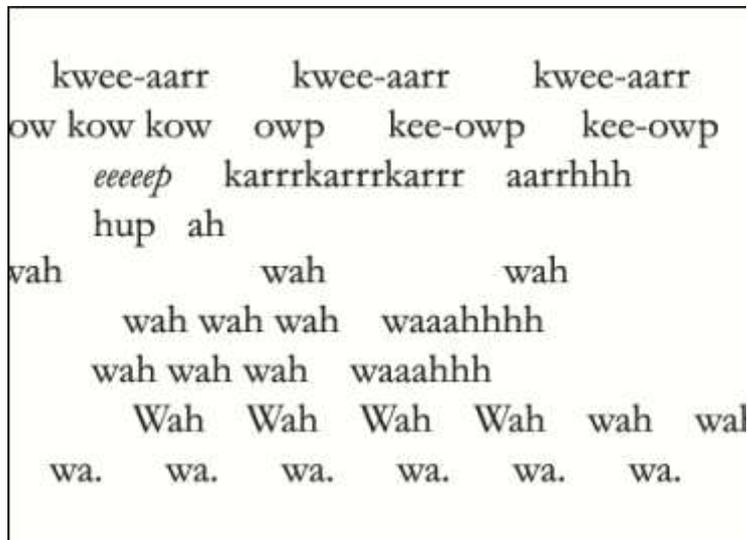
We live in a culture that adores and adorns our companion animals. Devotion is generally without question. However, do we see them for who they are, as distinct from ourselves? Our feelings are frequently projected onto animals; they are anthropomorphized, brought unwittingly into our worlds. For a dog it must surely be as complex a relationship, enduring and interdependent, loving and loyal, yet simply 'other'.

These images have emerged from a direct experience with the dog that begins with observation. My work sees the dog not as a breed above, apart or beyond, but of its own. Incorporating actions that are initiated by the animal shifts the depiction of them as a symbol to depicting their presence as an individual being. My subjects are captured in a moment, in command of the immediate place in his/her world. There is a barrier that exists between humans and animals, there will always be an animal's 'otherness' that we will never know. Acknowledging that, allows us to be more sensitive to the distinctions.

For more information and more images from this exhibition see:
<http://www.colvillegallery.com.au/gallery/current.php>

Birdbrain

Catherine Clover



18 June – 30 July 2011

Soundfjord Sonic Art Gallery and Research Unit, London, UK

29 June – 9 July 2011

Emerson Galerie Berlin, Germany

birdbrain looks at our relationship with urban crows and seagulls and explores our mixed relationship with these common noisy and highly intelligent birds through voice and language (animal/human), including the spoken and written word (human). While we admire these birds' obvious abilities in terms of survival, intelligence and ingenuity we also feel threatened by these very attributes that we share with them. The project consists of audiovisual installation work including field recordings, bird mimicry, spoken and written texts (see attached image) as well as an artist's book posing as a kind of mock field guide. Four performers and ten writers have contributed to the project.

The four performers are:

- Kate Hunter (PhD research candidate Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia)
- Vanessa Chapple (Performer, dramaturge and director, Melbourne, Australia)
- Penny Baron (Performer and director, Melbourne, Australia)
- Melissa Alley (Artist and performer, London, UK)

The ten writers are:

- Geraldine Barlow (Senior Curator, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia)
- Giovanni Aloï (St Mary University London and Editor of *Antennae*, UK)
- Steve Baker (Emeritus Professor of Art, University of Central Lancashire, UK)
- Clare Halstead (Arts writer, UK)
- Cathy Lane (Sound artist and co-director of CRISAP, London, UK)
- Andrew Whitehouse (Teaching Fellow, Dept of Anthropology, Univ of Aberdeen, UK)
- Robin Tassie (Writer, UK)
- Michele Faguet (Arts writer, Berlin, Germany)
- Jessica Ullrich (Universität der Kunst, Berlin, Germany)
- Rene ten Bos (Prof of Philosophy/Organisational Theory, Radboud Univ, Holland)

Contact: Helen Frosi info@soundfjord.org.uk | +44 (0)20 8800 3024 | <http://www.soundfjord.org/b>

Contact: Russell Radzinski russell@emerson-gallery.de <http://www.emerson-gallery.de>

Crepuscula: the wild animals of Melbourne

12 May, 2011 to 6 July, 2011

City Gallery, Ground 110 Swanston St, Melbourne



Boobook Owl. Photography Louis Porter. TaxidermyDean Smith

crepuscular *adj.* 1. of or like twilight; dim. 2. (of certain insects, birds, and other animals) active at twilight or just before dawn. [from Latin crepusculum dusk, from creper dark]

A new exhibition at City Gallery reveals the secret and unexpected world of Melbourne's wild animals. *Crepuscular: the wild animals of Melbourne* provides a glimpse into the twilight hours of Melbourne and the species with which human residents share the city. It captures the moment as twilight softens the city's hard edges, when commuters depart and animals emerge to forage. *Crepuscular* will expose a parallel domain of mammals, birds, eels and insects; a world that is subtly and inextricably intertwined with our human realm.

The exhibition will be set in a charged environment, in which human visitors are strangers. Close observation will be rewarded by rare sightings of species. Drawing on specimens, illustrations, contemporary artworks, literature and ephemera, *Crepuscular* will provide a layered interpretation of a world lived in half-light - the exhibition reveals how humans and introduced species have displaced many species while others, such as possums and flying foxes have adopted to thrive in the new habitat.

The exhibition includes an array of artefacts including photographs of some of Melbourne's prized gardens such as Kings Domain and Fitzroy Gardens; and showcases specimens including a Peregrine Falcon, Tawny Frogmouth and unique animals that were once common in the Port Philip District but have subsequently disappeared.

Curated by John Kean, an independent curator and Honorary Associate of Museum Victoria, where he worked as a producer of exhibitions and interactives from 1995 to 2010.

John has published extensively on Indigenous art and the representation of nature in Australian museums. His exhibitions characteristically bridge art, natural science and the community.

For more information, including detailed catalogue, see:

<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/citygallery/Pages/Crepuscular.aspx>

Film and Audio

RED DOG



Directed by [Kriv Stenders](#)
Produced by [Nelson Woss](#)
Script adaptation by [Daniel Taplitz](#)

This film tells the story of the legendary dog from Dampier, Western Australia. *Red Dog* follows the intrepid, charismatic red kelpie who hitched rides, adopted people and united communities throughout WA's mining region in the 1970s.

The feature film was shot in Dampier and Karratha and tracks the journeys of the kelpie cross who travelled over vast areas, from Perth to Broome. For most of his life, Red Dog was owned by no-one, but adopted members of the community and travellers who cared for him. He touched the hearts of mine workers and residents in the Pilbara, where he enjoyed unique privileges. He was a fully paid member of the Transport Workers' Union and even had a bank account set up for him.

Mining companies Rio Tinto, Woodside and WestTrac provided finance and logistical support for *Red Dog*, which is the film is an adaptation of award-winning author Louis de Bernieres' popular book.

Red Dog was shown at the Berlin International Film Festival and will be released in Australia in August.

For a preview see: <http://www.reddogmovie.com/> including scenes of film actor Koko's 'screen test': WE ARE ON A MISSION FOR DOG

Read an interview with [Kriv Stenders](#):
<http://www.sbs.com.au/films/article/single/889261/Red-Dog-Kriv-Stenders-interview>

Read the Wikipedia version of the story: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Dog_%28Karratha%29

BABIES



Director: **Thomas Balmès**

This film follows four infants from birth to one year old. Two of the babies featured in the film are from rural areas: Ponijao from Opuwo, Namibia, and Bayar from Bayanchandmani, Mongolia; two are from urban areas: Mari from Tokyo, Japan, and Hattie from San Francisco, USA.

One of the fascinating things about this film is the way animals feature in the lives of all the children, but especially those from Namibia and Mongolia. They grow up in close contact with goats, poultry, dogs, cows and other domestic animals. This has raised questions of hygiene and danger – at one stage the tiny toddler from Mongolia totters into a herd of young cattle, who walk delicately around him; a rooster perches on the edge of a small baby's cot; and Ponijao inspects the inside of her family dog's mouth. In all cases the babies are never frightened or alarmed by the animals, but take their presence for granted.

This film is worth seeing for the way different cultures interact with animals from a very early age and the influences that determine attitudes how toward animals are formed.

The film was released in Australia 5 May, 2011. For trailer see:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vupEpNjCuY>

ANIMALS ON TRIAL

BBC Radio World Service

In 1750, Jacques Ferron was convicted of coupling with a female donkey in France. Both he and the donkey would face certain execution. However the parish priest petitioned for the court to show mercy, unfortunately for Ferron the priest would only vouch for the good character of the animal. The donkey was spared and Ferron was burned alive. Throughout history donkeys, pigs, dogs, rats, even insects have been put on trial and some convicted and sentenced. Crime thriller writer and former solicitor Frances Fyfield looks at these extraordinary cases of animals in court. Contributors include **Piers Beirne** and **Erica Fudge**.

The programme can be heard online at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00f8885>

Links: Resource pages, blogs

- **HARN**

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 School and the Sydney Law School.. 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.

<http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/harn/>

- **Animal Justice Party**

The Animal Justice Party has been established to give voice to those who have none – to pursue the vital issues of animal protection through the Australian Parliamentary System by: Encouraging the adoption of animal-friendly policies by other political parties. Demonstrating that voters care about animal issues by contesting elections. Educating the electorate about the animal policies of candidates from other political parties.

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

- **Lort Smith Animal Hospital**

Established in 1935, Lort Smith Animal Hospital in Nth Melbourne is one of the largest Animal Hospitals in the world, providing quality care for over 100,000 lost, abandoned, mistreated and sick animals every year. The Hospital provides high quality veterinary care at a reduced cost for the pets of people in need as well as injured, stray and abandoned pets that have no-one to care for them. Their most recent addition, the wildlife and exotic pet unit, provides care and expertise and promotes interest and further education in the captive care of these special creatures.

<http://www.lortsmith.com/NetCommunity/>

- **Animal Legal Defense Fund**

For more than three decades, the Animal Legal Defense Fund has been fighting to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the US legal system. Founded in 1979 by attorneys active in shaping the emerging field of animal law, ALDF has blazed the trail for stronger enforcement of anti-cruelty laws and more humane treatment of animals in every corner of American life. Today, ALDF's groundbreaking efforts to push the U.S. legal system to end the suffering of abused animals are supported by hundreds of dedicated attorneys and more than 100,000 members.

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

- **Animal Legal and Historical Centre**

On this site you will find a comprehensive repository of information about animal law, including: over 1000 full text cases (US, historical, and UK); over 1000 US statutes; over 50 topics and comprehensive explanations; legal articles on a variety of animal topics; an international collection.

<http://www.animallaw.info/>

- **NABR Animal Law**

“The National Association for Biomedical Research Animal Law section focuses on the potentially disruptive and rapidly growing area of animal law. Animal rights advocates are using increasingly sophisticated and coordinated legal strategies in an attempt to incrementally change our laws as they relate to animals . . . This Web site is intended to serve as a resource for those who wish to learn more about animal law. It does not endeavor to be an exhaustive survey of issues pertaining to the legal status of animals, or of the "animal rights" movement.”

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

- **The Conversation**

Launched in March 2011, The Conversation is an independent source of information, analysis and commentary from the university and research sector. It prides itself on academic rigour, journalistic flair, expert news and views, debates and ideas, from the curious and the serious. It includes sections on Environment and Hot Topics where you will find items and opinions about animals. See contributions by Siobhan O’Sullivan, Clive Phillips and Carol Petherick on Live Animal Exports.

<http://theconversation.edu.au/>

- **The Third Ray**

This blog is concerned with the question: “How have artists been involved in the debate about sustainability and how do they continue to be involved?” It takes a broad brief, covering works of art that address issues that have suffered from narrow labels such as ‘conservation’, ‘environmentalism’, ‘green’, ‘global warming’, ‘ecology’, ‘environmental art’, or, more nebulously, ‘saving the planet’. The sustainability debate goes beyond issues of environmentalism and conservation to encompass the worlds of business, finance, economics, politics and social institutions.

<http://www.thethirdray.com/>

- **Joe-Zammit-Lucia: Images**

Artist Statement: “In creating images of animals, I have little interest in what the animal looks like; in the animal merely as observed object. Rather my interest is in the deeper reality of what the animal might possibly be. Through these images, I am interested in exploring questions: How do I feel in relation to this animal? Can I relate to this animal as an individual rather than as a mere specimen of species? And, more interestingly, what could be the experience of being this animal?”

www.jzlimages.com/

- **NILAS: Nature in Legend and Story**

An H-Net listserv for the discussion of totemic literature. What does it mean to be human” perhaps only the animals can know. This moderated discussion list enables scholars and academics to discuss research interests, teaching methods, and views on the state of historiography. H-Nilas is affiliated with NILAS, an organization which promotes understanding of traditional bonds between human beings and the natural world

<http://www.h-net.org/~nilas/>

Profiles: Animal studies scholars and activists

Associate Professor Jennifer Carter



My childhood in a rural town surrounded by small farms undoubtedly influenced my love of nature. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbours were variously wildlife artists, naturalists, keen observers, farm restoration practitioners (long before the era of Landcare!), farm animal carers (animals ‘mattered’ on small farms!) and general lovers of animals. Although I studied and enjoyed ecology and related subjects as an undergraduate, it was my unexpected stumbling across the discipline of ‘geography’, where I found I could study the interactions between humans and nonhumans in a holistic and integrated way. This spurred me on to study seabirds on a Great Barrier Reef island and the ways in which their micro-habitats were vulnerable to human activity.

In my PhD in the 1990s and on later research projects I worked with Aboriginal people in northern Australia which extended by understandings of the intimate connections between humans and nonhumans. We particularly looked at birds, animals and marine creatures and their importance, location and changes in different places.

After my appointment as an academic at the University of the Sunshine Coast I continued to publish around the importance of protecting raptors in rapidly changing landscapes. I was unexpectedly invited to tutor in an Environmental Ethics course which broadened my perspective on various ways of studying animals. This philosophy course awakened in students a range of possibilities for human thinking about nonhumans that they should carry through their lives. I was also fortunate to attend the *Minding Animals* conference in 2009, where a passionate array of speakers across a range of disciplines spurred me to lobby for a new course in my discipline at my institution. Since then, I’ve introduced a course on *Animal Geographies*, giving students access to multiple ways to study the human-nonhuman interaction in particular spaces and places and at different scales.

We now live on 13 acres in the Sunshine Coast hinterland and are planting a lot of trees to provide more habitat for native animals on our ex-farm. But we also agist cows who our border collie loves to ‘escort’ between paddocks whilst avoiding being seen by wild dogs – these and other everyday happenings leave much room for musing on species boundaries, connections and interactions that I passionately want to pursue.

Jennifer Carter’s webpage:

<http://www.usc.edu.au/University/AcademicFaculties/ArtsSocialSciences/Staff/013035.htm>

Email: jcarter@usc.edu.au

Dr Lesley McLean



Our family moved to country NSW from northern Canada when I was quite young. I don't remember much of the Canadian landscape, which from pictures and stories I know to be quite beautiful. What I do remember is the magical place I found myself in after our move and the extraordinary creatures that became a part of my world. I was an explorer. At six years old I had the best job in the universe.

Two experiences spring to mind. Dusk one evening a large stick-like insect attached itself to our screen door. It looked like something out of a science fiction novel. It had the family enthralled (& somewhat terrified) for hours. I later knew it to be a praying mantis. My second experience involved a ride through bushland on a pony named Blinky. I couldn't see what the person was pointing to, but all of a sudden it was as if the hillside moved. For the first time ever I saw a mob of kangaroos take off, what a sight: extraordinary, amazing, incredible, marvellous. Something of this wonder has stayed with me but it was certainly tempered by the confusion of living in a world where animals including kangaroos were killed, eaten, used for clothing, sold off to become

pet food, and the people whose livelihoods depended in some way on animal deaths I called friends.

My PhD research drew on aspects of these experiences (and others) as well as a desire to understand something of the ways in which philosophers have attempted to answer the question of how we ought live with nonhuman animals. As the seminal text in the modern animal liberation movement Peter Singer's *Animal Liberation* was of particular focus. However, rather than focus on his utilitarian arguments, which have been the source of much philosophical debate, I noticed that the book itself in both form and content reflected something the strategies employed by animal activists of the previous century, particularly women activists such as Francis Power Cobbe (1822–1904). From this and other observations I went on to question the role of rational argument in persuading people of their moral views and indeed the role of moral perception and imagination in changing our moral outlooks with respect to other animals. These latter ideas were also explored in a publication co-authored with Michael Allen Fox, entitled *Animals in Moral Space*, which has been quite well received.

My recent research has been to look at the relationship of nonhuman animals to sacred space, especially in terms of how they contribute to its delineation and whether or not they comprise sacred place in some form. I am currently a Research Adjunct at the University of New England, NSW, and I'm very much looking forward to catching a glimpse of the small mob of kangaroos that inhabit the paddocks across the road from the campus when I leave work this afternoon.

Dr Iris Bergmann



For as long as I can remember, I have sought to engage with the animal world and the natural environment in a three-fold way: through direct contact, and through academic and artistic experience. At the same time, part of growing up for me meant trying to understand the deep disconnections and connections between humans and the natural world. As could be expected, when the time came to decide the direction of my tertiary studies, I was torn between the sciences and the arts. I first accepted an offer to study biology but soon realised that I could not make peace with the reductionism that characterised the field. Instead, I enrolled in a course combining Visual Communication, Design & Technology and Pedagogy. The following years introduced me to all sorts of areas that schooled me in what now comes to be understood as the foundation of sustainability literacy.

During these undergraduate years, I cultivated my passion for photography. I became involved in a gallery for photography and contemporary art. It was through this affiliation that I was invited to teach at an institute of ecological education in Bremen, Germany to facilitate adult learning about environmental issues by engaging the participants in photographic practice about such issues. Here, I experienced first hand the impact photography can have as a medium to come to know, and to find one's own position within and toward the environment. Later, I researched such cognitive phenomena during my postgraduate studies in Australia.

While I lived in Northern NSW, I became active in wildlife rehabilitation. Nothing can replace the experience of caring for and rehabilitating Australian wildlife. I also helped to develop the Northern Rivers branch of WIRES as their inaugural chairperson. It was not an easy move to leave this behind to take up a research fellowship in the Global Cities Institute at RMIT University in social change for sustainability in 2007. At the time I did not anticipate that I could be part of a field called Animal Studies but the award of a grant by Voiceless in 2009 to research Australians' attitudes toward factory farming made it possible to finally join the strands of my work and passions to form a whole: animal studies, sustainability studies, and photography as a research tool. This project led to a number of writings, project applications and collaborations internationally and nationally. Inevitably, my work is interdisciplinary, participatory, it engages systems thinking and explores new methodologies to do justice to the complexities at stake.

All the while, I have pursued visual practice myself, working with photography as a means to expand our mode of understanding. And I have shared most years of my life with non-human animals, currently two cats and a horse – forever learning and hoping to do the right thing by them.

If you would like to be removed from the Australian Animal Studies elist, please post a reply with 'Remove' in the subject line

Please send items for the next issue to:

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Australian Animal Studies Group (AASG)

Membership Form

The Australian Animal Studies Group (AASG) relies on membership fees to support and improve its ongoing initiatives. Annual paid membership (**\$40 full \$20 student/concession**) ensures a listing of your profile on the AASG website. Importantly, it allows you to nominate and vote at the AGM.

To become a member, please complete this form and send with your cheque/money order to:

**Australian Animal Studies Group
c/o Dr Yvette Watt
Tasmanian School of Art
University
Private Bag 57
Hobart TAS 7001**

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Academia.edu:

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Animal-related Activities / Advocacy Interests:

Outputs (publications, teaching, presentations, blog, website, etc.):

Potential projects / areas for collaboration:

If you wish to pay electronically see our website: <http://www.aasg.org.au>



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