



CONTENTS

NATIONAL NEWS.....	2
REGIONAL NEWS.....	3
SPECIAL REPORT: 4 th BIENNIAL AASG AND GLOBAL ANIMAL CONFERENCES.....	9
CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIUMS.....	15
GROUPS, INSTITUTES AND NETWORKS.....	19
NEW BOOKS.....	23
BOOK SERIES.....	27
JOURNALS.....	28
EXHIBITIONS.....	30
ARTWORK.....	33
FILMS AND AUDIO.....	35
LINKS.....	38
PROFILES: SALLY BORRELL, MATT CHRULEW, FIONA PROBYN-RAPSEY.....	40

National News

First AASG Annual General Meeting

Seven positions on a new AASG committee were declared vacant ahead of the first annual general meeting of the Australian Animal Studies Group on Tuesday 11 July at the 4th biennial AASG conference in Brisbane. The office bearers, elected unopposed, are:



Chairperson:

Dr Melissa Boyde,
English Literatures
and Philosophy,
University of
Wollongong, NSW
boyde@uow.edu.au



Vice-Chairperson:

Dr Leah Burns
Environmental Futures
Centre, Griffith University,
Queensland
leah.burns@griffith.edu.au



Secretary:

Dr Natalie Edwards
Institute of Veterinary,
Animal and Biomedical
Sciences, Massey
University, NZ (Western
Australia)
N.J.Edwards@massey.ac.nz



Treasurer:

Dr Yvette Watt
Tasmanian School of Art,
University of Tasmania,
Tasmania
Yvette.Watt@utas.edu.au

The three general committee members are: Sally Borrell (Vic), Matt Chrulew (NSW) and Fiona Probyn-Rapsey (NSW)

Read more about Sally, Matt and Fiona in the [Profiles](#) section below

The committee meets by Skype at regular intervals to consider financial, planning and policy matters and to work towards supporting and stimulating the growth of animal studies in Australia. The first meeting of the committee on August 18 decided that the 5th biennial conference of the Group in 2013 will be hosted by Sydney University. It was also confirmed that Carol Freeman will continue as editor of this *Bulletin*. After a very successful conference, and as the field of human-animal studies continues to grow, the committee looks forward to a busy and productive year ahead.

Please see the Group's website www.aasg.org.au for more about Melissa, Leah, Natalie and Yvette. Members of the committee are happy to consider requests and answer questions concerning animal studies and the Group's activities from members of the AASG. Please contact them on the emails above.

JOIN AASG

Don't forget you can now join AASG online !

The AASG relies on membership fees to support and improve its initiatives. With these funds 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*. Membership will ensure listing of your profile on the website.

You can pay fees by EFT, accessible by hitting the **Join Us** button on the Group's website: <http://www.aasg.org.au/> or scan, fax or email 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.

Annual membership fees: \$40 for waged applicants, \$20 for student, concession, or unwaged members

Regional News

Queensland

Griffith University

AASG 4th Biennial Conference

Book/Special Edition Journal expression of interest

The AASG 2011 Committee is hoping to publish papers from the conference in an edited book and special editions in several journals. If you are interested in having your work published in one of the above platforms, please contact Leah.Burns@griffith.edu.au

The conference committee has received quite a few requests for a Delegate/Attendee Contact Details List for AASG 2011 to be made available to delegates. Abstracts from the conference may also be made available on the website.

RSPCA

World Farm Animal Day Symposium

Friday, 30 September 2011

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Merivale St, South Brisbane.
8.30am – 4.30pm

Online Registrations are now OPEN for this symposium focusing on the welfare and ethical issues of the live export trade. Speakers include researchers, veterinarians and animal welfare, industry and government representatives, all with first-hand experience in the trade. The Symposium will provide an excellent overview of all aspects of the trade and provide an opportunity for a robust Q & A and discussion.

\$95 Registration and \$75 Student & Pension discount. Registration is essential as limited seating is available. For more information and registration details see:

<http://www.farmanimalsymposium.rspcaqld.org.au/>

Victoria

Melbourne University

Animal Issues Melbourne

The **August** meeting of this Melbourne University reading group attempted something a little different! Members discussed three short films: *What is the Meatrix* (4 minutes); *Blood of the Beasts* (20 minutes); and *Human|Animal* (around 10/15 minutes).

All three movies can be watched online:

What is the Meatrix: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEkc70ztOrc>;

Blood of the Beasts: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFAUA8_mfXs (this is the most difficult to watch as it appears in 3 parts on YouTube);

Human|Animal: <http://www.humananimalthemovie.com>.

The creator of *Human|Animal*, Eliza Muirhead, joined the discussion.

The **September** meeting will return to a reading and it is: Smith, J. (2003), 'Beyond Dominance and Affection: Living with Rabbits in Post-Humanist Households', *Society & Animals*, 11:2. As usual, the reading group meets on the last Monday of each month, at 5.30pm, in room 519 of the John Medley Building.

For more information about Animal Issues Melbourne, contact Siobhan O'Sullivan: siobhano@unimelb.edu.au

Knowing Animals Past and Present

Knowing Animals Past and Present now has a Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Knowing-Animals-Past-and-Present/268973009788818?sk=wall>

The page will be used to update people about animal-related events in Melbourne, and interesting news items. If you use Facebook, friend the page and you will be able to interact with other interested people and learn more about human-animal studies.

For more information about this group based at University of Melbourne see:

<http://www.ssps.unimelb.edu.au/research/projects/kap>

RMIT

Art and Sustainability Research Cluster

Two research group members Debbie Symons and Jasmine Targett are having an exhibition on **Antarctica: Making Sense** on 9 September-15 October. Debbie and Jasmine are doctoral candidates at Monash, and have recently joined the group at RMIT. Then four other members: Lesley Duxbury, Kate Rigby, Harry Nankin and Linda Williams will join the distinguished earth scientist Professor David Karoly for a public forum on **20 September 2011, 6-7pm** linked to the exhibition:

"Art and the Communication of Climate Science: Making Sense of how artists and scientists can collaborate on the question of the ozone hole and biodiversity in Antarctica".

How can artists and scientists work together to respond to the concerns of the ecological conundrum? How can environmental data be visually explored in innovative mediums? Join us for a discussion exploring these questions and others raised by the exhibition *Making Sense – Life Support Systems*. The objective of this public forum is to stimulate an open dialogue between Melbourne-based Artists and Scientists. The group is interested in bringing

together key people from both these fields to construct a community for future collaborations, further enriching both research disciplines.

Chair: Linda Williams, Associate Professor in Art, Environment and Cultural Studies, RMIT
University Panel Participants: David Karoly, Professor of Meteorology, School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne
Kate Rigby, Associate Professor and Ecocritical Theorist, Monash
Professor Lesley Duxbury, Artist and Deputy Head Research and Innovation, School of Art, RMIT
Harry Nankin, Photomedia Artist and Teacher RMIT, LaTrobe and Deakin

Please join us and share your thoughts. As spaces are limited it is essential to RSVP to: Craft Victoria +61 3 9650 7775.

For more information see: <http://craftvic.org.au/whats-on/public-programs/climate-change-sustainability-and-the-arts>

Tasmania

University of Tasmania

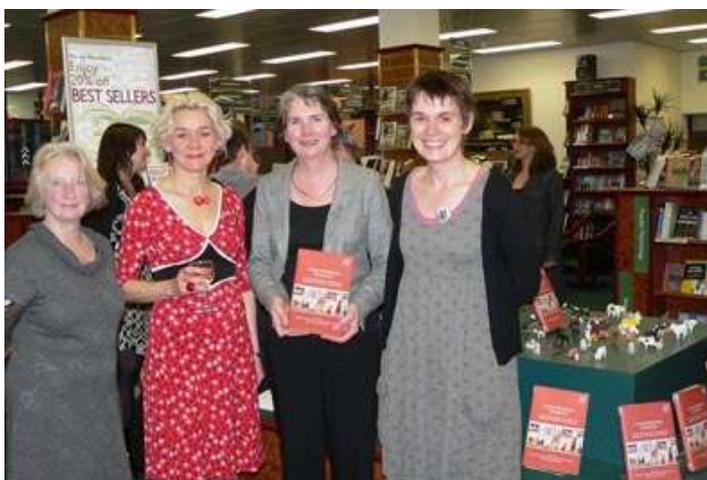
New Book

Considering Animals: Contemporary Studies in Human-Animal Relations by Carol Freeman, Elizabeth Leane and Yvette Watt, was launched at the Co-op Bookshop University Union, University of Tasmania on 25 August by Professor Sue Dodds, Dean Faculty of Arts.

The collection grew out of the AASG 2nd biennial conference of the same name held in Hobart in 2007. The co-editors are grateful to contributors for the challenging essays in this multi-disciplinary collection. As Sue Dodds pointed out, they encourage us to reassess our relationships with and beliefs about animals. In addition, the volume reinforces the benefit of conferences that make publications such as this possible.

The editors appreciate the time and effort made by the presenters who were not successful in publishing their papers in this collection and hope they have been able to publish them elsewhere. Some essays from the Hobart conference appeared in *Australian Zoologist*, while a number were intended for a planned Australian collection that, unfortunately, did not eventuate.

Considering Animals can be purchased for the special price of \$52 from the Co-op Bookshop, University of Tasmania WHILE STOCKS LAST! **An order form is included at the end of this Bulletin.**



Carol Freeman, Yvette Watt, Sue Dodds and Elle Leane at the Hobart launch of *Considering Animals*.
Photo: Anna Lucas

Hobart City Council

Threatened Species Day

A special free community event, Remember the Thylacine, was held at Beaumaris Zoo in Hobart's Domain on September 7. It commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the loss of the Tasmanian tiger. Special guest speaker was naturalist John Dengate and the day included an art exhibition Dream of the Thylacine by children's book illustrator, Ron Brooks, and haunting melodies from the extraordinary Tasmanian quartet Strings on Fire. Participants included people and organisations who are working hard to support Tasmania's 717 threatened species.

For more information see: <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/PWOD-88D4XW?open>

South Australia

Flinders University

Symposium Keynote

On 21 September, Dr Nik Taylor, School of Sociology, will give the keynote presentation "Addressing Animal Abuse: Reflections and Future Directions" at **Cultural Animals**, an afternoon symposium hosted by the New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. Nik is a NZCHAS Associate and renowned expert on the link between social violence and animal abuse.

The symposium will also include current research in the field of Human-Animal Studies undertaken in both the social sciences and humanities by members of NZCHAS: Dr Nikki Evans (Social Work); Dr Piers Locke (Anthropology); Professor Henrietta Mondry (Russian); Assoc Prof Philip Armstrong (English); Dr Alison Loveridge (Sociology) and Assoc Prof Annie Potts (English and Cultural Studies).

For more information contact annie.potts@canterbury.ac.nz or see: <http://www.nzchas.canterbury.ac.nz/>

New Course

Humans, Animals and Society will be run by Dr Nik Taylor and Dr Suzi Adams in the School of Sociology. The course will be offered intensively just prior to semester 2 in 2012.

Outline: This course introduces students to the study of human relations with the natural world. It provides students with the opportunity to question taken for granted assumptions about nature, the environment and the roles of animals in society. Students explore historical and modern contexts within which human-animal relations and images of nature have developed. Through a critical inquiry into the ways in which we conceive of nature, the environment and other animals, students are introduced to a broad variety of sociological theories.

For more details contact: nik.taylor@flinders.edu.au

Western Australia

Lethologica Press

This is a small press, western half of Australia, publisher of contemporary art books, poetry, prose, limited edition and online projects, edited by Perdita Phillips and Nyanda Smith. Several project are animal-related:

Nandi Chinna and Andrea Smith: Swamp

Poet Nandi Chinna and illustrator Andrea Smith are embarking upon a cross-continental collaboration for Swamp. Nandi has been exploring wetlands and walking in her latest poetry project. Andrea is a professional illustrator with an interest in birds and animals.

Liana Joy Christensen and Marie Lochman

Writer Liana Joy Christensen and photographer Marie Lochman have begun their collaborative book project with the working title: "Unnatural History". They write: "Unnatural History is a strange homage to the exquisitely rendered natural history texts of the nineteenth century. Those seemingly realistic depictions and descriptions of flora and fauna were not neutral. They encoded a whole cultural tradition of science, politics and history. Inevitably, so do our recombinant images and poems. Unnatural History is wedded to its own time and place: the animals Australian; the technologies and sensibilities early 21st century. But in common with the traditional natural history text we share a vision of the aesthetic and intrinsic wonder of the natural world."

For more information see: <http://www.lethologicapress.org/teapot/>

Curtin University

Biodiversity and Forests Symposium

7 October, Margaret River Campus of Curtin University, Bussell Highway

Poet and animal studies writer, Liana Christensen, is to be Biodiversity Poet in Residence for a festival being held in Margaret River, called Flourish. She will take part in a symposium at Curtin University organised by Grant and Angela Wardell-Johnson for the Curtin Institute for Biodiversity and Climate (CIBC) and the Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association (Flourish Margaret River). Liana's tap/rap CD performance poem celebrates Charles Darwin, evolution and biodiversity.

For full program see: <http://www.flourishmargaretriver.com/>.

To book, or to find out more, contact: Curtin Institute for Biodiversity and Climate Ph: +61 8 9266 9825 or E: cibc@curtin.edu.au

Kurb Gallery, Perth

Call for Art Submissions

Sentience: An Exhibition of Life, an annual event launched in 2011, features work by a variety of international and Australian artists across a range of mediums. Sentience is a thought-provoking and ultimately rewarding display of art exploring the feeling, perception and individuality of animals other than humans. The next exhibition will run from 7-20 January 2012.

Submissions are due 30 November 2011.

For more information see [Exhibitions](#) section below.

Publications

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

Rod Bennison

"The Qur'an, Shari'a Law and the exclusion of nonhuman animals." In *Issues in Ethics and Animal Rights*, ed Manish A. Vyas, Regency Pub, 2011.

Sally Borrell

"No Higher Life: Ethical Theory and Practice in J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*." In *Issues in Ethics and Animal Rights*, ed Manish A. Vyas, Regency Pub, 2011.

Thoraiya Dyer

"The Bird, the Bees, and Thylacine", *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine* 51 (2011).

Carol Freeman

"Feathering the Text." In *Rethinking Chaucerian Beasts*, ed. Carolyn van Dyke, Palgrave Macmillan. Forthcoming 2012.

S. J. Hazel, T. Signal and N. Taylor

"Can teaching veterinary and animal science students about animal welfare affect their attitude to animals and human-related empathy?" *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education* 38 (2011):74-83.

Perdita Phillips

Birdlife. Perth: Lethologica Press. Forthcoming

Fiona Probyn-Rapsey

"Furries and the Limits of Species Identity Disorder: A Response to Gerbasi *et al*", *Society and Animals* 19 (2011): 294-301.

Denise Russell

"The Bengal Tiger, The Irrawaddy Dolphin, an humble fisherman and lone researcher: a tale of compassion connection and foreboding." In *Issues in Ethics and Animal Rights*, ed Manish A. Vyas, Regency Pub, 2011.

Peta Tait

Wild and Dangerous Performances: Animals, Emotions, Circus. Melbourne: Palgrave Macmillan. Forthcoming November 2011.

Nik Taylor

"Rise of the Planet of the Apes – 'Human, all too human'", guardian.co.uk, Friday 19 August 2011.

Nik Taylor and Tania Signal

Theorizing Animals: Rethinking Humananimal Relations, edited by Nik Taylor and Tania Signal. Brill, Human-Animal Studies Series, 2011. For details see [New Books](#) below.

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

Special Report

4th Annual AASG Conference: Animals, People – a shared environment
Griffith University, 10-13 July, 2011. Conference Chair: Leah Burns



It was my very great pleasure to participate in the fourth biennial Australian Animal Studies Group conference 'Animals, People – a shared environment' at Griffith University, Brisbane. I can still remember with great clarity the first Australian Animal Studies Group conference, hosted by the University of Western Australia, I attended in 2005. It was my first human-animal studies conference and I was already hooked. At the University of Western Australia conference a small contingent from the University of Tasmania felt similarly inspired and pledged to host a follow-up conference. True to their word, the UTAS group went on to organise an equally wonderful, somewhat larger, conference in 2007. That conference is also indelibly etched in my mind.

At the UTAS conference a small contingent from the University of Newcastle, and surrounding cities, started to talk about a third conference in the series. We had such wonderful momentum we had to continue. It was agreed that the University of Newcastle would be the venue, and once again, in mid-2009, we all gathered in the city of Newcastle for *Minding Animals*. Another spectacular conference, this time more international speakers joined us to consider academic puzzles concerning nonhuman animals.

At *Minding Animals* it was suggested that Leah Burns from Griffith University might lead the 2011 conference. With a team of trusty co-convenors she got to work, and what a wonderful result. Each day commenced with a keynote speaker. The charismatic and fascinating Nigel Rothfels opened on day one. The rest of the day was spent in concurrent sessions listening to some of the 120 papers, presented by scholars representing a wide range of academic disciplines. Day two opened with legal theorist Marsha Baum and her detailed account of the impact of regressive anti-animal laws in the US. The final keynote was given by philosopher Freya Mathews who provided an ethically rich account of life as a bush regenerator in outback Victoria in her Val Plumwood Lecture. The conference also saw the launch of two important books. The first: *Considering Animals* came out of the second Australian Animal Studies Group conference in Tasmania. The second: *Donkey* by Jill Bough was a monograph by the co-convenor of *Minding Animals*. In the evenings we enjoyed art exhibitions, cocktails, a conference dinner, and general revelry. There was so much good will among the delegates that it really was a magical experience.

On the final day the Australian Animal Studies group held its inaugural AGM. I was personally pleased to be stepping down after two years' service to the committee. But I was even more delighted to see how many conference participants were eager to fill the three open positions on the committee. It was also very satisfying to see Melissa Boyde named President and to learn that the University of Sydney will host the next conference in 2013. It's in my diary already – I can't wait!

Siobhan O'Sullivan, University of Melbourne

Keynote speakers: Nigel Rothfels reconsidered the remains of elephants in museum collections—their bones, and flesh, their hide, feet, tails and tusks. His talk brought together ideas about their lives as “feared despot” as the ‘terrible elephant, the monster of power’ and how in death elephants become game pieces, and objects of derision, amusement and fascinated curiosity. His moving story of a huge collection of skulls and bones provided a sad and thought-provoking beginning to the conference. Marsha Baum's presentation focussed on the tension between the definition of nonhuman animals as property under the law and societal changes in expectations of treatment of animals and on possible ways to use that tension to effect change in the status and treatment of animals. She used the example of chimps in research and animals in disasters as areas where this opportunity exists. Freya Mathews shared a personal tale of practical issues she encountered on a biodiversity reserve she has acquired. These involved difficult questions concerning commercial utilisation and ecology, animal life and meat-eating,

native and introduced animals, the welfare of species and individuals, and her ideas about how ecological and animal ethics might be reconciled.

The Flood Panel: A panel discussion brought all delegates back together in the QCA lecture theatre for the final event of the conference. Des Boyland from the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, Marsha Baum from the University of New Mexico, Mick Pecic from the RSPCA and Gary Wilson from DEEDI (Queensland Employment, Economic Development and Innovation) took turns to explain the effects of the recent natural disasters in Queensland and practices implemented to protect the welfare of both domestic and non-domestic animals. This was followed by a lively discussion, prompted by questions from the audience, that extended from horses trapped in flooded stables to providing post-cyclone food to cassowaries.



Members of the organizing committee. Back: Steven White, Mandy Peterson, Darryl Jones, Dian Riseley. Front: Gail Tulloch, Leah Burns



Keynote speaker Freya Matthews



Nigel Rothfels, Elle Leane, Carol Freeman and Yvette Watt at the launch of *Considering Animals*



Nigel Rothfels launches Jill Bough's *Donkey*



Mahmud Yogi Prayoga and Nick Malone



Sally Healy, Renee Chapman, Darryl Jones



Freya Matthews, Denise Russell, Matt Chrulew



Billie Josevska and Robert Cribb



Gail Tulloch and Jacqui D'Ath



Evelyn Tsitas and Kelly Boom



Nigel Rothfels and Peta Tait



Delegates enjoy the exhibition at QCA Gallery



Rick De Vos ponders an exhibit at QCA Gallery



Flood panel: Des Boyland, Marsha Baum, Mick Pecic, Gary Wilson



Photos for this report were supplied by Erin Burnett, Leah Burns, Jill Bough, Carol Freeman, and Elle Leane

For more information about the Brisbane conference see: <http://www.aasg.com.au/> or contact Leah Burns leah.burns@griffith.edu.au

Global Animal Conference Report

University of Wollongong, 7-8 July 2011. Convenor: Melissa Boyde



Global Animal, an international Animal Studies conference, ran over two days in July and attracted more than 60 delegates from areas as diverse as literary studies, circus history and fieldwork with Australian indigenous species, all connected by their interest in the rapidly-growing field.

The conference aimed to explore the implications of globalisation for non-human animals. Its themes included diasporic and oceanic animals, caged and captive animals, performance, writing and representation. A wide range of delegates, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of the field, came together to exchange ideas during this two day event. Proceedings began with a welcome reception at the Faculty of Creative Arts Gallery, and the opening of artist Michele Elliot's *the vanishing*. Sarah Miller gave a beautiful introduction to Elliot's work, appropriately interspersed with extracts from William Blake's 'The Tyger'. The installation, which explores the colonial legacy of hunting, comprised three life-size tiger sculptures, six thousand glass 'bullets' and three textile works with archival text embroidered on floating white cotton. The tigers were made in collaboration with a Bengali master craftsman and idol-maker, then cast in fiberglass. Two tigers were shrouded in calico wraps and one was covered in hand-stitched red velvet which juxtaposed the colour of blood with the tactile appeal of fur.

Thursday morning's sessions addressed writing, indigenous animals, captivity and ecology. Jane O'Sullivan discussed resistance to animal studies in scholarly contexts such as teaching and publishing. Alison Moore gave a paper written with Jason Grossman highlighting a linguistic conflation of individual and species interests. Dan Lunney addressed wildlife care in New South Wales, examining success rates and species differences, and their implications for wildlife management. In the afternoon, Wendy Woodward gave a keynote on diasporic giraffes, dealing with a Handspring Puppet Company play *Tall Horse* and J.M. Ledgard's novel *Giraffe*. Both texts concern giraffes taken to Europe at different periods, and Woodward used them to explore how animals take on symbolic significance within different historical and political contexts. These ideas were

accompanied by some thought-provoking images, including the puppet giraffe Sogo Jan containing visible human puppeteers.

In the following sessions, Ruth Billany presented preliminary findings from a global study on the health implications of woman-horse relationships. Rod Bennison gave a paper on the international use of animals in sport and the exploitation of racing dogs. These were followed by Peta Tait's paper on the practice of 'wearing' live leopards around the neck as the ultimate symbol of control in circuses. A leading expert on circus history, Tait's book *Wild and Dangerous Performances: Animals, Emotions, Circus* will be published later this year. We then saw a performance by acclaimed Sydney-based performance artist and director Nikki Heywood who created the performance *Museum of the sublime: relic #5* especially for *Global Animal*. This abstract performance work explored human-animal relations, including the issue of the live export trade, and engaged with themes of gender, species and embodiment.

On Friday, Rod Bennison offered a preview of the Minding Animals Conference to be held in Utrecht in 2012. John Simons then discussed swan ownership in medieval England, illustrating the species' aesthetic and symbolic significance during this period. Helen Tiffin dealt with representations of apes in fiction, noting that orang-utans seem especially close to humans, and demonstrating that they consequently appear in literature as foils highlighting human folly. Afternoon sessions included papers by Carol Freeman on the ethical implications of attempts to reverse extinction, and Emily Finlay on animals' conceptual role as the constitutive other of the human. There was also an artist's floor talk with Michele Elliot, and a public panel with Michele Elliot, Ace Bourke and John Simons and Nikki Heywood. This allowed for an open discussion, and included footage of Ace Bourke and John Rendall's reunion with Christian, a lion that was successfully returned to the wild in the 1970s.

Overall, the conference themes came together to build up a picture of human-animal relations in the context of globalisation, which reflected not only its exploitative aspects but also the increasing human desire to engage positively with animals. *Global Animal* was an inspiring and also a very friendly conference, thanks to some great presentations and the well-organised and welcoming hosts. The success of the *Global Animal* conference reveals the dynamic, growing interest that academics, artists and the community in general has in reconsidering and thinking through relations between humans and animals. Among a number of emails received by the conference convenor after the conference this one perhaps best sums up the event:

I just wanted to let you know how rewarding it was for me to be a part of the Global Animal Conference. I found the papers diverse and intriguing and the discussions very stimulating. From medieval swan ownership to ethical farming to Coetzee's Disgrace and dying dogs to Kira O'Reilly's pig performance to Milton's Paradise Lost to feral animal problems to Christian the lion and a debate about the manipulative quality of Whitney Houston's (!!) song overdub on the Youtube clip. What a great bunch of people and minds.

Report by Sally Borrell and Melissa Boyde



Organisers Alison Moore and Melissa Boyde



Morning tea at Global Animal



Keynote speaker Wendy Woodward



Marcus Baynes-Rock presents on hyenas in Harar



Ace Bourke (right) watching the YouTube video of Christian the Lion



Panel discussion: Nikki Heywood, Michele Elliot, John Simons, Ace Bourke



Above, right, and above right: Photos from Michele Elliot's floor talk at *the vanishing*.

Conferences and Symposiums: Updates, international conferences and seminars

- Agri-Food XVIII: **Sustainabilities, Justice and Agriculture in the Asia-Pacific Region**
5-8 December 2011. Australian National University, Canberra

CALL FOR PAPERS

Agri-Food XVIII is the annual meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Agri-Food Research Network. The Agri-Food Network was established in 1992 to provide a forum for researchers engaged in the critical analysis of contemporary agri-food systems. It is designed to facilitate and maintain the exchange of information amongst researchers in the Asia-Pacific region, to encourage collaborative research, to engage policy makers and other professionals, and to organise conferences and meetings. More information on the Network can be found at www.afrn.org.au. As with all annual meetings of the Network, potential participants are invited to submit abstracts on any aspect of the social and political life of food. Submissions that directly address the conference theme, however, are particularly welcome.

As extreme weather events, accelerating foreign acquisitions of agricultural land, and uncertainty over the magnitude and timing of future climate change impacts combine to put food security back on the political agenda in developed countries such as Australia and New Zealand, it is timely to consider questions such as:

- The impact of these trends on food security and population health more broadly within the region;
- The role of Australia and New Zealand as exporters of food, knowledge and expertise in regional food security;
- The respective roles of the state and private sectors in production, trade and consumption; and
- The challenges and opportunities posed for national strategies by private sector regulation.

Sustainabilities, justice and agriculture in the Asia-Pacific region highlights the inter-related dynamics of national and regional food security, environmental and livelihood sustainability, and the agri-food governance frameworks operating across the region. Proposals are invited for special themed sessions that engage in creative ways with the overall conference theme.

Deadline for submissions has been extended to 7 October, 2011

All proposals should be sent to the School of Sociology at the Australian National University via email at sociology@anu.edu.au.

For more information including submission details and registration see <http://sociology.cass.anu.edu.au/node/85>

- **Ethical Responses to Climate Change: Individual, Community, and Institutions.**
International Environment Forum 15th Annual Conference
10-11 December 2011. Bahá'í Centre of Learning, Hobart, Tasmania

Many respected concerned scientists now contend that that earth's climate system has reached and exceeded a tipping point due to human-enhanced levels of atmospheric greenhouse gases. According to many such scientists, the planetary climate is now expected to change significantly. Many areas potentially will soon be experiencing a harsher, more variable climate than known before in all of human history. Such envisioned changes have great likelihood to impact food supplies, water resources, biodiversity, human lifespan, and national economies. This conference will focus on the ethical responses needed to cope with such changes, focusing on the roles of individuals, communities, and institutions. The format of the conference will be key note speakers, panels, and workshops; it is intended to be a very participative conference, fostering an open sharing of ideas and strategies.

"Progress is of two kinds, material and spiritual. The former is attained through observation of the surrounding existence and constitutes the foundation of civilization. Spiritual progress is through the breaths of the Holy Spirit and is the awakening of the conscious soul of man..."
(Abdu'l-Baha, Bahá'í World Faith, p. 226)

This conference will include a number of very distinguished speakers both from within the Baha'i community and external to it. Speakers include, but are not limited to:

- Ms. Tessa Scrine, Member of the International Board of Baha'i Counsellors for Australia
- Dr. Arthur Dahl, President of the International Environmental Forum
- Dr. Natalie Mobini-Keshch, Chief of the External Affairs Office of the Australian Baha'i Community
- Dr. Arini Beaumaris, Member National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Australia
- Mr. Todd Houstien, President - Sustainable Living Australia
- Mr. Gareth Johnson, Founder of Future Forward
- Mr. Peter Adriance, NGO Environmental Liaison for the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S.A.
- Dr. Miriam Pepper, Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC)
- Mr. Peter Boyer, Climate Tasmania and noted journalist

Registration fees of \$120 per person includes conference registration, conference materials, and catered food for all breaks and lunches served at the Tasmanian Baha'i Centre of Learning. There is also a limited opportunity to provide an individual conference support donation for the meeting at a \$100, \$500 or a \$1,000 level.

If you have questions please email: Oz_IEF_Regos@msn.com.

For more information and tickets see: <http://www.tasbcl.com.au>

- **Non-human in Anthropology II: Limits and Boundaries of Social Science**
19-20 November 2011. Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, Prague

CALL FOR PAPERS

Anthropologists as well as scholars from a wide range of other disciplines of humanities, social, historical or environmental sciences are cordially welcome to participate. The conference is international, thus scholars from Central European region as well as beyond are encouraged to apply.

The conference seeks to create an intellectually stimulating environment for the debate about the non-human of (social science) research and its role in re-defining the limits and boundaries of social science. We welcome papers addressing theoretical, methodological, and epistemological issues as well as papers dealing with particular non-human themes. The working language of the conference is English.

Submissions closed 10th September.

For more information see: <http://www.fhs.cuni.cz/nonhuman/>

- **Animal Ethics and Sustainable Food**
2 December 2011. University of Newcastle, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, U.K.

This conference will provide an opportunity to bring together the best scholars working on the intersections between animal ethics, sustainability, and food policy, and to develop further capacity and stimulate community action in this field. Scholars from different disciplines as well as those who adopt interdisciplinary perspectives are welcomed to submit extended abstracts insofar as they engage with the question of how governments should address the ethical issues raised by the consumption of animal products. To contextualise the problem, abstracts should address the

following question: “How should the UK Government regulate the consumption of animal products?”

The conference is needed to build capacity as well as consolidate existing scholarship and community action on the ethics and politics associated with the consumption of animal products. Internationally, the field of human-animal studies has gained impetus through the ‘Minding Animals’ conferences, the first of which was held at the University of Newcastle, Australia, in 2009, and the second of which will be held in 2012. The planned conference will serve as a pre-conference for the latter, which will provide a further opportunity to explore the theme of animal ethics and sustainable food policy. The Newcastle Animal Ethics and Sustainable Food Policy conference will provide an opportunity to address the question of how governments should regulate the consumption of animal products. Whereas speakers are invited to focus on the UK with its distinctive social, economic, geographical, and climatological context, they should also consider how UK policies might differ from as well as inspire policies that might be adopted in other legal contexts.

Academic organising committee:

- Jan Deckers (conference chair, Institute of Health and Society, Newcastle University)
- Cristina Fernandez-Garcia (Institute of Health and Society, Newcastle University)
- Jonny Anomaly (University of North Carolina and Duke University)
- Rod Bennison (CEO, Minding Animals International)

Submissions closed on August 30.

To register, please complete the booking form at <http://forms.ncl.ac.uk/view.php?id=1993>

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

- **Food Studies : An Interdisciplinary Conference**

8-10 December 2011. University of Nevada at Las Vegas, NV, USA

CALL FOR PAPERS

This conference will address contemporary food challenges from interdisciplinary perspectives by providing an international forum for the discussion of agricultural, environmental, nutritional, health, social, economic and cultural perspectives on food. Contributions range from broad theoretical and global policy explorations, to detailed studies of specific human-physiological, nutritional and social dynamics of food. Disciplinary perspectives include research involving health behavior and health education, food science, nutrition, agriculture, climate, culinary arts, marketing, communications, economics, sociology, anthropology, geography, biology, medicine, public health, and pharmacology. In contrast to conferences with a specialist disciplinary focus, this conference will range across big picture questions of public policy to the fine detail of research and practice-based discussion. This is a time of growing public and research awareness of the relations between diet, health, nutrition availability and the impact on the wellbeing of the global population.

Plenary speakers include:

- Janet Flammang, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, USA
- Bill Winders, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA

We welcome presentation proposals which range from broad explorations of theoretical, methodological and policy questions, to proposals which present finely grained evidence of the connections of economics, public health, government and community practices, sociological, medical and educational perspectives of food in our societies. Participants at the conference will include researchers, teachers, administrators, policy makers and practitioners whose interests range across public health, food sciences, anthropology, education, economics, communications and the social sciences.

Presenters' written papers can be submitted for publication in the peer-reviewed, *Food Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. If you are unable to attend the conference in person, virtual registrations are also available, which allow you to submit a paper for possible publication in the Journal.

Deadline for submissions: 6 September 2011. ***Future deadlines will be announced on the conference website, after this date.

For full details of the conference, including an online proposal submission form, please visit the website <http://food-studies.com/conference-2011/>

- **Nature and the Popular Imagination**

5th International Conference for the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture

August 2012. Pepperdine University, Malibu, USA

CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture is pleased to announce its next conference in Malibu, California at Pepperdine University in August 2012. Along with keynote addresses and other scholarly sessions, a number of special events and excursions are in the works, including a scholar-led tour of The Getty Villa in Malibu, discussions with prominent filmmakers and actors, hiking trips in the Santa Monica Mountains, and opportunities to enjoy the beautiful and famous Malibu coast.

As always, while we encourage proposals focused on the conference's theme, "Nature and the Popular Imagination", we welcome proposals from all areas (regional and historical) and from all disciplinary perspectives that explore the complex relationships between religious beliefs and practices (however defined and understood), cultural traditions and productions, and the earth's diverse ecological systems. We encourage proposals that emphasize dialogue and discussion, promote collaborative research, and are unusual in terms of format and structure. Individual paper and session proposals, as are typical with most scholarly associations, are also welcome.

Deadline for proposals; 1 April, 2012.

For more information and updates, please go to:

<http://www.religionandnature.com/society/conferences.htm#malibu>

- **Sex, Gender, Species**

February 2011. [View abstracts](#)

The growing field of animal studies has turned critical attention to the real conditions and stakes of human-animal relations. It has also become a new and important focus for debates over identity and difference that have embroiled academic theory over the past quarter century. Recent scholarship on animal otherness as well as discussions of how to traverse boundaries of difference often draws upon a history of feminist theory and practice even as this borrowing remains unacknowledged. The purpose of this conference was to foreground the relations between feminist and animal studies and to examine the real and theoretical problems that are central to both fields of inquiry.

Abstracts from this conference, held in February 2011 at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut are available at <http://sexgenderspecies.conference.wesleyan.edu/abstracts/>

- **Minding Animals Conference Pre-Conference Events**

To July 2012. Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Summary:

Animal Protection and Welfare. University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brno, Czech Republic, September 20-21. For more information, see <http://www.vfu.cz/welfare/>

Testing Times: a symposium on the ethics and epistemology of animal experimentation. Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, September 20-21

Animal Citizens. London School of Economics, London, October 7

Animal Ecologies in Visual Culture. University College, London, October 8. For details and tickets see <http://www.antennae.org.uk/>

Animal Studies: Changing the Subject? New York University, Washington Square, October 14.
Shared Worlds. Domus Nova, Oslo, October 14-15

Reconfiguring the “human”/“animal” binary – resisting violence: The 2nd Annual European Conference for Critical Animal Studies. The Department of Sociology, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, October 15-16. For more information see: <http://humanimal.cz/CAS/>

Zooethnographies. University of Uppsala, Sweden, October 17-18.

Representing Animals in Britain: an International Interdisciplinary Conference. Rennes 2 University, Rennes, France. October 20-21.

Animals and the Law. Facultat de Dret, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain. October 24-25.

Minding Animals in Switzerland. University of Geneva, Switzerland, October 27.

The Animal Gaze Returned. London Metropolitan University in Whitechapel, London, October 27-28. See <http://www.animalgaze.org/>

Animals and Aesthetics. Universität der Künste Berlin, October 29-30.

Buddhism and the New World Order: Compassion, Animal Welfare and Conservation. New Delhi, India. November 26-30.

For more details and updates see www.mindinganimals.com

Groups, Institutes and Networks: Fellowships, programs, awards, membership

Voiceless: The Animal Protection Institute

People’s Choice Awards

The \$15,000 People’s Choice Award is presented through the Voiceless 2011 Grants Program and is decided on by a public vote. The People’s Choice Award is funded by public donations received over the year, and is an opportunity for the Australian animal protection community to get involved in deciding one of the projects that will be funded through this annual Grants Program.

By informing consumer choices, tackling the cruelty of jumps racing and training animal activists, Voiceless's 2011 People's Choice candidates are proposing some exciting project initiatives.

Voting opens September 5. See <http://www.voiceless.org.au/pc2011> to cast your vote.

New patrons

Voiceless is thrilled to announce that its most senior ranks have been strengthened by the appointment of two additional eminent Patrons, world-renowned primatologist and animal advocate, [Dr Jane Goodall](#), and leading international jurist and social justice advocate, The [Hon Michael Kirby](#) AC CMG, former Justice of the High Court of Australia.

Michael and Jane share Voiceless's conviction that we have an ethical obligation to defend the interests of our fellow sentient beings who have no voice.

Voiceless wholeheartedly welcomes their exceptional intellects, their advice and their ideas as we collectively work towards establishing animal protection as the next great social justice movement.

Listen to the podcast of ABC Radio National Breakfast (576 on the AM dial) on Thursday 21st July at 6:45am to hear Michael Kirby speak about his passion for animals and why he believes animal protection should come to the forefront of our moral consciousness.

To read all the details about the new Patrons, please visit:
<http://www.voiceless.org.au/>

Animal Law Lecture Series

In 2011 this lecture series has travelled to law firms and schools in all major capitals. Guest lecturer Peter Stevenson, Chief Policy Adviser of Compassion in World Farming, shared his compelling insights on legal recognition of animal sentience, reform of laws on farm animals and how Australia is falling behind European advances. His presentations attracted a high level of attendance and extensive media interest nationally. He appeared on *Landline*, *SMH*, *AFR*, *Lawyers Weekly*, *ABC Radio National Breakfast* and other radio interviews. Further on animal law, Voiceless was featured in *Lawyers Weekly* discussing the growth of animal protection as the "next social justice movement".

For more information see: http://www.voiceless.org.au/About_Us/On_The_Airwaves/

Australian Museum

Sherman Eureka Prize for Environmental Research 2011

The Devils' Advocates researchers—Menna Jones, Hamish McCallum, Kathy Belov, Greg Woods and Anne-Maree Pearse—are this year's winners for their research on the conservation of the Tasmanian Devil: "Striking Back Against the Devil's Own Disease".

The multi-disciplinary team comprises Dr Menna Jones, from the School of Zoology at the University of Tasmania; Professor Hamish McCallum, head of the School of Environment at Griffith University; Associate Professor Kathy Belov, from the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney; Associate Professor Greg Woods at the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania; and Anne-Maree Pearse, from the Save the Tasmanian Devil program at the state's Animal Health Laboratory.

"This insidious cancer is the clearest case yet of a disease threatening the extinction of an animal as a direct consequence of loss of genetic diversity, a problem that is occurring at an increasing rate in many wild species," says Frank Howarth, Director of the Australian Museum. "Although this disease is unique, the research team's findings provide valuable lessons for the management of emerging diseases in other wildlife populations around the world."

Dr Jones commented that winning a Eureka Prize will help highlight the plight of the Tasmanian devil and will also open doors for more research.

The \$10,000 Sherman Eureka Prize for Environmental Research is awarded for research in any field of the biological, physical, mathematical or biomedical sciences leading to the resolution of an environmental problem or the improvement of our natural environment.

For more information and other winners see: <http://eureka.australianmuseum.net.au>

Environmental Futures Centre, Griffith University

About the Centre

The Environmental Futures Centre believes collaborative, multidisciplinary research to be essential to ensuring the future of the environment. This collaborative approach to research is encouraged at all levels of organisation; innovative investigation is the best approach for developing new solutions for new challenges.

The breadth of their research capabilities is considered a strength. The expertise of members can be grouped into a number of core research themes, however by no means are these research themes a limit to what they can do.

- Biodiversity and Conservation
- Ecological Restoration and Management
- Sustainable Landscapes
- Environmental Policy and Governance
- Climate Change and Platform Technologies
- Ancient DNA and Biodiversity
- Emerging Infectious Diseases

Beyond their research themes, the organisational structure of the Centre supports the development of strategic research programs: Centre for Clean Environment and Energy, International Centre for the Management of Pest Fruit Flies

For more information see: <http://www.griffith.edu.au/environment-planning-architecture/environmental-futures-centre/research>

The Institute for Social Transformation Research, University of Wollongong

CROMM Intensive Writing project

The ISTR aims to build Australia's capacity to understand and engage with the globalising forces that are increasingly technologically mediated, but that continue to be configured by spatial, economic and temporal constraints. ISTR research is therefore cross-disciplinary, practical and project based, involving collaboration across geographical locations, and drawing from disciplines such as politics, sociology, philosophy, cultural studies, literary studies, language and linguistics, creative arts, geography, media studies, history, anthropology, economics and law.

Current projects in human-animal studies are:

Creative Research Processes and Outcomes in Global Animal Conference—contact: Professor Amanda Lawson.

Discourse Intersections: Human-Animal-Environment-Culture—contact: Dr Alison Moore

For more information about the Institute and these projects see: <http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/research/istr/currentprojects/index.html>

The Animals and Society Institute and Wesleyan Animal Studies

Annual Summer Fellowship Program

This interdisciplinary program enables 6-8 fellows to pursue research in residence at Wesleyan University at the College of the Environment. Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut is a selective private, coeducational, non-sectarian school of liberal arts and sciences known for the excellence of its academic and co-curricular programs. Wesleyan's College of the Environment was created in 2009 with a belief in the resilience of the human spirit and a desire to engage students and scholars in discussions about environmental issues and their social and political impact.

The fellowship is hosted by Wesleyan faculty Lori Gruen and Kari Weil. Gruen is Chair and Professor of Philosophy, Environmental Studies, and Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Wesleyan, and author of *Ethics and Animals: An Introduction* (Cambridge, 2011). Weil is a University Professor of Letters at Wesleyan, and author of *Thinking Animals: An Introduction* (Columbia, 2012).

The fellowship is designed to support recipients' individual research through mentorship, guest lectures, and scholarly exchange among fellows and opportunities to contribute to the intellectual life of the host institution. All fellows must be in continuous residence for the duration of the program, May 29 - July 6.

The fellowships are open to scholars from any discipline investigating a topic related to human-animal relationships. Selected topics from previous years' programs include:

- Analyzing one County's Attempt to go "No Kill"
- Animal Ethics in Cold War Literary Culture
- Animal Experimentation and Animal Welfare in Twentieth Century Anglo-American Science
- Animal Research in Theory and Practice
- Animals and Colonialism
- Cloning Extinct Species of Mammals
- Ethics and Politics in Environmental Discourse in India
- Gender Relations in Cattle Ranching
- Genetically Engineered Pigs
- Human Animal Relationships at the Duke Lemur Center
- Inter-species Identity and Alterity in a Video Game
- Legal Personhood, Animal Advocacy, and Human-Animal Relationships
- Literary Representations of Dogs
- Media Representations of the 2007 Pet Food Recall
- Science and Policies Affecting Elephants in Captivity
- The Animal Rights Movements in France and the United States
- The Human-Animal Relationship for Veterinary Students
- Victorian Quaker Women's Contributions to Feminist-Animal Ethics
- Xenotransplantation and Black Market Organs

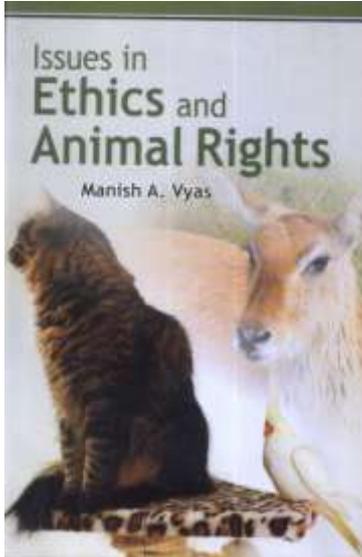
Application deadline: November 30, 2011

Amount of Award: Scholars selected to participate in the fellowship program will be awarded a stipend of \$3,000 to help cover travel costs, housing, living expenses, books and other research expenses. The fellowship does not pay for housing; fellows will be responsible for finding, and paying for, their own housing.

For application information and details regarding eligibility see:
<http://www.animalsandsociety.org/content/index.php?pid=101>

New Books

ISSUES IN ETHICS AND ANIMAL RIGHTS edited by **Manish A. Vyas**. New Delhi, Regency Publications, 2011

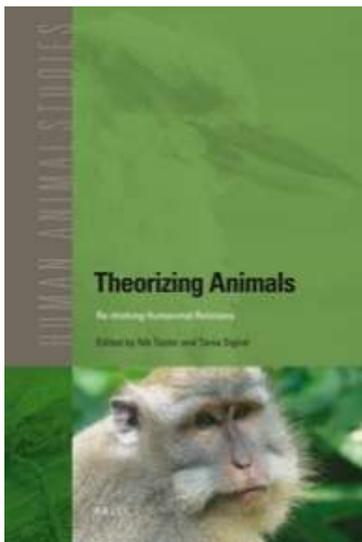


This anthology has the potential to become a highly valuable source for the general reading audience as well as the many postgraduate and research scholars at the forefront of postcolonial and multidisciplinary studies. It will serve as a reference guide for the scholars interested in the branches of postcolonial studies, ethics and animal rights across the world. It brings together an all-star cast of contributors to explore the literary, philosophical and religious issues that underlie the campaign for ethics and animal right. Addressing ethical questions about ownership, protection against unjustified suffering and the ability of animals to make their own choices free from human control, the authors offer different perspectives on animal rights and animal welfare. They show that whatever one's ultimate conclusion, the relationship between human beings and animals in being fundamentally rethought and reevaluated. This book offers a state-of-the-art treatment of that rethinking and is, therefore, unique in the sense that it is one of the few books that attempts to deal with these issues from the points of view of ethics, religion and literature showing us how a small part of the natural world illuminates our

own human existence.

The collection is divided into three section: Ethical and Philosophical Perspectives, Religious Outlooks, Literary and Media Positions. The thirty–six contributors include: Freya Mathews, Marc Bekoff, Ralph R. Acampora, Alyce Miller, Wendy Woodward, Sally Borrell, Rod Bennison and Lisa Kemmerer.

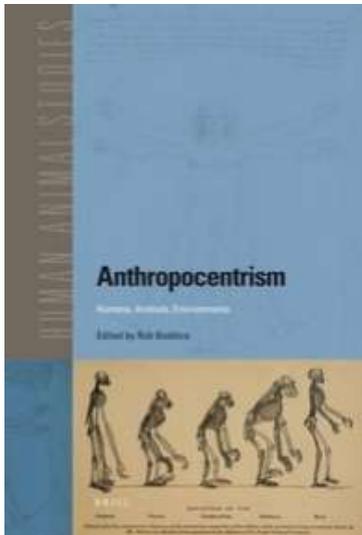
THEORIZING ANIMALS: Rethinking Humananimal Relations edited by **Nik Taylor and Tania Signal**. Brill, Human-Animal Studies Series, 2011.



Utilizing ideas from post-modernism and post-humanism, this book challenges current ways of thinking about animals and their relationships with humans. Including contributions from across the social sciences, the book encourages readers to reflect upon taken-for- granted ways of conceptualizing human relationships with animals. It will be of interest to those in the broad field of human-animal studies as well as those within most social science and humanities disciplines, including sociology, anthropology, philosophy and social theory.

Nik Taylor has a PhD in Sociology from Manchester Metropolitan University and is currently a Senior Lecturer at Flinders University, Australia. She has published considerably in the areas of the sociology of human-animal relations. **Tania Signal** has a PhD in Psychology from University of Waikato (NZ) and is a Senior Lecturer at Central Queensland University. She has published widely around the psychological and social aspects of human-animal relations.

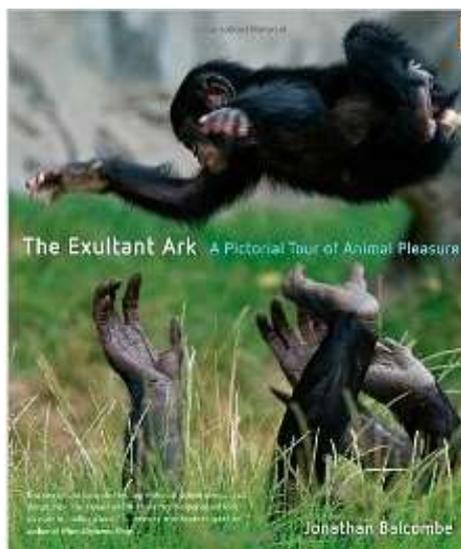
ANTHROPOCENTRISM: Humans, Animals, Environments edited by **Rob Boddice**.
Brill, Human-Animal Studies Series, 2011



Anthropocentrism is a charge of human chauvinism and an acknowledgement of human ontological boundaries. Anthropocentrism has provided order and structure to humans' understanding of the world, while unavoidably expressing the limits of that understanding. This collection explores the assumptions behind the label 'anthropocentrism', critically enquiring into the meaning of 'human'. It addresses the epistemological and ontological problems of charges of anthropocentrism, questioning whether all human views are inherently anthropocentric. In addition, it examines the potential scope for objective, empathetic, relational, or 'other' views that trump anthropocentrism. With a principal focus on ethical questions concerning animals, the environment and the social, the essays ultimately cohere around the question of the non-human, be it animal, ecosystem, god, or machine.

Rob Boddice has a doctorate in History, University of York and is a member of the Sonderforschungsbereich 640 at Humboldt University, Berlin. He has published widely in the history of human-animal relations, most recently *Vivisection Major*, Isis, 101 (2011)

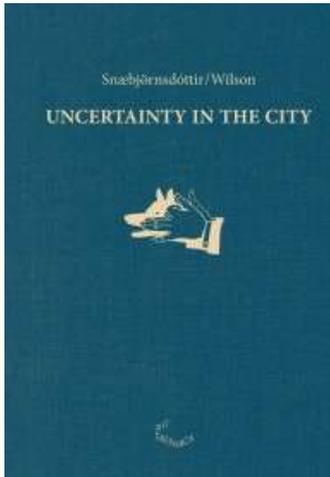
THE EXULTANT ARK: A Pictorial Tour of Animal Pleasure by **Jonathan Balcombe**.
University of California Press, 2011



Nature documentaries often depict animal life as a grim struggle for survival, but this visually stunning book opens our eyes to a different, more scientifically up-to-date way of looking at the animal kingdom. In more than one hundred thirty striking images, *The Exultant Ark* celebrates the full range of animal experience with dramatic portraits of animal pleasure ranging from the charismatic and familiar to the obscure and bizarre. These photographs, windows onto the inner lives of pleasure seekers, show two polar bears engaged in a bout of wrestling, hoary marmots taking time for a friendly chase, Japanese macaques enjoying a soak in a hot spring, a young bull elk sticking out his tongue to catch snowflakes, and many other rewarding moments. Biologist and best-selling author Jonathan Balcombe is our guide, interpreting the images within the scientific context of what is known about animal behavior. In the end, old attitudes fall away as we gain a heightened sense of animal individuality and of the pleasures that make life worth living for all sentient beings.

Jonathan Balcombe is formerly Senior Research Scientist at the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. His books include *Second Nature: The Inner Lives of Animals* and *Pleasurable Kingdom: Animals and the Nature of Feeling Good*.

UNCERTAINTY IN THE CITY by Snæbjörnsdóttir/Wilson. Berlin: The Green Box, 2011.



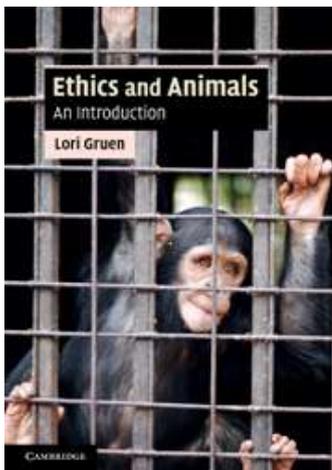
Snæbjörnsdóttir/Wilson: *Uncertainty in the City* is a result of a research project in which Bryndis Snæbjörnsdóttir and Mark Wilson investigated margins of tolerance in the often uneasy relationship between humans and other animals. During their research they observed ambivalence and contradictory vested interests in relation to a wide range of creatures. Most significant is the mixture of responses, the paradoxical nature of human attitudes towards agents of the 'wild', and the implicit cohesion-in-tension of the human/nature paradigm. *Uncertainty in the City* is a guidebook that looks at the human response to the other, to the animals that surround us.

The form of the book echoes the genre of field guides, underlining the research-based nature of the artistic practice of Snæbjörnsdóttir/Wilson. With texts by Erica Fudge, Chris Wilbert, Peter Lurz and Rikke Hansen.

See also <http://www.radioanimal.org/> and <http://www.snaebjornsdottirwilson.com/uncertainty.php>

Bryndís Snæbjörnsdóttir & Mark Wilson conduct their collaborative practice from bases in the north of England, Iceland and Gothenburg, Sweden. With a strong research grounding, their socially engaged projects explore contemporary relationships between human and non-human animals in the contexts of history, culture and the environment. The practice sets out to challenge anthropocentric systems and thinking that sanction loss through representation of the other, proposing instead, alternative tropes of 'parities in meeting'. The work is installation based, using objects, text, photography and video.

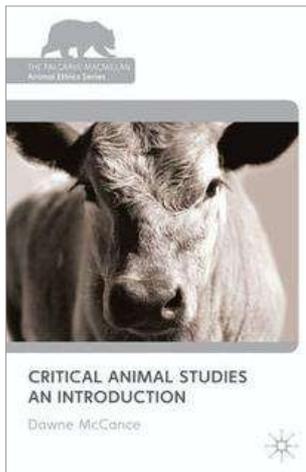
ETHICS AND ANIMALS by Lori Gruen. Cambridge University Press, 2011.



In this fresh and comprehensive introduction to animal ethics, Lori Gruen weaves together poignant and provocative case studies with discussions of ethical theory, urging readers to engage critically and empathetically reflect on our treatment of other animals. In clear and accessible language, Gruen provides a survey of the issues central to human-animal relations and a reasoned new perspective on current key debates in the field. She analyses and explains a range of theoretical positions and poses challenging questions that directly encourage readers to hone their ethical reasoning skills and to develop a defensible position about their own practices. Her book will be an invaluable resource for students in a wide range of disciplines including ethics, environmental studies, veterinary science, women's studies, and the emerging field of animal studies and is an engaging account of the subject for general readers with no prior background in philosophy.

Lori Gruen has been involved in animal issues as a writer, teacher, and activist for over 25 years. She trained as a philosopher and works broadly on topics in practical ethics and political philosophy. She has taught at the University of Colorado, the University of British Columbia, Lafayette College, the University of North Carolina, Stanford University, New York University, and Wesleyan University. She has published and lectured widely on topics in animal ethics, including the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* entry on the Moral Status of Non-Human Animals and the illustrated book *Animal Liberation: A Graphic Guide* (with Peter Singer and artist David Hines).

CRITICAL ANIMAL STUDIES: An Introduction by Dawne McCance Palgrave Macmillan, Palgrave Macmillan Animal Ethics Series, 2011

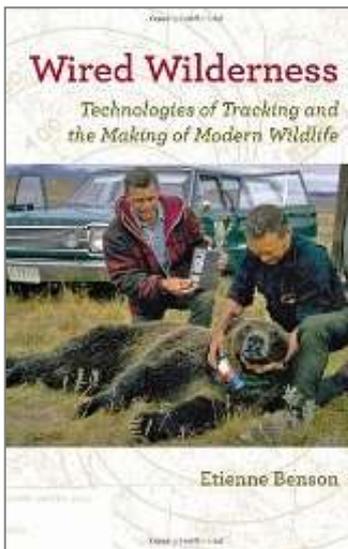


Critical animal studies is an emerging but increasingly recognized area in which animals are studied in a variety of cross-disciplinary ways. Scholars from diverse fields seek to understand both human-animal relations now and in the past, and to understand animals as beings-in-themselves separate from our knowledge of them.

Table of Contents; Series Editors' Foreword; General Introduction Critical Animal Studies; Conceptualizing Animals; Approaches to Animal Ethics; Key Questions for Critical Animal Studies; Key Issues for Critical Animal Studies; Getting Started: Twelve Key Texts; Notes, Bibliography, Index

Dawne McCance is University Distinguished Professor at the University of Manitoba, Canada.

WIRED WILDERNESS: Technologies of Tracking and the Making of Modern Wildlife by Etienne Benson. The John Hopkins University Press, 2010.



American wildlife biologists first began fitting animals with radio transmitters in the 1950s. By the 1980s the practice had proven so useful to scientists and nonscientists alike that it became global. *Wired Wilderness* is the first book-length study of the origin, evolution, use, and impact of these now-commonplace tracking technologies.

Combining approaches from environmental history, the history of science and technology, animal studies, and the cultural and political history of the United States, Etienne Benson traces the radio tracking of wild animals across a wide range of institutions, regions, and species and in a variety of contexts. He explains how hunters, animal-rights activists, and other conservation-minded groups gradually turned tagging from a tool for control into a conduit for connection with wildlife. Drawing on extensive archival research, interviews with wildlife biologists and engineers, and in-depth case studies of specific conservation issues—such as the management of deer, grouse, and other game animals in the upper

Midwest and the conservation of tigers and rhinoceroses in Nepal—Benson illuminates telemetry's context-dependent uses and meanings as well as commonalities among tagging practices.

Wired Wilderness traces the evolution of the modern wildlife biologist's field practices and shows how the intense interest of nonscientists at once constrained and benefited the field. Scholars of and researchers involved in wildlife management will find this history both fascinating and revealing.

Etienne Benson is a historian of the environmental sciences with a particular interest in the field practices of late twentieth-century conservation biology. He has degrees in cognitive neuroscience from Harvard College and psychology from Stanford University. He is currently a research scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science,

Reaktion Books Animal Series

Editor Jonathan Burt

Forthcoming Titles:

Chicken by Annie Potts.

No creature has been subject to such extremes of reverence and exploitation as the chicken. Hens have been venerated as cosmic creators and roosters as solar divinities. Many cultures have found the mysteries of birth, healing, death and resurrection encapsulated in the hen's egg. Yet today, most of us have nothing to do with chickens as living beings, although billions are consumed around the world every year.

Sparrow by Kim Todd

Innocent. Invader. Lover. Thief. Sparrows are everywhere, in many guises. They are cherished pets, subject of elegies by Catullus and John Skelton, listed as 'pretty things' in Sei Shonagon's *Pillow Book*. In many countries they are appallingly successful non-natives, attacking indigenous birds and ravaging ecosystems. Able to live in the Arctic and the desert, from Beijing to San Francisco, the house sparrow is the most widespread wild bird in the world.

Trout by James Owen.

Leaping effortlessly from the bright stream into the human mind, the trout captivates like no other fish. An ancient fascination that can be traced back to Stone Age cave dwellers, the trout surfaces in our diet, religion, folklore, history, science, literature and, of course, fishermen's tales.

Wolf by Garry Marvin.

Feared, reviled and revered, the wolf has always evoked powerful emotions in humans. It has been admired as a powerful hunter; feared for the threat it is imagined to pose to humans; reviled for its depredations on domestic livestock and revered as a potent symbol of the wild.

Reviews of the series:

"One of the great strengths of this series is its breadth and willingness to allow authors to write passionately about animal species not often given any real consideration" – *Anthrozoos*

"Part cultural history, part folklore, part history of science and reference books, these works gracefully traverse time, place and disciplinary approaches to explore a single animal's place in human history. Replete with images and written in an accessible style, they are sure to appeal to a range of audiences" – *British Journal for the History of Science*

"The series . . . calls itself "a new kind of animal history". It is, splendidly, even brilliantly, so. I have nothing but praise for it" – *The Spectator*

For an interview with Jonathan Burt, editor of the Animal series, "Animals Reconsidered: A series ponders humans' encounters with other kinds of flesh and blood", see the *Chronicle of Higher Education* <http://chronicle.com/article/Animals-Reconsidered/48803/>

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

Crime, Law and Social Change

Volume 55, no 5. June 2011 **Special Issue: Animal Abuse and Criminology**

Guest Editors: Piers Beirne and Jennifer Maher

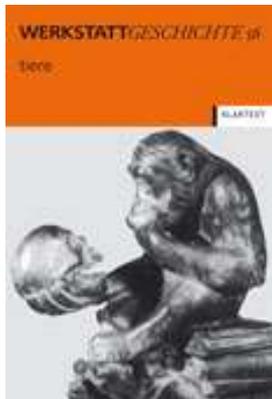
- A note on the facticity of animal trials in early modern Britain; or, the curious prosecution of farmer Carter's dog for murder—Piers Beirne
- RSPCA and the criminology of social control Gordon Hughes and Claire Lawson
- Then they came for the dogs!—Simon Hallsworth
- Friends, status symbols and weapons: the use of dogs by youth groups and youth gangs—Jennifer Maher and Harriet Pierpoint
- Developing a common law of animal welfare: offences against animals and offences against persons compared—Darren Calley
- Expressions of speciesism: the effects of keeping companion animals on animal abuse, animal trafficking and species decline—Ragnhild Sollund
- Examining the links between animal abuse and human violence—Clifton P. Flynn
- Criminalizing protests about animal abuse. Recent Irish experience in global context—Roger Yates
- An autoethnography of hunting—Lois Presser and William V. Taylor

For access see: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/0925-4994/55/5/>

Werkstatt Geschichte

Volume 56 **Special Issue: Animals in Historiography**

Editors: Mieke Roscher & André Krebber



Animals are currently en vogue in academic debates. This is more applicable for English speaking regions than their German counterparts. Interest, however, is slowly rising in the latter ones as well. Thus, the German journal for critical historiography, *WerkstattGeschichte*, has dedicated its current issue to “animals in historiography”. Two of the three published articles are in German and relate primarily to German history, their authors deliberately try to write history from a HAS perspective. For this reason they put suggested theoretical approaches and historical methods to test, evaluating HAS in empirical application. Furthermore, we think there are specific historiographic traditions represented in the articles, which perhaps have not yet been properly evaluated for the writing of animal history and could therefore stimulate the discussion further.

Abstracts to the articles in the issue are accessible in English online:

- Bernhard Gißibl: The Colonized Animal and the Ecology of Contact Zones in German Colonialism
- Brett Mizelle: “A man quite as much of a show as his beasts”: James Capen “Grizzly” Adams and the Making of Grizzly Bears
- Anna-Katharina Wöbse/ Mieke Roscher: Zoo Animals in World War II: London and Berlin 1939-1945

The articles approach the writing of animal history via the subject of “animals in conflicts” and shed light on contradictions in the relation of humans to animals by focusing on the process of drawing boundaries between them. They address the relevance of extreme situations like wars, colonial reigns or life in pioneering societies in view of the shifting boundaries between humans and

animals, asking in what historical contexts tensions arose in the perpetuation of boundaries and in which contexts they were reinforced. Following the core impulse of the HAS, questions of material consequences for the animals resulting from their position and of limitations to the discursive and actual strategies of claiming the animal (where forms of animal agency are indicated) are of particular significance for the issue.

Despite the remarkable pioneering work that has been delivered by human-animal studies scholars so far, efforts for a human-animal historiography are still in its infancy. To further develop the area, we have to ask in what way, and to what ends, animals influence and interact with human societies. How does this affect our understanding of human societies and what methodical and theoretical requirements and consequences arise from these questions? Can human sources be used for a historiography of animals? If so, how do they have to be read? What alternative sources might be available? Can they be analyzed hermeneutically, or do they have to be scrutinized regarding their validity and ideological constraints? And how can the coexistence of animals and humans adequately be framed in theoretical terms? In this respect, the issue titled *Animals* is understood as a workshop, in which methodical approaches are tested with theoretical concepts in mind. Thus, we hope to give impetus for further discussions, to fathom and evaluate the potentialities and advantages of a human-animal historiography.

For access and more information see: <http://www.werkstattgeschichte.de/>

Art & Research: A Journal of Ideas, Contexts and Methods

Volume 4, no 1, 2011 **Special Issues: Art and the Animal Revolution**

Editor Ron Broglio

Table of Contents

- Introduction: Art and the Animal Revolution: Ron Broglio and Ross Brirrell (general editor)
- Different Becomings: Giovanni Aloï
- Stains, Drains, and Automobiles: Susan McHugh in conversation with Steve Baker
- Fostering Pidgins: Helen Bullard
- Moves Toward the Incomprehensible Wild: Emma Cocker
- Am I leopard? Seeking Animation and Other Possibilities: Roz Cran
- Fieldnotes from the Urban Pastoral: Maria Fusco
- The Coming non-Human Community: Ron Broglio in conversation with Fredrick Young
- Reflections on the Vitrine: Nigel Rothfels in conversation with Ingvild Kaldal
- Approaching Animality: Carolee Schneemann
- In Conversation with Kate Foster: Bryndis Snæbjörnsdóttir / Mark Wilson and Kate Foster
- Animalisms: Jan Verwoert
- Cat Stuck in Organ: Alan Currall

For access see: <http://www.artandresearch.org.uk/>

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Wildlife Society Bulletin

Editor: Warren Ballard. Published on behalf of The Wildlife Society

The *Wildlife Bulletin* is back! Once one of the most popular wildlife journals, the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* was recently re-launched. Published on the behalf of the Wildlife Society, the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* reaches the professional community of scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, and others who work actively to study, manage, and conserve wildlife and its habitats worldwide.

For wildlife practitioners, this publication effectively explores the practical application of scientific research in wildlife management and conservation, and also covers important policy issues.

Wildlife Society Bulletin includes articles on contemporary wildlife management and conservation, education, administration, law enforcement, and review articles on the philosophy and history of wildlife management and conservation.

The *Wildlife Society Bulletin* seeks papers on a wide range of topics including:

- Reports on practices designed to achieve wildlife management or conservation goals
- Retrospective analyses of wildlife management and conservation programs, including the reasons for success or failure
- Presentation of new techniques or evaluation of techniques for studying or managing wildlife
- Analyses or reports of wildlife policies, regulations, education, administration, and law enforcement
- Review articles on the philosophy and history of wildlife management and conservation
- Book reviews focused on applied research, policy, or wildlife management and conservation

For more information, including contributors guidelines, see:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291938-5463>

Exhibitions: Discussions, talks, workshops, calls for submission

Art and the Animal – Elizabeth Grosz

This talk by Elizabeth Grosz, which took place at Damien Minton Gallery Redfern, Sydney in July, indicates a widening interest in the animal and animal issues—here, in the context of Aboriginal art.

Trained in continental philosophy, Grosz has written widely on the body, sexuality, space, time and materiality. She has taught at the University of Sydney, Monash University, and SUNY Buffalo, and is currently Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University. She spoke to the gallery about what and where her philosophy and ideas are now heading, focusing on eight 'theses' about art and the animal.

Her talk begins with a quote: "In truth, there are only inhumanities, humans are made exclusively of inhumanities, but very different ones, of very different natures and speeds".

Deleuze and Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus*, 1987: 190.

She then asks the questions:

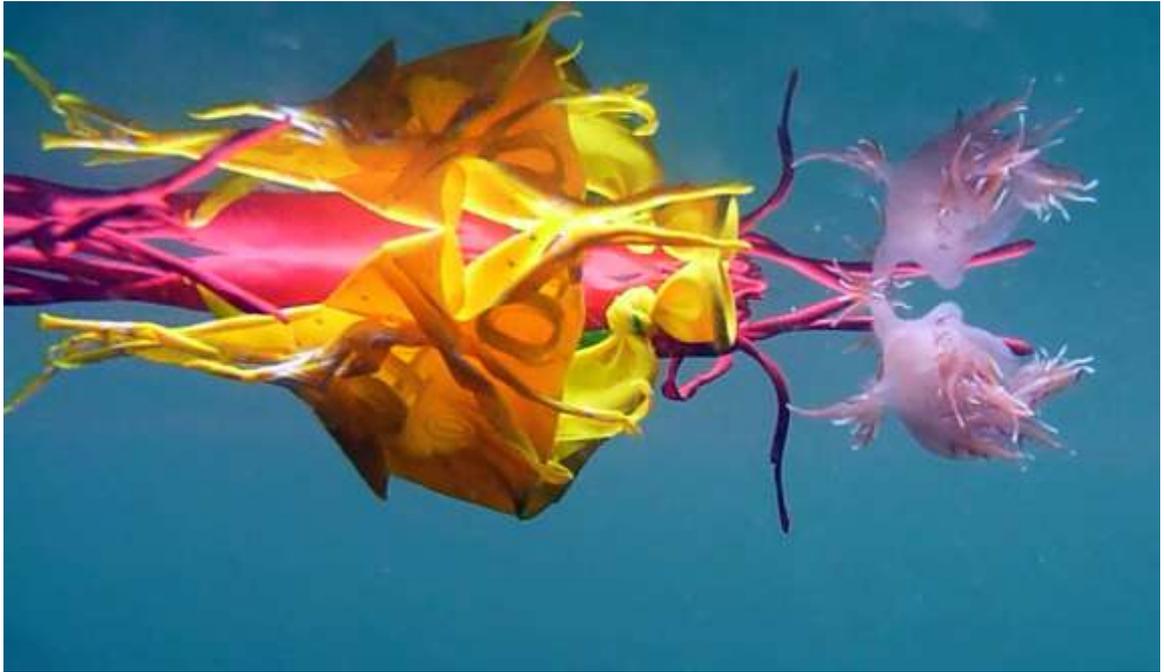
"Why does it make sense to ask about animal lineages, genealogies and connections – even bestiaries – when talking about art and architecture? What is at stake in our conception of the human when we place the human, not outside the category of the animal as has occurred since at least the C17th century, but within it? How are our conceptions of human accomplishments – whether in art, architecture, science, philosophy or in governance and in social and political relations – transformed when we place the human within the animal? How and why does the animal imperil human uniqueness and dignity? What do we gain in restoring the human to the animal from which it has come?"

Full transcript of the talk can be found on the Gallery's blog:

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

Animal Influence (Interactive Futures IF'11)

17 to 19 November, 2011. Vancouver, Canada. Emily Carr University of Art and Design



Dendronotus iris, *Dendronotus balloonis*. Video by Karolle Wall 2011

Interactive Futures (IF) 2011, November 17-19, presents the theme “Animal Influence” by spotlighting the work of media artists whose work has been influenced by the growing wealth of knowledge on animal behavior, cognition, creativity and consciousness emerging from such fields as ecology, cognitive ethology, psychology, neuroscience, cognitive science, philosophy, zoology, and others. These research areas have focused on new understandings of animal life and are helping to shift assumed conventions concerning animal cognition, consciousness, and agency. While the change in human attitudes towards animals has been documented in news media as well as in more academic venues, the idea that animals might possess emotional, moral, cognitive lives is an idea that has been, in the past, either dismissed or associated with metaphorical or symbolic approaches. Our particular interest is in how investigations in animal-human relations are affecting the ways in which new media artists are considering broader understandings of other species and creating varying methodologies for experimental art and new media appropriate for these unique circumstances.

IF'11: Animal Influence offers a workshop, exhibitions, performances, screenings and international promotional activity and an international publication with the journal *Antennae: Journal of Nature in Visual Culture* for audiences including policy-makers, business leaders, community leaders, educators, and members of the media, as well as academics and artists in various fields and interested members of the public.

IF'11: Animal Influence will offer opportunities for in depth conversations and discussions between invited cognitive ethologists, biologists, psychologists, philosophers, artists and public policy makers whose work has helped to shift assumed conventions concerning animal cognition, consciousness, and agency, as well as reveal possibilities for the development of new media implementing image, text, and sound, and video. Within the broad theme of ‘Animal Influence’ we find 3 sub-themes: Perception, Agency, and Consciousness/Compassion. The two keynote speakers, well-known and respected cognitive ethologist Marc Bekoff and international new media artist Lisa Jevbratt, will address aspects of these sub-themes. Twenty other members of the workshop will present and discuss these topics in depth from their particular perspectives.

IF'11 activities will target four specific audiences: members of local and international new media and art community of artists; communities of animal related scholars, scientists and public policy makers; audiences from the large contingents of the local and international public interested in animals, human-animal studies and animal advocacy and welfare; and new media audiences interested in new developments in digital image, sound, and text.

For more information and details about events see: <http://interactivefutures2011.wordpress.com/>
Organiser and Contact: Carol Gigliotti gigliott@ecuad.ca

Claude Jones

Chimera

30 July-10 September 2011

Gippsland Art Gallery, 68 Foster Street, Sale VIC

Monkey Business

5-29 October 2011

Arterreal Gallery, 747 Darling St, Rozelle NSW



lagomorphs and leporidae
2010. Urethane, paper mache,
wire, recycled taxidermyrabbit
heads and tails, paint and
paper. Various dimensions.

Artist's Statement

My work focuses on the creation of chimeric and anthropomorphized forms that examine our complex interconnectedness with other animals. I am especially interested in how our relationship with nature is changing with increased awareness of our impact on the environment and in particular on biodiversity. My recent work explores the contradictions in our multifaceted relationship with nature, in particular, the different ways we treat animals in accordance with our taxonomic categorizations of them. For example whilst the family dog might be given a gift at Christmas, the pig and turkey become the Christmas dinner. These drawings and paintings depict images of animal exploitation in which, ironically, it is the animals themselves that are the protagonists. The irony of course is that animals do not do this to one another. They may prey on

other animals for food, but they do not capture other animals, drug them, cage them, torture them, train them to fight, race, perform tricks or indeed slaughter them en masse.

My sculptures are hybrid forms – a Frankenstein mingling of species referencing biotechnology, transgenics, the experimental mixing of the animal, plant, and human. These chimeras are overlaid with collaged and printed paper to reference the myriad of ways we treat animals – implying entrapment, animal racing, designer breeding and domesticity. While my choice of subject might evoke disturbing images, I employ humour, soft colours and decorative elements that belie the sinister narrative content of the work. – in the same way that the sordid underbelly of ‘legitimate’ mistreatment and exploitation of animals is repressed and sugarcoated.

For more information see: http://www.wellington.vic.gov.au/page/page.asp?page_id=1069 and <http://artereal.com.au/home/exhibitions>

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Sentience: An Exhibition of Life

Launched in 2011, this annual event features work by a variety of international and Australian artists across a range of mediums. Sentience is a thought-provoking and ultimately rewarding display of art exploring the feeling, perception and individuality of animals other than humans. The 2011 exhibition included works by Alex Cearns, Yvette Watt, Michelle Dawson, Zaaron Crosby, Claude Jones, Ramona Janssen, Sarah Davison, Ciara Moore, Lottie Moore and Stephanie Ives.

The next exhibition will run from 7-20 January 2012 at the Kurb Gallery, 310 William St, Northbridge, Perth, Western Australia.

Submissions are due 30 November 2011

Submission details will be available soon. For more information: jonathan@ara.org.au or www.sentience.org.au

Art Work: Projects, research, installations

Debbie Symons



ARRIVALS - INTERNATIONAL		CURRENT STATUS	ESTIMATED TALLY
<i>Vulpes Vulpes</i>	European Red Fox	Increasing	7,200,000
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	European Wild Rabbit	Increasing	200,000,000
<i>Bufo Marinus</i>	Cane Toad	Increasing	200,000,000
<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common Indian Myna	Increasing	Unknown

DEPARTURES - DOMESTIC		CURRENT STATUS	ESTIMATED TALLY
<i>Acanthiza iredalei iredalei</i>	Slender-billed thornbill (western)	Vulnerable	100,000
<i>Amytornis barbatus barbatus</i>	Grey grasswren (bulloo)	Vulnerable	15,000
<i>Amytornis textilis modestus</i>	Thick-billed grasswren (eastern)	Vulnerable	20,000
<i>Amytornis textilis myall</i>	Thick-billed grasswren (Gawler Ranges)	Vulnerable	10,000
<i>Cacatua pastinator pastinator</i>	Muir's/Western long-billed corella (southern)	Vulnerable	3,000
<i>Calyptrorhynchus lathamii halmaturinus</i>	Glossy black-cockatoo (Sth Aust)	Endangered	330
<i>Cinclusoma punctatum anachoreta</i>	Spotted quail-thrush (Mt Lofty Ranges)	Critically endangered	10

Arrivals / Departures. Video artwork

Arrivals / Departures interrogates the inextricable links between the demise of numerous Australian native species impacted by the arrival of four species; the fox, rabbit, cane toad and the Indian myna bird. During the 6 minute video, statistical data on hundreds of animal and plant species whose survival is threatened are juxtaposed by four invasive species, responsible in part for their failure to thrive. The work unequivocally measures the costs of simplistic errors of judgment and reflects on the devastating consequences of these one-dimensional decisions, laying bare the folly and ethical fallout.

Arrivals / Departures utilises an animated airport terminal screen to record statistical data, visualising environmental research on threatened animal and plant species. The works narrative implores us to look upon the critical situation transpiring within Australia with renewed impetus by transposing one form of crisis upon another, reflecting not only the dire situation materializing within our backyard, but also the growing worldwide environmental conundrum.

Further information see: www.debbiesymons.org.au.

Susan McMinn



Hooves and Steel: Warhorse in Conflict

PhD research at Visual Arts La Trobe University, Bendigo

During World War One, Australia sent over 136,000 horses to serve in the Palestine desert campaign of World War one. Only one horse was returned to Australia, the rest died during battle, had to be destroyed due to injury or illness or were sold to the British Military. At the end of the war, the most hurtful and possibly inhumane act that has had a long lasting effect on the Light Horse war veterans and their families and following generations was that the surviving horses had to remain in the Middle East. This caused a torrent of legendary stories, poems and oral histories that surround the fate of the Australian horse that went to war.

Morry and Stan 1917. Mixed media.

Historic photographic manipulations reinvent acts of inhumanity and heroism, modern film producers have retold the 'Legend of the Light Horse' in their own way, sombre post war poems, songs and stories re-tell the plight of the horse and the soldiers lament. Mostly however, these stories are in essence, a fusion of some parts truth and some parts myth. Other stories, such as those found in the soldier's war diaries and letters to loved ones offer a glimpse into an account of actual events. Today, the most popular story, that the soldiers had to shoot their horses at the end of war, is handed down through the generations and has become legendary: Retold with emotion and sadness, this overarching story concerning the fate of the Australian horse at war, unfortunately marginalises its contribution.

But, what really happened to the horses at war? They were shipped, and some died on the way, broken in, marched, raced, blown up, bombed, shot, and made to charge. They were, blinded by the desert sands, infected by the flies, died of exhaustion, thirst and hunger. They were fed rations of hay and water when available. At times they went without water for up to seventy-two hours. They suffered saddle sores and carried enormous weights beyond normal limits. They marched through the night up to ninety miles at a time carrying sleeping men on their backs. They were sold, put down and left behind. They were the soldier's companion, warrior, shield, transport, hero and ultimately animal soldier.

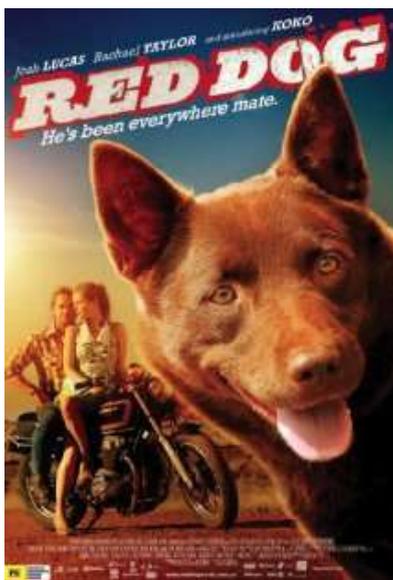
My work seeks to bring a renewed narrative to the viewer and a heightened awareness through a visual re-presentation concerning the horse in war. Being a horse owner myself, and growing up on the farm, I draw on my own experiences with the horse to transport the emotional content of the diaries to the artwork. I created many drawings in small visual diaries as I read the heart wrenching soldier's stories in their diaries and letters. In addition, I made sketches when I travelled to the Middle-East to gain a sense of place in the landscape and battlefields where the horses travelled. I experienced the most distressing perception of a horse in war in Egypt, where I viewed and sketched injured Arab horses in an animal hospital, founded as a refuge for ex British-WW1 warhorses, some eleven years after the war. Although these Arab horses were not used in war, their injuries resonated with that described in some of the war diaries. The emotion and gesture in the drawings made during those two days is quite profound. I transfer these small drawings onto larger scale paper where I use tracing, erasure, layering and fragmented composition to conceptualise the fragmented state of the historical moment and the horse in war. Sometimes the line is very fragile and at other times it becomes thick and dark. The horse is drawn with a continuous trajectory around the form and never usually crosses over it. I think of my own horse when I draw. The overall work involves an interdisciplinary approach where drawing, painting and animation aim to materialize a fusion of myth legend and historical narrative surrounding the horse in war. It is my intention that the art works actively encourages the viewer to consider these intimate visual stories in order to reconsider the horses suffering and fate in war.

Susan McMinn

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

Film and Audio

RED DOG



Directed by Kriv Stenders
Produced by Nelson Woss
Script adaptation by Daniel Taplitz

At the entrance to Dampier, Western Australia, you'll find a bronze statue of the kelpie known to everyone in the community as Red Dog. The plaque reads "The Pilbara Wanderer died Nov 21st 1979. Erected by the many friends made during his travels."

This new Australian feature film follows the intrepid, charismatic red kelpie who hitched rides, adopted people and united communities throughout WA's mining region in the 1970s. The film, listed in the June issue of AASG *Bulletin*, has enjoyed resounding box office success in its first weeks of release. Some reviewers have picked up on the centrality of the dog to the movie. [Here are their Reviews:](#)

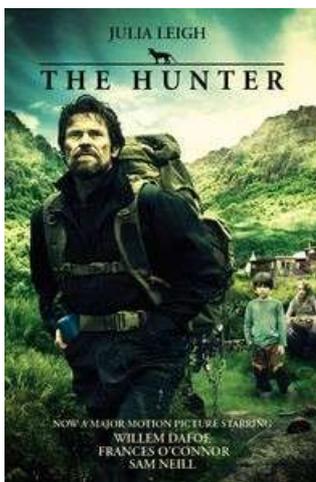
ABC Radio National's Julie Rigg refers to *Red Dog* as: a dog with "a sense of entitlement" and says: "he is what he is: a very smart dog who has a way of making friends with people and a taste for travel". She also realises that the film's central character is actually Red Dog, and "we know how expressive a smart animal can be. Dogs have learned from thousands of years back how to train humans and there's growing evidence we evolved much communication in tandem. You learn to read the body language". Director Kris Stenders thinks the film is about people, but in her interview with him Julie continually brings the focus back to the dog, commenting that "for years psychologists wouldn't believe that animals have emotions". Quotes from ABC Movietime. See <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/movietime/stories/2011/3285809.htm> for full review and for interview with Kris Stenders see: <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/movietime/stories/2011/3290331.htm>

"Early on in this adaptation of Louis de Bernieres 1970s-set novel celebrating the life and times of the famed four-legged Pilbara traveller there's a wonderfully droll exchange that nails the appeal of *Red Dog* - and, more importantly, captures the magic of this deceptively canny, visually striking movie. A truckie named Thomas (played by Luke Ford) who has just rolled into Dampier is stunned to find the community distraught over a dying dog in the back of a pub. He's not just any dog, the publican named Jack says, he's Red Dog, "probably the most famous dog in all of Australia". Thomas, thinking he's heard of Red Dog, asks if he was the one who warned about the fire or the one who saved a child's life. But Noah Taylor's Jack snaps: "No, no, no: you're looking at it all wrong. It's not what he did. It's who he was . . . is, I mean." Mark Naglazas, *The West Australian*

"Red Dog was a dog who was thought of as a member of the community and far from someone's pet. [His] facial expression elevates his personality up from a dog in a film to a true-blue Australian character. He ties the sub-plots of the film together. As members of the town of Dampier meet, fall in love, get married, struggle with their past and deal with the loneliness of being a miner, Red Dog is there. . . . As well as being a film about Red Dog, the Pilbara Wanderer, it is a film remembering how much one dog meant to one town." Chris Pedler, *Bendigo Advertiser*

"This absolutely beautiful, warm, touching tale from director Kriv Stenders (*Boxing Day*; *The Illustrated Family Doctor*) tell the legendary story of a stray dog adopted by a community in a dry-roasted Pilbara mining town in the 1970s. *Red Dog* (Koko) literally appears out of nowhere to hitch a ride into town where he affects the lives of the locals in matters of romance, friendship and life-saving . . . But make no mistake: the dog is the star here, and not just because he engages in one of the funniest feline takedowns in film history. An instant Aussie classic, *Red Dog* holds up extremely well on a second viewing and should not be missed by anyone who cares about just how good Australian films can be." Jim Schembri, *Brisbane Times*

THE HUNTER COMING SOON!



Director: Daniel Nettheim
Produced by Vincent Sheehan
Cinematographer: Andrew Lesnie

The Hunter is a psychological thriller based on a novel by Julia Leigh about a mercenary sent by an anonymous biotech company to search for the last Tasmanian tiger. The book is frequently set for animal studies courses, as well as general literature courses in Australia and US.

Hollywood actor Willem Dafoe stars in the film, along with Frances O'Connor and Sam Neill. Screen Tasmania has invested in the production, with co-financing from Screen Australia and Screen New South Wales.

See <http://www.thehuntermovie.com/> for the trailer. *The Hunter* has been selected to appear at the Toronto Film Festival and is due in cinemas in Australia on October 6.

AMONG ANIMALS

Listen or download audio from ABC Radio National

Our interactions with animals have always been complex. How do we view 'the other'? In a time when there is increasing scrutiny of our treatment of farmed animals and a huge interest in both animal sentience and cognition, this program offers many perspectives on the parallel lives we lead with our fellow creatures. You'll hear from artists, musicians, animal rights campaigners, the meat industry, Aboriginal people talking about their kinship with other creatures, anthropologists discussing ideas around our entwined social and ecological justice, bird trainer Josh Cook with Mango the macaw and an assortment of people and animals encountered in the park.

Guests: Janet Laurence, Hollis Taylor, Christine Townend, Warren Foster and Darren Mongta, Deborah Bird Rose, Matthew Chrulew, Brian Sherman, Andreas Dubs, Dominique Lestel, Josh Cook and Mango the Macaw, Joyce Tischler, Katrina Sharman

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/360/stories/2011/3286254.htm>

LAW OF THE LAND

ABC News Broadcast. Watch video and read transcript

The Indonesian live export row has focussed national attention on the rights of farm animals in an unprecedented way. And although the trade has resumed and Federal Government has declined at this stage to legislate it out of existence, there's little doubt fundamental questions remain over the future of the billion-dollar business.

Hardly surprising then that animal welfare has become such a significant new force in Australian legal circles. From law students through to a former High Court judge, there is a growing awareness of animal law: the rights, or lack thereof, for farm animals and the implications for Australian agribusiness, as Shaun Murphy reports.

Includes interviews with: Celeste Black, Michael Kirby, Ruth Hatten and Lyn White

<http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2010/s3304060.htm>

THE DOMINANT ANIMAL

Podcast of talk by Professor Paul Ehrlich, author of *Extinction: The Causes and Consequences of the Disappearance of Species* (1981)

"The Dominant Animal" picks up on many of the central issues of Paul Erlich's popular book, *The Population Bomb* and reveals startling new research and analysis on the fate of our planet and humanity. How did humans evolve to a position of dominance? And what have they done to the planet in the process? What will the future hold for us if we continue down the same destructive path? Hear Professor Erhlich address these questions and more. The lecture is formally opened by Mr Bob Carr, former Premier of NSW. Duration: 48mins

<http://www.mgtv.mq.edu.au/PagePodcastArchive.php>

Links: Resource pages, blogs, organisations

- **Animal Politics**

An incredibly wide-ranging blog at the intersection of animal studies and food politics. Recent posts include: Obligatory Planet of the Apes post; Parsing rights and captivity: The problem with dignity and autonomy; Books I want to read; The paradox of happy meat?; “Cage-free”; Animalism and philosophy; Consider the Lobster; The new animal machines; Bad humanism; Digesting the USDA food plate.

Many of the bloggers are academics and there is discussion of animal studies courses, as well as animal welfare and animal rights, and book reviews.

<http://ikesharpless.com/?tag=human-animal-studies>

- **One Green Planet**

The online destination for the ecologically ethical generation. One Green Planet is an online ecosystem that draws links between the world of ecology, the environment and vegan living. The site is a platform that brings together a range of distinct voices, unified by a commitment to spreading good ideas that benefit people, animals and the planet. Its goal is to educate, connect and empower conscious consumers. Our ecosystem thrives on the sum of its critical parts, which includes you (the readers) and generous contributors including: Carol J. Adams, Zoe Weil, Gene Baur, Lee Hall, Marc Bekoff, Jonathan Balcombe and many more.

The site features sections on Food and Health (including vegan recipes), Science and Technology, Lifestyle, and Animals and Nature.

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

- **The Natural Connection**

Discover and explore the healing power of nature and animals. This is a Canada-based website that explores animal-, equine- and nature-assisted interventions. It aims to increase the visibility of fascinating therapeutic modalities and help educate the public, potential clients, persons interested in embarking on a career in this field, and professionals referring clients to such services.

It includes an interactive map of professionals and services related to the fields of animal-, equine, and nature-assisted interventions and therapies; a comprehensive listing of training, internship and certification opportunities available within Canada, the United States, and internationally; books, manuals, and handbooks useful to the study and application of animal-assisted interventions (AAI), equine-assisted interventions (EAI), and nature-assisted interventions (NAI).

<http://www.thenaturalconnection.ca/>

- **Green Iguana Foundation**

The aims of The Iguana Verde Foundation are twofold. Firstly the breeding, raising and later release of fully grown iguanas into the wild, within the safe boundaries of the Gandoca-Manzanillo refuge. Secondly, the project is working at grassroots level, educating children in local schools about the project and getting them involved in feeding and caring for the existing iguanas.

The site includes publications, conservation progress and adoption/donation details.

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

- **Animal Rights Zone**

Animal Rights Zone (ARZone) exists to help educate vegans and non-vegans alike about the obligations human beings have toward all other animals. By providing a space for a variety of blog posts, forum discussions, notes, videos and more, ARZone fosters a sense of community among its members. Through live online chats with a diversity of people who work both within and outside of the animal advocacy community, ARZone supports rational discourse and intelligent dialogue about the most pressing issues facing us today.

<http://arzone.ning.com/>

- **The ARA Project**

The ARA Project has been involved in macaw conservation for over 25 years by means of breeding in captivity and reintroduction programs. The ARA Project's breeding center has the largest collection of Great Green Macaws in captivity. Between 1999 and 2009, The ARA Project released a total of over 80 Scarlet Macaws in its three release sites: Curú Wildlife Refuge, Palo Verde and Tiskita Biological Reserve. The released macaws have a survival rate close to 90% and several pairs have been successfully reproducing, creating natural population augmentation.

The site includes History, Objectives, Species Profiles, and Donation opportunities.

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

- **World Society for the Protection of Animals**

WSPA has been promoting animal welfare for more than 25 years. Their work is concentrated in regions of the world where few, if any, measures exist to protect animals. WSPA's work is focused on four priority animal welfare areas: Companion animals; Commercial exploitation of wildlife; Farm animals; Disaster management

Their mission is to build a united global animal welfare movement. With consultative status at the United Nations and the Council of Europe, WSPA is the world's largest alliance of animal welfare societies.

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

- **Humane Trends**

Humane Trends is a barometer of the status of animal protection in the United States. This study brings together a collection of 25 diverse indicators to assess the status and progress of animal well-being, providing a comprehensive view of animal use and abuse in the United States to help inform animal advocates as well as policymakers and the public. Although Humane Trends compiles the most accurate data currently available for each indicator, the overall study is limited by the lack of reliable data regarding animal protection issues. Humane Trends serves to underscore the need for further research and more accurate information about our treatment of animals.

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

- **Animal Welfare Online**

Animal Welfare Online is a website providing information and resources about animal protection from around the world. Animals matter to all of us, but making improvements to the lives of animals is a challenging task. The site hopes that by sharing information we can learn from each other and make more advances every day.

Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened. Anatole France

<http://enextranet.animalwelfareonline.org/index.aspx>

- **Who's Looking?**

A collaborative, multi-disciplinary investigation of human relations to chimpanzees. Chimpanzees, more than any other non-human animal, stir something deep and conflicted within us. This appears to be the case whether the encounter is live or whether it is mediated through representations. This website explores the complex relations to our next of kin through photographs, film, theatre, and words.

<http://chimpanzees.wesleyan.edu/>

- **Sloth Sanctuary of Costa Rica**

The website of Sloth Sanctuary of Costa Rica tells all about how sloths are rescued and cared for. In addition, you'll meet the sloths of the sanctuary and learn how you can help protect them. The site includes details about donations, volunteers and adoption.

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

- **Animals Aloud**

Animals Aloud is a weekly animal podcast that examines the impact that animals and humans have on one another. Host Deirdre Kennedy talks with authors, scientists, veterinarians, and other animal experts. Hear the show and access past podcasts on iTunes, Yahoo, Voice Indigo or the online link.

<http://www.animalsaloud.net/>

Profiles: AASG general committee members

Dr Sally Borrell



I grew up on a ten acre block in New Zealand, surrounded by mountains and many wild and domestic animals, ranging from cats and chickens to tui and bellbirds. Most influential, however, were our goats: kept only for their fibre, they were able to lead fascinating social lives and I increasingly felt that livestock animals were underestimated. Over time I became vegetarian and then vegan.

At the University of Canterbury, I studied various arts subjects including French and classical studies, but my interests in animals and literature came together in a course on animals in postcolonial writing. I wrote a Masters thesis on the role of animals within themes of postcolonial and gender identity in novels by Margaret Atwood. I then received a scholarship to Middlesex University in London, where I recently completed my PhD under the supervision of Erica Fudge.

In my dissertation, I looked for critical responses to animals in recent postcolonial fiction, and explored relationships between postcolonial and species concerns. I focused on challenges to humanist discourse as common to both perspectives, and evaluated posthumanism's potential as a means of reconceptualising human-animal relations. Overall, the thesis posits the existence of a trend in which contemporary postcolonial novels present animals as allies in cultural self-definition, and promote positive perceptions of them in the process.

During my time in London, I also worked as administrator for the British Animal Studies Network. The network held a series of meetings where invited speakers discussed a range of themes in human-animal studies (a new series is due to begin soon). Since completing my PhD, I have moved to Melbourne and am now working on conference papers and publications. My current research includes elements of animal studies, ecocriticism and postcolonial studies, and connections between these areas. I am interested in the ways in which animals or concepts of 'the animal' are constitutive of ideas about human subjectivity, and in manifestations of this dynamic in fiction. My work is particularly motivated by literature's potential to disrupt traditional notions of the human and to promote positive approaches to other species.

Dr Matt Chrulew



In 2001, before I knew what animal studies was (and indeed largely before it knew itself), I began a MA thesis at UWA analysing zoological gardens using Michel Foucault's theory of power/knowledge.

While my PhD was completed in philosophy of religion at Monash, I have continued to think and work on the intersection of philosophy and animals, grateful for the distinctive community that would become the AASG.

Since 2009 I have been a postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion at Macquarie, working on a number of projects in animal studies and the ecological humanities. In February 2011 I convened an international collaborative workshop on [The History, Philosophy and Future of Ethology](#) funded by the ISL-HCA programme. I have published essays on zoological gardens, rewilding, Genesis and other topics in journals such as [Australian Humanities Review](#), [Critical Animal Studies](#), [Humanimalia](#) and [Bible and Critical Theory](#), and the edited volume *Metamorphoses of the Zoo*. I am writing a monograph on the natural and cultural history of the mammoth and editing a book (with Dinesh Wadiwel) on Foucault and animals. I am a member of the [Ecological Humanities group](#) and the [Kangaloon Group for Creative Ecologies](#).

I have also published a number of speculative fiction short stories, some of which thematise animals, including "Roach Theory", "The Nullarbor Wave", "[The Gnomogist's Tale](#)" and "The Beast-Machine Fableaux" (published in [Antennae](#) 9 and podcast at [TISF](#) 16). I blog at [Negentropy](#).

Dr Fiona Probyn-Rapsey



I teach a unit in the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies at the University of Sydney called GCST2603: Animal/Human Cultures, part of our Cultural studies major since 2009. I remember the excitement that I felt when I realized (much later than most) that Human-Animal Studies existed – and that I could bring my personal/ political interest in animals into my academic research.

In 2011 I set up a research network here at the University of Sydney called HARN: Human Animal Research Network that has many members from four faculties and a growing list of research events: <http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/harn>.

I am currently working on a book manuscript in Human-Animal Studies, and a collaborative project with Dr Jay Johnston, (USYD). I am also on the Executive of Minding Animals Australia.

For more information see:

http://sydney.edu.au/arts/gender_cultural_studies/staff/profiles/fprobynrapsey.shtml

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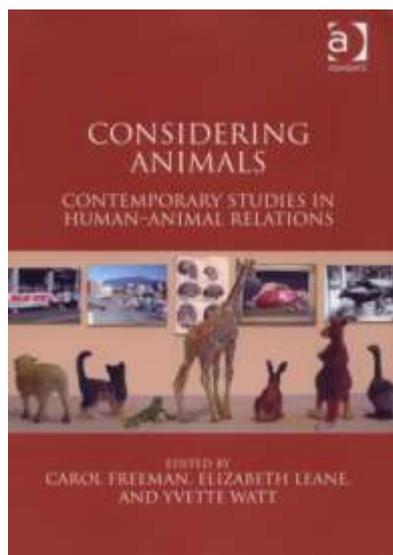
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Freeman, Leane & Watt

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investigate how we treat, represent and relate to non-human animals. It explores ways in which non-human animals themselves have been increasingly shown to be capable of 'considering' each other as well as us. The title, and the collection itself, also remind us that in the face of current environmental crises we will increasingly need to give animals (and animality – including our own) far greater consideration than we have in the past.

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Considering Animals thus offers cutting-edge research, a contemporary focus and a pioneering multidisciplinary perspective. It is an important and timely collection within human-animal studies and within scholarship more generally. While pitched at the level of the academic researchers and postgraduate students, the jargon-free language makes it accessible to a non-academic audience and an ideal introductory text for students interested in Animal Studies.

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