



Issue 14, December 2011

News Bulletin

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

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National News

AASG Forum

The Australian Animal Studies Group has a new email-based discussion group called AASG Forum. It is hoped that this initiative will facilitate discussion, encourage information sharing and the exchange of ideas in our network. The AASG forum list can be used to post any items of interest such as 'calls for papers', seminar and conference announcements, publication announcements, news items of interest, queries about research and other activities.

Please note that the email list is still under construction. Initially a message was sent out to around 500 'contacts' of AASG to invite them to subscribe, however a glitch in the mail group automatically subscribed all those 'invited', so we've had to start again. If you would like to be part of the discussion group please contact either Fiona Probyn-Rapsey fiona.probynrapsey@sydney.edu.au or Matthew Chrulew mchrulew@gmail.com

AASG Journal

The AASG will be launching a new online journal *AustralAsian Animal Studies Journal* (AASJ) mid next year. The journal will be open access with searching optimized for Google. It will also be double blind peer reviewed. The first edition of *AASJ*, to be edited by Melissa Boyde, will include papers from the Global Animal conference held in 2011 at the University of Wollongong.

If you gave a paper at Global Animal that you would like to submit for consideration for the inaugural *AASJ* please contact Melissa. If you didn't attend the conference but have a scholarly paper, book review or creative work on the Global Animal theme, please also get in touch with Melissa Boyde: boyde@uow.edu.au.

AASG Biennial Conference

AASG members at the University of Sydney are pleased to announce that the next AASG biennial conference will be held at the University on 8-10 July 2013. The Conference will be called **AASG@Sydney 2013**.

For inquiries please contact Fiona Probyn-Rapsey: fiona.probyn-rapsey@sydney.edu.au

JOIN AASG

You can join AASG online ! 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—where you can access information about animal studies, finding funding opportunities, and access 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, or post to: Australian Animal Studies Group, c/o Dr Yvette Watt, Associate Lecturer in Painting, Tasmanian School of Art, University of Tasmania, Private Bag 57, Hobart TAS 7001

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

Regional News

Queensland

University of Queensland and Griffith University

The Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics (CAWE), the RSPCA and the Environmental Futures Centre (EFC) are proud to present the following free public seminar by Peter Sandøe on **29 February 2012, 6-7.30pm** at Queensland College of Art (QCA), Southbank, Brisbane:

**Coming
soon**

“Animal Welfare – where does science end and ethics begin?”

In the early days of animal welfare science it was often claimed that a sharp distinction should be drawn between on the one hand the science-based study of animal welfare and on the other hand ethical discussions about what is right and wrong in our dealings with animals. However in the light of debates starting in the early 1990s it is now widely recognized that assessments of animal welfare involve a number of assumptions that are *ethical* in nature.

In his lecture Peter Sandøe will try to pinpoint these and a number of other general ethical assumptions affecting the study of animal welfare, including assumptions about how to define the baseline of sufficient welfare, how to deal with distributions of welfare between animals and how to handle scientific uncertainty. Furthermore he will discuss how these assumptions seem to vary across the study of welfare issues relating to different forms of animal use, e.g. farm animals and companion animals. Finally he will discuss how animal welfare researchers can aspire to present their results in a way which makes their underlying ethical assumptions transparent.

Peter Sandøe is originally trained as a philosopher and is currently professor of Bioethics at the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. He has presented his ideas about the relation between animal welfare science in a series of influential papers in international journals and in the book (co-authored with Stine B. Christiansen) *Ethics of animal use* (Blackwell, 2008). More information about his work in animal ethics can be found at www.animaethics.net.

Contact: Leah Burns Leah.Burns@griffith.edu.au or Ph: 37353649) for more details.

Victoria

Melbourne University

Animal Issues Melbourne

October: the meeting discussed McMahan, J. (2008), ‘Eating Animals the Nice Way’, *Daedalus*, Vol. 137.1: 66-76.

November: the meeting discussed Lutz and Lutz, (2011), ‘Interest Groups and Pro-Animal Rights Legislation’, *Society and Animals*, 19: 261-277.

January: the meeting on Monday January 30, 2012 will discuss: Davey, G. (2006), ‘Visitor Behaviour in Zoos’, *Anthrozoos*, 19.2: 143-157.

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

Knowing Animals Past and Present

The Knowing Animals Past and Present Interdisciplinary Research Group will present a paper by Dr. Adam Dodd (University of Oslo) on **Wednesday 14 December, 5.30-6.30 pm** at the Faculty Function Room, Level 5, the John Medley Building, UoM, followed by their annual dinner.

**Coming
soon!**

“Making the Insect World: The Science and Fiction of Entomology”

It is now widely appreciated as a truism that the ways in which we represent animals shape the ways in which we perceive animals, while also signifying a diverse nexus of historical, cultural, moral, religious, political, economic, and philosophical circumstances. In short, representations of animals say as much about the human beings responsible for the portrayals, and their cultural environment, as they do about the animals being portrayed.



In this presentation, I critically engage with the term ‘insect world’, a rhetorical device historically employed in the description of insects and their habitats. I claim that the insect world is a fabrication, a science-fictional construct of entomological discourse. Some of the key questions I address are: From where does this term originate? How has it been used to frame insect life? To what extent does it inform the visual portrayal of insects? And what happens to the ecological rapport between humans and insects when we think of them as the inhabitants of their own ‘world’. Incorporating numerous examples from a range of entomological texts, from the seventeenth century to the present day, I outline the establishment, development and continuity of key representational conventions that allocate insects to their own, other world. It is within the wider discourse of ‘worldmaking’, I claim, that the science and fiction of entomology are most visibly entangled.

Adam Dodd is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow on the ‘Animals as Objects and Animals as Signs’ program in the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages at the University of Oslo, <http://www.hf.uio.no/ikos/english/people/aca/adamdo/index.html>

For enquiries contact Siobhan O’Sullivan at siobhano@unimelb.edu.au.

Students Researching Animal Issues

The Group is conducting an audit of students undertaking research into animal issues. If you are an Honours, Masters or PhD student at the University of Melbourne, they would love to know what you are studying. They need 1. Your name; 2. Your School or Discipline; 3. Whether you are undertaking honours, Masters or a PhD; 4. Who is supervising your research; 5. The title (including working title) of your research; and 6. When you commenced and when you expect to complete. Please send answers to siobhano@unimelb.edu.au. The information will be used to build a picture of the amount of (non-invasive) animal research currently being conducted at the University of Melbourne.

Animal Welfare Science Centre

On October 22 the Animal Welfare Science Centre presented a seminar that focused on the way in which agriculture (particularly the livestock industries) needs to understand how its customers make purchasing decisions so that communication on farming practices serves to build the level of trust that consumers have in the food that they purchase.

Speakers were: Siobhan O’Sullivan, Research Fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne: “Economically Productive Animals and the Community’s right to Know” (see [Film and Audio section for where you can listen to this talk](#)) and Charlie Arnot, CEO of the Center for Food Integrity, President of CMA: “Lost in translation – Learning to speak ‘consumer’ in a way that builds trust in agriculture”.

For more about the Centre see: <http://www.animalwelfare.net.au/>

Tasmania

University of Tasmania

On 7 September Assoc. Prof. Stefan Petrow, School of History and Classics, presented a seminar on the history of the RSPCA in Tasmania titled "Civilizing Mission: Animal Protection in Hobart 1878–1914".

Brightside Farm Sanctuary

Brightside is rescuing dogs, as well as farm animals. Many Brightside dogs come from very sad situations where they have experienced cruelty, neglect or in some situations are on death row in council pounds. Some have been sent to vets for euthanasia because they are no longer wanted by their owners.

In the last 12 months Brightside has re-homed over 250 dogs. Many of these dogs were rescued from puppy farms where they have lived in terrible conditions and have been used for breeding. Many of the current dogs for adoption come from a recent puppy farm rescue of 32 dogs. These dogs have been constantly bred from since their first season. Recent publicity urged readers to take the time to view some of Brightside's special friends and consider whether you can give them a forever home. See <http://www.brightside.org.au>

MONA FOMA (Festival Of Music and Art)

Aviary: A Suite for the Bird

*Coming
soon*

14-17 January 2012. Theatre Royal Hobart.

Aviary explores relationships between bird movements, rituals and those of human beings, embodied in the image and public behaviours of the flamboyant dandy. This is Phillip Adams BalletLab's latest work, developed in association with The Australian Ballet, that had its world premiere during the Melbourne Festival 2011. Aviary takes its inspiration from French composer and ornithologist Olivier Messiaen's colourful musical explorations of birdsong from his *Catalogue d'oiseaux* (1958), and builds links between music, choreography and staging to produce an experimental interpretation of his scores.

"Adams sees the finale of *Aviary* as a staged courtship of avian behaviours and in particular the Northern Australia/Papua New Guinea birds of paradise and the bowerbird. Adams accompanies the final act of the performance on a grand piano as improvisational manic interrupter of the bird and 'channeling' of composer Messiaen. The bowerbird has extraordinarily complex courtship and mating behavior, where males build a bower to attract mates, often festooned with a variety of brightly-coloured found and natural objects. The males spend hours arranging these collections, often color-coding them to attract females. According to Dr. Woxvold, bowerbirds provide compelling evidence of the role 'nesting' plays in sexual selection and acts as a powerful mechanism that shapes its evolution, producing a vivid metaphor for our own human rituals and interactions" (from the BalletLab website).

For more about this performance and BalletLab see: <http://www.balletlab.com/>

Sea Shepherd campaigners in Hobart

Anti-whaling campaign ship the *Bob Barker*, docked at Macquarie Wharf on the weekend of 10–11 December, was open for tours in thanks to the people of Hobart for their support. Captain Alex Cornelissen said the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society would again disrupt the Japanese whale hunt in the Southern Ocean in an effort to deter the "so-called" scientific whaling activities in the area. The ship was open from 10am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday.

South Australia

University of Adelaide

Human Animal Research Group (HARG) of Adelaide

HARG has continued to meet during 2011 and is still attracting new members from multidisciplinary areas. Even though working in human-animal interactions is not in the job description of a lot of our members, it is their main area of interest. With a critical mass of people we are planning a workshop in the next 1-2 years, so stay tuned. If you live in the Adelaide area and are interested in joining then do contact Susan Hazel (susan.hazel@adelaide.edu.au).

Australian Capital Territory

University of Canberra

Big Birds, Big Cruelty

Big Birds, Big Cruelty is a community education project with the aim to raise awareness of factory farmed turkeys in Australia. It started out as a project undertaken by University of Canberra student, Lara Drew, as a final year-long project in the Bachelor of Community Education degree. Lara's project was encouraged by Bede Carmody from A Poultry Place animal sanctuary, who acted as supervisor for the project. Bede suggested Lara research turkeys as there was very little research on factory farmed turkeys in Australia in comparison to other farm animals such as battery hens. The resulting work received a Voiceless grant which enabled the campaign to roll out nationwide in time for Christmas this year.

For campaign materials and an image gallery see: <http://www.bigbirdsbigcruelty.org>

Western Australia

University of Western Australia

Animal Studies Discussion Group

On Thursday 8th December there was a lunchtime meeting of this new Group at the Matilda Bay Tearooms near the University of Western Australia. The meeting discussed Pearson and Weismantel's chapter 'Does "The Animal" Exist?: Toward a theory of social life with animals' from Dorothee Brantz' book *Beastly Natures*.

For more information about the Group, contact Natalie Edwards: n.j.edwards@massey.ac.nz.

New South Wales

University of Sydney

HARN: Human-Animal Research Network.

February Seminar: **Tuesday 21 February 2012, 4.30–6.00 pm. Macleay Museum, University of Sydney**

**Coming
soon**

“Dangerous animals? A history of snakes, sharks and spiders in Australia”

When, and how, do animals ‘become’ dangerous? Perhaps surprisingly, human fear and loathing of particular animal species is a recent phenomenon in Australia. Neither sharks nor spiders were considered serious hazards to human life until the late 1920s. The subsequent stampede to

science and policy to quantify, control and exterminate these beasts illustrates how readily 'dangerous' animals have been constructed in line with cultural sensitivities rather than biology. But what makes an animal dangerous?

Why do ancient animosities towards snakes persist through millennia, while equally enduring fears of frogs and toads fade away? Why is the venomous platypus considered cuddly, yet furry funnel-web spiders provoke disgust? How do humans decide when it is safe to go back in the water, and why does a howl of 'Shark' empty beaches in moments? Moreover, how does perception or 'proof' of dangerousness alter the moral standing of animal species, permitting practices such as vivisection, culling or outright eradication? Drawing upon cultural theory and biology, history and current policy, this seminar will explore the aversive aspect of human-animal relations, with particular emphasis on Australian circumstances and examples.

Chair: Dr Nancy Cushing, School of Humanities and Social Science, University of Newcastle
Presenters: Peter Hobbins, Department of History, University of Sydney, Christopher Neff, Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney

For more information about the seminar or the Group see: [http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/harrington+61 2 9036 5342](http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/harrington+61%209036%205342) or email: fiona.probyn-rapsey@sydney.edu.au

University of Newcastle

Local Lives/Global Networks: The Australian Sociological Association Annual Conference

Dr Helen Masterman-Smith presented a paper on an animal studies topic at this very recent conference held 29 November-1 December 2011. Here is her abstract:

"Sentient Nature and the World of Work"

While the relationship between labour and non-sentient nature is receiving growing attention, the significance of sentient nature or non-human animals to the world of work has been poorly canvassed, with the exception of a few insights from the sociology of animals field. Some of the latter studies have examined workers' experiences of alienation from non-human animals and its hidden costs. Others have underscored the interconnections between social justice, ecological and animal struggles, upon which an alliance politics is advocated. This paper considers some of the difficulties and possibilities associated with this proposition. While labour and animal advocates found common ground in opposing the live export trade, larger problems arising from the often violent interactions between workers and non-human animals have tended to be avoided or been a source of hostility. The vulnerability of both workers and non-human animals often brings them together in sectors like the socially and ecologically destructive animal industrial complex. This does not necessarily mean that workers do not appreciate the intrinsic value of other animals and nature generally or fail to recognise that their own wellbeing rests on non-violent relationships with them. The interconnectedness of their exploitation is the most likely basis for forging a political alliance.

For details about the conferences see: <http://www.tasa.org.au/tasa-conference/2011-tasa-conference/>

Vegan Society NSW

On 9 December the launch of *Vegans Are Cool*, a collaborative book written by members of the global vegan community, took place at the Redfern Community Centre. With a delicious collection of vegan yummys to sample, from cupcakes to savoury delights, this was a no-alcohol, family friendly event aimed to introduce non-vegans to the variety and tastiness of vegan cuisine.

Vegans Are Cool was written by 63 vegans from around the world. Several of these beautiful people were present at the party to sign copies of the book. To find out more visit: www.vegansarecool.com

Publications

Articles and books by Australasian Animal Studies scholars, or about Australasian subjects, that have been published recently or are forthcoming

G.D. Aguilar and M.J. Farnworth

'Stray cats in Auckland, New Zealand: Discovering geographic information for exploratory spatial analysis', *Journal of Applied Geography* (2011). In press.

D. Ben-Ami, K. Boom, L. Boronyak, D. Croft, D. Ramp, C. Townend

The Ends and Means of the Commercial Kangaroo Industry: An ecological, legal and comparative analysis, Sydney: THINKK, the kangaroo Think Tank, University of Technology, Sydney, 2011. Forthcoming.

J. Benz-Schwarzburg and A. Knight

'Cognitive relatives yet moral strangers?', *Journal of Animal Ethics* 1.1 (2011): 9-36.

J. De Boo and A. Knight

'Increasing the implementation of alternatives to laboratory animal use: Part 1 [Jap]'. *JAVA News* 87 (2011): 22-3.

K. Boom and D. Ben-Ami

'Shooting our wildlife: An analysis of the law and its animal welfare outcomes for kangaroos & wallabies', *Australian Animal Protection Law Journal* 44 (2011).

G.D. Daniels and J.B. Kirkpatrick

'Attitude and action syndromes of exurban landowners have little effect on native mammals in exurbia', *Biodiversity and Conservation*. In press.

K. Deskovich, A. Tribe, A. and C.J.C. Phillips

'Fostering appropriate behaviour in rehabilitant orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*)', *International Journal of Primatology* 32 (2011): 616-633.

C. Degeling and M. Rock

'Portrayals of canine obesity in English-language newspapers and in leading veterinary journals, 2000-2009: Implications for animal welfare organizations and veterinarians as public educators', *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science* 14 (2011): 286-303.

K. Descovich, T.E. Reints Bok, A. Lisle and C.J.C. Phillips

'Auditory laterality in a nocturnal, fossorial marsupial (*Lasiorhinus latifrons*) in response to bilateral stimuli', *Laterality* (2011). In press.

M.J. Farnworth, J. Campbell and N.J. Adams

'What's in a name? Perceptions of stray and feral cat welfare and control in Aotearoa New Zealand', *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science* 14.1 (2011): 59-74.

A.C. Fernie, A. Tribe, P.J. Murray, A. Lisle, and C.J.C. Phillips

'A survey of the attitudes of stakeholders in the zoo industry towards the husbandry requirements of captive great apes', *Animal Welfare*. In press.

L.A. Hogan, S.D. Johnston, A. Lisle, T. Keeley, V. Nicolson, A. Horsup, T. Janssen and C.J.C. Phillips

'Regular handling reduces behavioural but not physiological stress responses of wombats (*Lasiorhinus latifrons*) towards humans', *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*. In press.

S. Izmirlı and C.J.C. Phillips

The relationship between student consumption of animal products and attitudes to animals in Europe and Asia', *British Food Journal* 113 (2011): 436-450.

'Attitudes of Australian and Turkish veterinary teaching staff towards animal welfare and rights', *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*. In press.

A.J. Keown, M.J. Farnworth and N.J. Adams

'Attitudes towards the perception and management of pain in rabbits and guinea pigs by a sample of veterinarians in New Zealand', *New Zealand Veterinary Journal* 59 (2011): 305-310.

Andrew Knight

'In search of the Giant Nautilus', *Vet Practice* 43.5 [UK] (2011): 52-3.

'In search of the Tasmanian tiger', *Vet Practice* 43.4 [UK] (2011): 62-3.

Elizabeth Leane and Helen Tiffin

'Dogs, Meat and Douglas Mawson', *Australian Humanities Review* 51 (2011):
<http://www.australianhumanitiesreview.org/>

Dan Lyons

'Protecting Animals versus the Pursuit of Knowledge: The Evolution of the British Animal Research Policy Process', *Society and Animals* 19 (2011): 356-367.
<http://bit.ly/sr1PkU>

T.W. McGowan, C.J.C. Phillips, N. Perkins, D.R. Hodgson, and C.M. McGowan

'The effect of owners' personality on opinions and experience of euthanasia in aged horses', *Anthrozoos*. In press

Lyle Munro

'Animal rights in theory and practice: A review of the sociological literature', *Sociology Compass Online Journal*. Forthcoming early 2012.

Jemàl Nath and Desirée Prideaux

'The Civilised Burger: Meat Alternatives as a Conversion Aid and Social Instrument for Australian Vegetarians and Vegans', *Australian Humanities Review* 51 (2011)
<http://www.australianhumanitiesreview.org/>

Christopher Neff

'Australian Beach Safely and the Politics of Shark Attacks', *Coastal Management Journal* 40. Forthcoming March 2012.

Atila Orel

'Monsters, Devils and Daemons: The Accusations of Nineteenth-Century Vegetarian Writers', *Philament* 17 (2011): 46-74.
http://sydney.edu.au/arts/publications/philament/issue17_pdfs/orel.pdf

Adrian Peace

'Kill Skippy? Red Meat Versus Kangaroo Meat in the Australian Diet', *Australian Humanities Review* 51 (2011) <http://www.australianhumanitiesreview.org/>

Elsbeth Probyn

'Swimming with Tuna: Human-Ocean Entanglements', *Australian Humanities Review* 51 (2011). <http://www.australianhumanitiesreview.org/>

Siobhan O'Sullivan and Rod Bennison

'Riding the Crest of a Human-Animal Studies Wave', *Society and Animals: Journal of Human-Animal Studies* 19 (2011): 333-336.

Yoriko Otomo

'Law and the Question of the (Nonhuman) Animal', *Society and Animals: The Journal of Human-Animal Studies* 19 (2011): 383-391.

C.J.C. Phillips, S. Izmirli, S.J. Aldavood, M. Alonso, B.I. Choe, A. Hanlon, A. Handziska, G. Illman, L. Keeling, M. Kennedy, G.H. Lee, V. Lund, C. Mejdell, V.R. Pelagic, and T. Rehn

'Attitudes to the use of animals in Europe and Asia', *Animal Welfare*. In press.

Val Plumwood

'Babe': The Tale of the Speaking Meat: Part I', *Australian Humanities Review* 51 (2011). <http://www.australianhumanitiesreview.org/>

E. Richards, Tania Signal and Nic Taylor

'A different cut? Comparing attitudes to animals and propensity for aggression within two Primary Industry cohorts, Farmers and Meatworkers', *Society and Animals: Journal of Human-Animal Studies* 20 (2012). Forthcoming

Andrew Robins and C.J.C. Phillips

'International approaches to the welfare of meat chickens', *World's Poultry Science Journal* 67 (2011): 351-369.

N. Savvides

"'Loving Knowing" women and horses: Symbolic connections, real life conflicts and "natural Horsemanship"', *Humanimalia* 3.1 (2011): 60-76.

<http://www.depauw.edu/humanimalia/issue%2005/savvides.html>

Anne Schillmoller

'Gaining Ground: Towards a Discourse of Posthuman Animality', *Southern Cross University Law Review* 14 (2010): 41-74.

Hannah Steel

'New Rhythms, Earth, Air, Water' *LiNQ* 37 (2010): 47-50. <http://www.linq.org.au/>

Gary Steiner

'Justice towards Animals Demands Veganism', *Australian Humanities Review* 51 (2011). <http://www.australianhumanitiesreview.org/>

C.M. Tiplady, D.B. Walsh and C.J.C. Phillips

'Intimate partner violence and companion animal welfare', *Australian Veterinary Journal*. In press.

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

Special Report

Southern Cross University Whale Research Centre (SCUWRC) is a cetacean research centre established in 2001 at Southern Cross University in Lismore, New South Wales, on the east coast of Australia. The principal objective of the SCUWRC is to carry out research on cetacean populations in the Southern Hemisphere for the purpose of contributing to their conservation. From such studies, the Centre endeavours to enhance understanding of these remarkable creatures, to develop effective management strategies for their long-term protection, and to promote education about whales, dolphins and other cetaceans

Tracking Dolphin Movements on the East Coast of Australia



Photo: Liz Hawkins

An ongoing project to monitor the behaviour and movement patterns of dolphins along the North Coast of New South Wales and south-east Queensland is being conducted by Southern Cross University researcher Dr Liz Hawkins and a team of committed volunteers.

Dr Hawkins, who has been studying the behaviour of dolphins for more than seven years, is leading the Dolphin Ecology and Acoustic Project which includes an online community Dolphin Sighting Network to monitor dolphin behaviour in the region stretching from Coffs Harbour to the Gold Coast. As part of the project Dr Hawkins and a team of volunteers are undertaking regular field surveys in the Cape Byron Marine Park and in the waters of south-east Queensland, observing and tracking dolphins from the land and at sea.

“The project aims to not only monitor the impacts of human activities on the dolphins, but also examine their ecology, long-term aspects of their social structure and population trends,” Dr Hawkins said. “During the winter field season in Byron Bay we saw many bottlenose dolphins; amongst them, several resident groups that were seen almost daily. We also saw visiting (or transient) dolphins for a few days travelling in big groups of one hundred or more through Byron Bay. These dolphins aren’t

seen every season, so it was great to get some good photo-identifications for our catalogue. One group of dolphins were observed to feed on yellow-tail kingfish, a common species around Byron Bay, but the first time researchers had seen them eating this species.”

Dr Hawkins said Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins were also sighted in Byron Bay for just the second time in the last eight years.

“The group of seven dolphins (including calves) were feeding among the inner reef with a small group of resident bottlenose dolphins. We know now that dolphins are a lot more sensitive to interactions with humans than we previously realised. Human interaction can impact on critical behaviours such as resting or feeding and in the long-term these interactions can cause changes to the use of critical habitat and energy budgets of dolphins. It is therefore very important that we continue to monitor and assess the health of our local populations of dolphins along the coast.”

In south-east Queensland, a focus of the study is to assess the habitat selection and population abundance of dolphins in the southern Moreton Bay to Fingal Head region. The field observations were inundated by the Brisbane floods in January 2011. “The Brisbane floods had devastating effects on the coastal and marine ecosystems in Moreton Bay. The research will also aid to understand the impacts of these floods on the dolphin populations in the region,” Dr Hawkins said.

A key element of the research project is the Dolphin Sighting Network, which enables members of the community to directly contribute to research by assisting to obtain baseline data and monitor populations, while at the same time learning about dolphins and their environment.

“We are calling on people along the North Coast, from Coffs Harbour to the Gold Coast, to report their dolphin sightings and if possible send us their photos of the individual dorsal fins,” Dr Hawkins said. “One photo can give us so much information, and if we have multiple sightings that really helps us build up a valuable database of information.”

Dr Hawkins said very little was known about many of the dolphin populations that lived along this part of the coastline. The information provided by members of the public will be particularly valuable for assessing the habitat use and abundance, as well as the health of dolphin populations.

For further information or to register a dolphin sighting visit <http://www.dolphinresearchaustralia.com/>



Liz Hawkins (at the wheel) with volunteers

Conferences and Symposiums: Updates, international conferences and seminars

- **Animal Welfare and Ethics: From Principles to Practice** RSPCA Scientific Seminar
28 February 2012. National Convention Centre, Canberra

*Coming
soon*

The RSPCA Australia Scientific Seminar is a key national event for the RSPCA. The Seminar brings together leading experts in animal industries to explore the latest developments in animal welfare research, knowledge and practices. The Seminars are designed to cover a broad spectrum of opinion, encourage audience participation, and have a reputation for provoking lively and constructive debate.

The 2012 Scientific Seminar will explore the ethical perspectives of our use of and behaviour towards animals in a range of topical areas, including farm animals, animals in research, recreational and subsistence hunting, funding of animal welfare research, companion animal breeding, ethics in education, and humane killing. The Seminar will get you thinking about the ethical dilemmas we face in our daily lives and the ethical decisions we make, sometimes without even realising it.

The Chair of the 2012 Scientific Seminar is Dr Simon Longstaff, Executive Director at the St James Ethics Centre in Sydney. As is the tradition with this Seminar Series, the program aims to cross conventional topic boundaries, challenge current thinking, and stimulate further discussion.

Speakers include:

- Simone Dennis: Anthropology, ANU
- Dominique Thiriet: Law, James Cook University
- Teresa Collins: Animal Welfare and Ethics, Murdoch University
- Clive Phillips: Veterinary Science, University of Queensland
- Richard Malik: Veterinary Education, University of Sydney
- Peter Sandøe: Food and Resource Economics, Denmark

For more information, including program and registration details see:

<http://www.rspca.org.au/what-we-do/science-and-policies/science-seminars.html>

- **National Regional Law and Justice Conference**
18–20 May 2012. Coffs Harbour, NSW

CALL FOR PAPERS

Following the success of the inaugural **National Rural and Regional Law and Justice Conference** in 2010, the University of New England School of Law, in collaboration with Deakin University School of Law, is hosting the second National Conference to be held at the BreakFree Aanuka Beach Resort on the north coast of NSW in 2012.

Like the first conference, the aim is to bring together academic researchers, policy makers, practitioners, service providers, and non-government organizations to consider and discuss the law and justice issues confronting rural and regional Australia. The 2nd national conference has a triple focus:

1. On sharing knowledge amongst attendees with different professional backgrounds and concerns, but a shared interest in the future of rural and regional Australia
2. On critical analysis of issues and problems
3. On practical strategies for delivering greater social justice for rural and regional communities

It is expected that speakers will cover a wide range of issues from diverse perspectives. The following key themes have been identified on which papers are invited but submissions from other areas are also most welcome:

- Legal Education and Rural Communities
- Rural Services and Rural Opportunity
- Borders, Boundaries and Rural Law
- Managing Rural Conflict
- Legal Services and Legal Practice in Rural Communities
- Law and Rural Social License
- Indigenous Inclusion

*Coming
up*

Deadline for submissions 20 February 2012

For more information on all these areas and other details about the conference see:

<http://www.une.edu.au/law/rrljconference/index.php>

- **Animal Death Symposium**
13 June 2012. University of Sydney, Camperdown Campus

CALL FOR PAPERS

This symposium brings together cross-disciplinary voices on the topic of Animal Death. We seek papers which explore how animal and human death are conceptualised, diverge, differ and also connect in profound ways. Papers could explore issues of sacrifice, 'necessary' expendability, utility, species extinction, human survival, climate change and conservation. We are particularly interested in human and animal relationships around the nature of death. These include (but not limited to) issues of grief (for the dead companion animal), euthanasia, rituals of slaughter, vivisection, cultures of denial, the issue of who is (and who isn't) attributed a 'soul', post-death belief systems.

Keynote: Professor Deborah Bird Rose, Centre for Social Inclusion, Macquarie University

*Coming
up*

Deadline for submissions: 16 January 2012

Please send 200 word abstracts to Dr Jay Johnston: jay.johnston@sydney.edu.au Individual papers 20 minutes. Panels of up to 3 speakers are welcome.

Convenors: Dr Jay Johnston and Dr Fiona-Probyn-Rapsey fiona.probyn-rapsey@sydney.edu.au / jay.johnston@sydney.edu.au

This is a Minding Animals International Preconference Event, timed to run just before the Minding Animals Conference in Utrecht, July 2012. For more information see: <http://www.mindinganimals.com>

- **Wild**
25-26 May 2012. University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

CALL FOR PAPERS

The first meeting of the revived British Animal Studies Network (BASN) - Glasgow will take place from 2.30pm on Friday 25 May to 5.00pm on Saturday 26 May 2012 at the University of Strathclyde in central Glasgow. Details will be issued in the new year.

As with all previous BASN meetings, this one takes as its focus a key term in animal studies that it is hoped will be of interest to scholars from a range of disciplines. This meeting's title is 'Wild'.

Invited speakers who are already confirmed for May are Tim Ingold (University of Aberdeen), Hayden Lorimer (Glasgow University) and Richard Nash (Indiana University).

As well as these invited speakers the organisers are also issuing this call for papers. Topics covered at this meeting might include (but are not limited to):

- The reintroduction of wild animals
- Wildness as a philosophical construct
- Wild animals in captivity
- Wildness as a cultural trope or theme
- Fertility and wildness
- Encounters with the wild – safaris, walking, urban wildlife

If you are interested in giving a paper addressing the topic 'Wild' from whatever disciplinary perspective please submit an abstract of no more than 200 words with a brief biography (also of no more than 200 words). These should be included within your email – i.e. not as attachments.

**Coming
up**

Deadline for abstracts 13 January 2012

Please send them to basn@strath.ac.uk. Presentations will be 20 minutes long, and we hope to include work by individuals at different career stages.

For more information visit : <http://www.britishanimalstudiesnetwork.org.uk/FutureMeetings.aspx>

- **Taking Animals Apart: Exploring Interspecies Enmeshment in a Biotechnological Era Graduate Student Conference**
31 May–2 June, 2012. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison

CALL FOR PAPERS

In our globalized, highly-industrialized society, human and nonhuman animals are enmeshed in surprising and often troubling ways. "Pharm" goats are living factories for the production of pharmaceuticals; honeybees are explosive-detectors in the "War on Terror;" and household pets – clothed and escorted in strollers – have become humanized companions. What do these sorts of enmeshments mean for us and our "human condition" as well as for our non-human animal counterparts? What do they mean for relationships among species?

The Robert F. and Jean E. Holtz Center and Program in Science and Technology Studies (STS) at the University of Wisconsin--Madison is sponsoring a three-day conference to bring together advanced graduate students in animal studies, science and technology studies, and allied disciplines (English, History, Anthropology, and Fine Arts among others) to discuss the relationships between animal studies and STS. We welcome papers or projects that explore the overlap of humans and other organisms as well as their mutual interaction with technology. Each participant will present a pre-circulated paper, article, creative composition, or dissertation chapter for constructive feedback in a roundtable discussion with peers and with scholars from the University of Wisconsin.

Our keynote speaker will be Susan Squier -- Brill Professor of Women's Studies and English at The Pennsylvania State University; acting director of its Science, Medicine, Technology in Culture program; and author of *Poultry Science, Chicken Culture: A Partial Alphabet*.

**Submit
NOW**

Deadline for abstracts: December 15

Please send a paper proposal of 250 words and a curriculum vitae to Peter Boger at boger@wisc.edu or Jen Martin at jamartin4@wisc.edu . Visual artists and creative writers of fiction, nonfiction or poetry should contact Heather Swan for more information at hsrosenthal@wisc.edu.

For more information see: <http://www.sts.wisc.edu>

- **Human/Animal: 9th Annual Symposium of the International Medieval Society**
28–30 June 2012. Paris, France

CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Medieval Society in Paris (IMS-Paris) is soliciting abstracts for individual papers and proposals for complete sessions for its 2012 symposium organized around the theme of human/animal in medieval France.

Animals - both real and fantastical - were frequently central to medieval culture, thought and artistic production. This symposium addresses a particular aspect of this centrality: the relationship between humans and animals and the way this was imagined, defined and re-defined across the historical and cultural spectrum of the Middle Ages. The distinction between human and animal that modern culture often takes for granted is far from clear-cut in medieval contexts and was subject to historical and cultural change. Historians have suggested that the concept of the animal and the extent to which it represented a form of life distinguishable from that of human beings underwent considerable alteration in the twelfth century. This may be seen in shifts in the terms used to describe animals; developments in the ways animals were represented in literature and art; and the evolution of key texts such as the Physiologus and its variants, the bestiaries.

Within this context, the boundaries between humans and animals - which might be established through elements as diverse as the possession of language, a capacity for laughter, or legal responsibility - were subject to change and negotiation. The conference aims to interrogate the questions that the fluctuating relationship between human and animal in the Middle Ages raises from an historically inclusive, crossdisciplinary perspective by focusing on a number of key questions:

- How was the relationship between human and animal conceptualised, represented and discussed in medieval cultural traditions (philosophical, literary, artistic, architectural, musical or other)?
- What significance does the relationship and/or distinction between humans and animals have in the social and legal contexts in which they interacted?
- To what extent were human and animal thought of as separable or confusable categories? How is this related to behavioural, linguistic, physical, cultural, or other factors?
- In what ways does thinking about animals in the Middle Ages serve to define a notion of the human? Is it possible to conceive of the animal in a way that does not reflect on the human?

*Coming
up*

Deadline for submissions: 15 January 2012

Participants are free to interpret these questions broadly, in line with their particular areas of specialism. Priority will be given to papers that address French and Francophone topics. Please send a proposal of 400 words or less (written in English or French) for a 20-minute paper should be emailed to contact@ims-paris.org

For more information about the IMSParis, details of submission and registration, and the schedule of last year's symposium, please see: www.ims-paris.org<<http://www.ims-paris.org>>.

- **Minding Animals Conference**
4-6 July 2012. Utrecht University, The Netherlands

CALL FOR PAPERS

The aim of Minding Animals is to build bridges between Science, the Humanities and Ethics. This conference is the second in a series of conferences about scientific, ethical and social issues related to human interactions with and uses of animals. The aim of the conference is to bring together academics from different areas (animal welfare, animal ethics, and animal studies in general) with politicians and a broad variety of interest groups. The conference offers a platform for

exchange of information about research developments, debates about controversial political and ethical issues concerning the treatment of animals and a variety of cultural activities around animals. Its themes are:

Session 1: The Human-Animal Relationship

Including animals in art, literature, religion; history of the human-animal relationship; animals in the history of philosophy; psychological approaches towards the human-animal relationship, cultural aspects of the human-animal relationships

Session 2: Animal Capacities

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

Session 3: Animal Welfare

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

Session 4: Animal Ethics

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

Session 5: Animals and Sustainability

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

Session 6: Animals and Public Policy

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

Confirmed speakers include:

- Prof. Colin Allen, Professor of Philosophy, specialized in Philosophy of Biology and Cognitive Science, in particular animal behaviour and cognition
- Prof. Marc Bekoff, Emeritus Professor of Animal Behaviour, author of numerous books about animal capacities and the human-animal relationship
- Prof. John Coetzee, Nobel Prize winning author
- Prof. Julia Driver, Professor of Philosophy, exploring a Human account of duties towards animals
- Prof. Robert Garner, Professor of Political Theory, specialized in the political representation of non-human interests and animal rights
- Prof. Dale Jamieson, Professor of Environmental Studies and Philosophy
- Prof. Christine Korsgaard, Professor of Philosophy, developed a novel Kantian account of our duties towards animals
- Prof. Will Kymlicka, Professor of Political Philosophy, recently co-authored a book on political philosophy and animal rights
- Prof. James McGaugh, Research Professor of Neurobiology and Behaviour, author of 'Memory and Emotion: The Making of Lasting Memories'
- Raj Panjwani, practising lawyer of the Supreme Court of India, specialised in animal protection.
- Prof. Harriet Ritvo, Professor of Philosophy, specialised in the history of human-animal relationships
- Jill Robinson, animal protection, founder of Animals Asia
- Prof. Paul Schnabel, Professor of Sociology and director of the Dutch Social en Cultural Plan bureau
- Prof. Peter Singer, Professor of Philosophy, developed a utilitarian approach to animal ethics

**Coming
up**

Deadline for abstracts: 15 January 2012

(Please note that the International Conference of Bioethics takes place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, in the last week of June 2012. There is also an Animal Law Conference at the University of Zurich on 7-8 July 2012: Animal Law - Reflecting on European, American and Asian Concepts)

For more information, including how to submit abstracts, see: <http://www.mindinganimals.com>

- **ISAZ 2012: The Arts and Sciences of Human-Animal Interaction**
11-13 July 2012. Cambridge, UK

This conference is open to papers and posters from all disciplines relevant to the study of human–animal interaction. The organisers also welcome the submission of short films and video-works on the subject of human–animal interaction.

2012 marks the 25th anniversary of *Anthrozoös: Journal of the International Society for Anthrozoology*, a special event in the journal's history.

Topics will include:

- Animals and human–animal interaction in film, television, literature, music and art
- Attitudes to animals and animal issues (contemporary and historical)
- The impact of human–animal interactions on the health and well-being of people and animals
- Cultural studies of human–animal interaction
- Animal welfare and ethical issues

Speakers include: Jonathan Burt, Karen Rosa, Sam Gosling

**Coming
up**

Deadline for abstracts and short films: 1 February

Early bird bookings available now – book before March 2012 for a discounted price. Online submissions also now open. For more information see: <http://www.isaz2012.com/index.html>

- **Cosmopolitan Animals**
26-27 October 2012. Institute of English Studies, London

CALL FOR PAPERS

Recent scholarship on human-animal relationships has begun to explore our sharing, co-existing, and 'becoming with' animals. Such a scholarly focus brings into perspective new possibilities and permutations of cosmopolitanism, calling for a fresh awareness that animals are fellow creatures, that hosting and hospitality are not restricted to relationships between humans, and that worldliness is far from being a human monopoly. In what ways can we conceptualise cosmopolitanisms which are not solely 'human', and where and how are such relationships made possible?

This conference, under the theme of 'Cosmopolitan Animals', seeks to interrogate and decentre humanist metanarratives that have dominated our thinking and ways of living, while looking to the many non-human others who populate the cosmos. Animal cosmopolitanism not only raises the serious issues of our responsibility for, and responsiveness to, animal others (Derrida), or what Isabelle Stengers calls 'cosmopolitics', which according to Haraway, includes our 'bearing the mortal consequences' for the decisions we make over animal bodies and worlds. Our rapidly inter-linking world also urgently requires coordination between the local and the international in addressing issues that concern humans and non-humans equally, including the detritus of empires and their aftermaths, new intensities of exploitation and commodification, and new pressures of

migration, immigration, and circulation that severely test existing ethics of hospitality, hosting, sharing, and co-mingling.

Keynote speakers: Donna Haraway / Simon Glendinning

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- animal cosmopolitanism, human-animal communication, terrapolitanism, animals and gender
- animalized humans/ humanized animals, 'the posthuman', performing animals, laboratory animals, animal ethics and the politics of meat
- animals in (post)colonial spaces, vermin, the wilderness and wild animals, domestication, breeding and pet keeping, 'companion species'
- micro-organisms, pathogens and parasites, hosting and guesting (with) animals, animals, empires, neoimperialisms, migration, immigration and animals, nomadic animals
- biopolitics and medical science, conservation, ecology and climate change, technologies and animals
- human-animal studies, animals in philosophy and literature, animals in history, science and medicine, music, art and animals, imaginary animal, the politics of creaturely life

**Coming
up**

Deadline for submissions January 31 2012

Please send abstracts to K.Nagai@kent.ac.uk or M.Mattfeld@kent.ac.uk . The organisers also welcome proposals for non-paper based presentations (poster, performance or other artistic work).

For details see: <http://www.kent.ac.uk/english/cosmopolitan-animals.html>

Conference Reports

Minding Animals Pre-conference Events

Reports by Kim Stallwood, an independent author, scholar and advisor on animal rights. He is co-founder of ASI and its European Director.



Animal Citizens

London School of Economics. 7 October 2011

Animal Citizens focused on political approaches to animal ethics. The seminar organizer, Alasdair Cochrane, began with an overview of animal ethics and how political science can add further insight into our understanding as to what animal rights means in a moral and legal sense. (See his *An Introduction to Animals and Political Theory*, published by Palgrave Macmillan.)

Siobhan O'Sullivan, from the University of Melbourne, contrasted the ways the same species is treated in legislation depending upon the context of the relationship we have with them and how they are used. For example, dogs, cats and rabbits as companion animals have different legal protections than when they are used by science as research tools in a laboratory. She made the case that these 'internal inconsistencies' should be highlighted and used to elevate the legal status of those who are less protected. (See her *Animals, Equality and Democracy*, published by Palgrave Macmillan.)

The next speaker, Robert Garner, who teaches political science at the University of Leicester, has researched and written about animals and the law since 1993 with the publication of *Animals, Politics and Morality* (see second edition published by Manchester University Press in 2004). His paper, "Animals Rights in a Non-ideal World," examined the challenges to achieving effective legal protection for animals in the current political climate. He made the case for an "enhanced sentence position" for animals which afforded significantly stronger legal protection for animals than their

current legal status. In short, animals have a right not to suffer regardless of any benefit that may accrue to humans.

The concept of animal citizenship was proposed by Will Kymlicka from Queens University, Ontario. He asked us to imagine a plane arriving at its destination. Everyone aboard held the legal status of citizen; however, depending their circumstances, their status maybe as a full citizen entitled to live, work and vote or someone, for example, who enters the country as a student on a temporary visa with limitations on the length of their stay and what they are legally entitled to do. Drawing from this analogy, he made the case that animals could also have citizenship status, which, depending upon their species and situation, afforded them particular rights. The seminar concluded with a discussion by Steve Cooke (University of Manchester), whose paper, "Justice for Wild Animals: Sovereignty and Partial Sovereignty," discussed animal citizenship as proposed by Will and his co-author Sue Donaldson in their book, *Zoopolis: A Political Theory of Animal Rights* (Oxford University Press).

Animal Ecologies in Visual Culture

University College London. 8 October 2011

This MAI pre-conference event was organized by Giovanni Aloï, editor of the online journal *Antennae*. The program was divided essentially between academics who studied the representation of animals and nature in the arts and artists whose practice is also the focus on this relationship. Included among the scholars were Joyce Salisbury (Professor Emerita from the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay) and Linda Williams (Associate Professor of Art, Environment and Cultural Studies at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia), who spoke respectively on the representation of mammals and non-mammals as good and evil in the middle ages and related positions in eco-critical theory in response to the works of Australian environmental artists John Wolseley and Harry Nankin.

Artists Bruce Gilchrist and Jo Joelson, who collaborate as London Fieldworks, described various projects in urban and rural settings that engage ecology as a "complex inter-working of social, natural, and technological worlds." Based in Budapest and London, contemporary art historians and curators Maja and Reuben Fowkes considered socialism and its legacies in Eastern Europe and how artists represented animals and the natural world. This focus included a consideration of Laika, the dog who was sent on a one-way mission into orbit in 1957. Jussi Parikka focused on the disappearance of insects and animals in early 21st century culture of environmental waste of which electronic media waste constitutes an ever-growing proportion.

Additional commentary was given by arts journalist Rikke Hansen and a concluding discussion was given by Ron Broglio, assistant professor of English and senior research scholar of the Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University, and Giovanni Aloï, lecturer in History of Art at Roehampton University, Queen Mary University of London, The Open University and Tate Galleries.

The day before these two conferences, the opportunity was taken by the MAI board to hold our first in-person meeting. Included among our business was a report from Tatjana Visak, the organizer of MAC2. These three busy days in London reaffirmed the steady progress HAS is making throughout the world, and both Ken and I will post further about our experiences at future events.

Animals and the Law

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. 24-25 October 2011

In 1976 at the RSPCA's Rights of Animals symposium at Trinity College in Cambridge, England, I heard Lord Houghton of Sowerby say, "My message is that animal welfare, in the general and in the particular, is largely a matter for the law." Fast-forward 35 years to Barcelona, Spain, where I recalled Lord Houghton in the presentation I made last week at Europe's first conference on animals and the law.

Hosted by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, "Animals & the Law" brought together for two days legal scholars, public policy makers and animal advocates like myself from Europe, including Spain, Belgium, France and the U.K., as well as from Australia, Canada and the United States. The conference organizer, Professor Teresa Giménez-Candela, who also established Europe's first Master in Animal Law and Society at UAB, wrote recently, "If you care about animals, make them your profession. If you work with animals, improve your education." Along with the exciting news that the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, will be hosting the world's first Advanced Degree in Animal Law, it is heartening to see Lord Houghton's advice being taken seriously at last throughout the world. As he said, "There is no complete substitute for the law. Public opinion, though invaluable and indeed essential, is not the law. Public opinion is what makes laws possible and observance widely acceptable."

With the rapid growth in Human-Animal Studies, Animal Law is, perhaps, in an even more advanced state of development, particularly in the U.S. There is, of course, no competition between them. They are both equally needed to help us disentangle the intricate web of confusion and collusion we have spun in our complex relations with animals. Understanding how they figure in our lives and they in ours, as well as developing a body of law giving animals protection, including moral and legal rights – both HAS and Animal Law are essential. Speakers at the Animals & the Law conference in Barcelona tended to either focus on specific aspects or, like me, took the opportunity to look at the topic more broadly.

Prof. Georges Chapouthier provided an overview of how animals are and could be viewed in the eyes of the law. Veterinarian Andrea Gavinelli, head of the European Union's Animal Welfare Unit, described how the EU is working to improve the ways in which animals are used. Professor Giménez-Candela also considered the changing status of animals within European codes. Marlene Wartenberg, director of European Policy for Vier Pfüten in Brussels, and Enrique Alonso Garcia, former negotiator for the Spanish government, focussed on Article 13 in the European Union treaty, which addresses animal welfare and how it can and should be utilized to further the interests of animals.

For an international perspective outside of Europe, American law professors David Favre and Steven Wise explored pet trusts and legal personhoods respectively. Martine Lachance, who established the International Research Group in Animal Law and teaches at the University of Quebec in Montreal, described the challenges and opportunities to the legal status of animals in Canada. Australian Rod Bennison (CEO of Minding Animals) considered greyhounds and how they are socially constructed and how this impacts their legal status. Celeste Black of the University of Sydney detailed the federal government's response to the public outcry to how cattle and sheep exported from Australia are treated and slaughtered in Indonesia. My presentation, "[Animal Rights and Public Policy](#)," challenged people to understand the single greatest obstacle we face is establishing moral and legal rights for animals as a legitimate mainstream public policy issue.

"Campaigning for personal change will persuade some people, indeed, a minority of people, to change their hearts, minds and lifestyles," I said. "But only public policy will achieve institutional change in society. Personal change changes one person at a time. Institutional change changes society. What we have to discover is how to achieve institutional change so that the values of animal rights are embedded into society along with human rights."

The conference concluded with law students making brief presentations exploring such issues as the design of enclosures used in zoos and their impact on animal welfare, and whether Spanish law could adopt similar institutions as pet trusts as they have been in the U.S. Professor Teresa Giménez-Candela is to be congratulated for organizing such a successful conference and establishing the first Master in Animal Law and Society program in Europe

For more about Minding Animals and HAS please visit the ASI at www.animalsandsociety.org and Kim's website at www.kiminstallwood.com.

Rethinking Behaviour and Conservation: The History, Philosophy and Future of Ethology II
Macquarie University, Sydney. 26-28 November 2011.

Report by Marcus Baynes-Rock, Centre for Research on Social Inclusion.

This workshop opened with a welcome to country and an introduction followed by a paper by Deborah Rose (Macquarie University) where she explored the implications of wildlife controls and wildlife losses to non-human communities. Deborah's presentation concluded with a disturbing video account of a flying fox control program in Queensland where a nesting site was disrupted in an effort to drive the flying foxes to relocate.

Arian Wallach from James Cook University presented a paper in which she drew on her background in the biological sciences to consider the place of humans in trophic communities. Having shown that meso-predators were typically held in check by top predators, Arian questioned whether humans could be classified with top predators and whether disruptions to human social systems were responsible for dramatic population increases. K-lynn Smith (Macquarie University) followed with a paper about the social lives of non-domesticated chickens. Having revealed the complex, soap-opera like lives of chickens, K-lynn went on to argue that the fear response was the element of chicken nature that had been most altered in the processes of domestication.

Jamie Lorimer (King's College) presented a paper about the qualities of elephants that defy modern ontologies. In a space between wild and domestic, between socialised and commodified, elephants challenged ways in which 'nature' was represented. Natasha Fijn of ANU presented an alternative methodological approach to human animal studies based on her ethnographic filmmaking in Mongolia. Natasha presented some engaging footage of milking practices in Mongolia and discussed the need for the ethnographer to acknowledge their participation in the filmmaking process. Kirrily Thompson (University of South Australia) talked about mounted bullfighting in southern Spain where horses were expected to exhibit 'hyper-natural' behaviours such as biting and facing bulls, while at the same time were exhibiting 'hyper-cultural' behaviours such as sitting and posing. These elements of the mounted bullfight, argued Kirrily, challenged distinctions between horses based on oppositions of wildness and control. The first day concluded with a performance by Undine Sellbach and Stephen Loo (University of Tasmania) in which bees and a small girl were brought together as one species made a home in the other.



Undine Sellbach. Photo: Matthew Chrlew

The second day of the workshop began with a presentation by Undine Sellbach in which she examined the techniques of representation used by Jacob von Uexküll. Undine discussed how the 'picture book' quality of von Uexküll's writings opened up different ways of ecological thinking in which the tools and techniques of the laboratory might be foregrounded and imagined rather than lost behind results. Marcus Baynes-Rock (Macquarie University) presented a paper in which he borrowed from von Uexküll to reveal the surround worlds of spotted hyenas in Harar, Ethiopia. Marcus argued that the landscape for a spotted hyena was something that changed in meaning with the days and nights and different seasons. Katherine Wright (Macquarie University) borrowed from personal experience to examine different ways in which rabbits might be conceived of in terms of a shared experience of land. Kate suggested that an understanding of shared phenomena in the landscape might lead to a better approach to compassionate conservation.

Robert Kirk from the University of Manchester presented an engaging account of the science of mine-sniffing dogs in which two individuals set about testing whether dogs were effective in finding buried mines. Robert showed how the scientific method was constantly challenged by the agency of the dogs that were being tested; that it was methodologically sound but was undone by its assumption that dogs were like machines. Melanie White from the University of New South Wales compared the approaches of Durkheim and Bergson in Sociological theory. Where Durkheim held

society to be counter-instinctive and 'hard work', Bergson held society to be the natural condition of humanity so that morality and sympathy were not achieved through the overcoming of the ego but emerged naturally with human social tendencies. Bergson's account led to a consideration of the ethical challenge posed when non-humans were included in society.

Matt Chrulew (Macquarie University) presented an intriguing paper about a zoo biologist called Heini Hediger, who drew from von Uexküll to institute schemes which maximised the well-being and reproductivity of captives and the satisfaction of visitors in zoological gardens. Matt demonstrated how von Uexküll's theory of mindedness of animals could be co-opted as a means to more efficiently objectify them. Thom van Dooren (University of New South Wales) completed the day with his paper directed at addressing 'what is wrong with extinction.' Thom intuited that rethinking non-humans as lineages in an historic (and future) sense might lead to an ethics of continuation of lineages rather than simply a preservation of species.

Day three involved a trip to Taronga Zoo. Zoo staff talked about their role in conservation breeding programs and the ethics of euthanasia. These were followed by a zoo tour, a bird flight show and a seal presentation.

Throughout the workshop, some recurring themes tied the various papers and discussions together so that each had a relevance to the others. Jacob von Uexküll's presence at the workshop was pervasive as his theory underpinned several of the papers presented. There were other themes of altered behaviours, ethics, emplacement and dislocation all of which served to tie everything together. The workshop also served to open up some areas of study for consideration, particularly with regard to place, mindedness and belonging.

It bodes well for the field of human-animal studies that such a profusion of ideas and approaches could have come from such a focused workshop. Thanks especially to Matt Chrulew for producing such a well organised workshop in such a limited space of time.



Rethinking Behaviour and Conservation in session. Photo: Matthew Chrulew

Interview: Academics, activists, researchers

Deborah Bird Rose interviewed by Matthew Chrulew



Deborah Bird Rose is a Professor in the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion at Macquarie University, Sydney. Her work focuses on entwined social and ecological justice in this time of climate change, and is based on her long-term research with Aboriginal people in Australia. She writes across several disciplines, including anthropology, history, philosophy, cultural studies and religious studies.

Deborah has written numerous books and essays, including *Reports from a Wild Country: Ethics for Decolonisation* and recently published *Wild Dog Dreaming: Love and Extinction* (University of Virginia Press). She edits the *Ecological Humanities* in the *Australian Humanities Review* with Thom van Dooren.

Matt: In *Report from a Wild Country* you write that you seek “to include the natural world within the moral community of encounter, responsibility, and witness.” (34) What have been the inspirations and tools that have allowed you to open up such traditionally anthropocentric methodologies as ethnography to a world full of nonhuman forces, creatures and voices?

Deborah: *The inspiration comes from my research with Aboriginal people here in Australia. I have been fortunate to have had many wonderful teachers – elders who sat with me, took me walkabout, told me stories, and really tried to help me understand the world around us. I was inspired by the kinship of it all – of how humans and nonhumans are enmeshed in these bonds of enduring solidarity, expressed in every day action and in ritual, and also located in country, in sacred sites, in the signs of life that tell stories of what happened. I learned from people who know, without having to think about it or defend it, that nonhuman others live lives of meaning, and that their actions often tell a lot about their meaningfulness. The fact that we humans often can't understand what that meaningfulness is all about is not a statement about others, it is a statement about us, and it is an invitation to learn more about others.*

As I work with what Aboriginal people are telling us, I always want to find the balance between respecting that knowledge by working with it, and at the same time refraining from appropriating or inappropriately mimicking that knowledge. So, I've also been looking at some of the stories the West tells about kinship among earth creatures. I know, as we all do, that we western people have these huge stories about separation from the others, stories that set up a stockade of human self-enclosure and refuse every suggestion, indeed, refuse much evidence, concerning the falsity of what is effectively an apartheid wall. At the same time, we have many fascinating stories about connections and relationships. Some of our ancient religious stories give us insight, and I love working with them as they often seem to hold open the big questions in ways that are wonderfully relevant to us today. Science is equally fascinating in this regard. Darwin based his research life on studying kinship, and DNA studies show an extraordinary degree of relationality. Scientific research also raises the question of the nature of the relationships – is it all based on 'selfish' genes, or is something more complex going on? I love the work of Margulis and Sagan; I love thinking about life in terms of bacteria, recombinations, ecosystems within organisms as well as organisms within ecosystems; I love thinking about symbiosis, and mutualism.

To look into the lives of others in terms that draw on Aboriginal perspectives of intentional, meaningful action, and on biological perspectives of entangled mutualism, is to encounter a vividly engaging world of complex, relational coming-forth. Societies like Aboriginal clans and other

groups are classed as small-scale societies. Their numbers are few, and their way of life is embedded within kinship. The smallness, though, is actually only reflective of the presumption that society and kinship only include humans. Once one realises that the groups are multispecies groups, that country is included, that there are sites and tracks that connect groups, that everyday life is full of wonders, then the term small-scale seems faintly ridiculous. If institutions are the measure of all things, then Aboriginal societies seem small. If relationality across species, places and time is the measure of life, then the west's self-enclosure seems not just ridiculous but dangerous.

Matt: Your work has always been concerned with exploring legacies of violence – with the colonial destruction of indigenous cultures, and increasingly with the dislocation and extinction of other species of life. How difficult has it been to articulate how these ongoing practices of violence are so often paired and reinforcing – among those who, with good intentions, still shun this “dreaded comparison” of sorts, and against those who, more callously, consider neither to be unacceptable sacrifices for “development”?

Deborah: *When I was doing the research for my book Hidden Histories, I was told many stories of almost unbearable cruelty, and of indifference to cruelty. I was taken to places where horrible things happened. I made recordings, and I transcribed them. Sometimes, sitting on a tarp on the ground with the tape recorder running, I wondered: why are people telling these stories? Why am I listening? Why can't we just forget all this? The answer that came into focus for me was that until the violence is over, until peace has been made, remembrance is necessary. Remembrance of violence tells us necessary things about who we are, and how we come to be here. There may come a time when peace is fully established, when there is a peace that is so generous, so loving, so open to the future, that all that violence doesn't really matter anymore. But such a time does not exist, and we live in this time, not in some imaginary future.*

I think similar things need to be said concerning violence to the natural world – to animals, of course, and to plants, to habitats, to rivers, to mountains, to atmosphere..... There seems to be no end to the violence of modernity. I don't find it difficult to articulate the problems. But I can see that the kind of world toward which my life's work is directed – a world in which we could start to make peace – is not on the near horizon.

The comparison between the suffering of humans and the suffering of nonhumans is indeed a matter that has the potential to cause offence, and so I think we are called to consider why it could be construed as offensive. For example, when Anglo-Australians denigrated Aboriginal people by classifying them amongst the fauna of the natural world, the classification was a form of violence. It was violent because Anglo-Australians were thinking from within a human-only stockade in which everything on the outside was fair game for exploitation or extermination. To put humans out there amongst the 'standing reserves' and the 'killable' was extremely violent. In contrast, if one steps away from the human-only view of value, and acts from within a kin-based world of entangled life, it is clear that we humans are part of the fauna. If we and others are to live, and live well, we need to be comporting ourselves far more intelligently and perceptively than is now the case.

Matt: Terms such as Country and resilience have long been central to your work, and your latest book *Wild Dog Dreaming* carries a subtitle that perhaps sums up your most recent focus: *Love and Extinction*. How can we continue to do anything, let alone something as difficult as to love, when we are surrounded by so much loss?

Deborah: *That's one of the great existential questions of our time. For me, it is a matter of faithfulness. I keep faith with my Aboriginal teachers by continuing to work with what they taught me, and to hold fast to understandings based on kinship, mutualism, and multispecies sentience and communication. I keep faith with life on earth (or try to) by continuing to write and to persuade; I aim to enliven and vivify our understandings, our discourse, our moral imagination. I believe we have to hold on to the understanding that modernity in its contemporary form is not the only way to live, and that, in spite of its apparent hegemony, it doesn't control everything, and it certainly won't last forever.*

Love just is. It needs no defence. How it arises is one of the great and beautiful mysteries. I always hope that my words can help other people to find their own experiences of love, loss, mystery, and fidelity.

Matt: *Do you see animal studies yet gaining much of a foothold in the academy – in its own shape, or in its influence on other disciplines, such as anthropology or philosophy? What has been your experience of developing interdisciplinary discussions on these issues? What have you achieved so far with Macquarie's working group on Animals and Society, and what are your hopes for the future of this initiative?*

Deborah: Animal studies seems to be popping up all over the place – in universities, in journals, in conferences, in conversations. I think it is wonderful. This is a moment of a thousand flowers – the field is not controlled, nobody owns it, the boundaries haven't been set, it is un-disciplined, and consequently immensely fertile. Like the term 'environmental', the term 'animal' is often linked with disciplines. Environmental philosophy and environmental anthropology, for example, have their emerging parallels in the anthropology of animals and the philosophy of animals.

I think it is great that animals are being given recognition in disciplines, but interdisciplinary approaches are also seriously necessary. I am particularly involved with approaches that rest under labels like multispecies ethnography and ethno-ethology. Basically, for me, the ecological humanities approach is the most satisfying. The 'take' on the ecological humanities that we have developed (see www.ecologicalhumanities.org) works with two tasks identified by Val Plumwood. She asserted that the tasks before us today, as people who hope to change the world, are to resituate the human within nature, and to resituate nature within ethics. This is a huge project, of course, not a one-person show. It requires numerous disciplines: the study of humans, the study of ethics, the study of animals and other living beings and ecosystems, the study of the stories we tell about inclusion and exclusion. This time of loss is also a time for opening our lives to the relational, ethical, inclusive, and responsive vulnerability of life on earth.

Last year I started the Animals and Society Working Group at Macquarie. This initiative brings people together across faculties, and is producing some truly interdisciplinary insights and understandings. Our research questions range widely across issues of extinction, conservation and rescue; zoos, biopolitics and resurrections; cities, wildlife and urban planning; ethics and the use of animals in laboratories; co-existence, and friendship; animal behaviour and cognition. Our disciplinary perspectives include history, literature, philosophy, cultural studies, human geography, law, anthropology, religious studies, musicology, and biology. We have had a brilliant year and a half: our group was launched by Marc Bekoff in December last year, and we've held four international symposia in our short history, two of them organised by you (thanks Matt!). Two of our members, Dr Jane Johnson and Dr Hollis Taylor, were awarded Macquarie post-doctoral fellowships. At this time discussions have just started with a view to developing a formal research centre for animal studies building on the excellent start made by the existing group.

My work has been facilitated by the ARC Discovery Grant that Thom van Dooren and I were awarded: 'Encounters with Extinction: A multi-sited, multi-species approach to life at the edge of catastrophe in the Asia-Pacific region' (see www.extinctionstudies.org). I'll conclude this rave by acknowledging the support we've been given to take on this large and exciting research project, and to thank you, Matt, for being part of it.

Matthew Chrulew is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion at Macquarie University.

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

The Barristers Animal Welfare Panel (BAWP)

Animal Law Network

BAWP comprises well in excess of 100 barristers (including some 25 silks) from all the State Bars of Australia. Their aims are:

- to promote, and foster advocacy for, the welfare of animals generally, whether in Australia or elsewhere;
- to enable litigants in matters of public interest or prosecutions affecting animal welfare to be represented and advised on a pro bono or reduced fee basis, instructed where necessary under the auspices of PILCH or direct by different law firms;
- to challenge publicly or otherwise deficiencies in the animal legal regime in Australia or elsewhere, and for this purpose, to formulate and prosecute proposals for law reform;
- to advise or appear in the defence of protestors acting to promote animal welfare;
- to promote the adoption by law schools of 'Animal Law' as a subject and continuing legal education programs for members of the legal profession and others;
- to encourage the participation by other legal professionals, law students or persons with non-legal skills in our programs and cases, especially by membership of the Panel's Secretariat;
- to establish and maintain an informal adjunct panel of law firms to act as instructing solicitors and otherwise assist in promoting the objects of the Panel; and
- to liaise and collaborate with other organisations or individuals with like or compatible objects or with which (irrespective of their objects) such liaison or collaboration may stand to benefit animal welfare, including international organisations.

The website of the Panel includes Key Panel Officers, Animal Law e-book, Current Issues, Cases of Interest and Publications pages. For more information see: <http://www.bawp.org.au/>

Whale Research Centre

Southern Cross University

Southern Cross University Whale Research Centre (SCUWRC) is a cetacean research centre that was established in 2001 at Southern Cross University in Lismore, New South Wales, on the east coast of Australia.

The principal objective of the SCUWRC is to carry out research on cetacean populations in the Southern Hemisphere for the purpose of contributing to their conservation. Current national and international projects being coordinated by researchers from the SCUWRC include studies of humpback whales in Hervey Bay, Byron Bay / Ballina and Rarotonga (Cook Islands), as well as inshore dolphin studies in locations ranging from the Clarence River in northern NSW to the Capricorn Coast of Queensland. From such studies, the Centre endeavours to enhance our understanding of these remarkable creatures, to develop effective management strategies for their long-term protection, and to promote education about whales, dolphins and other cetaceans.

To achieve this objective, a collaborative approach is utilised for research involving the expertise of leading researchers from all over Australia, trained in fields such as marine mammal science, genetics, surveying, and acoustics. These capabilities are greatly enhanced by close collaborative links with leading international marine mammal researchers and organisations such as the South Pacific Whale Research Consortium (SPWRC) and The Oceania Project.

See [Special Report](#) on page 11 and for more information about the Centre, its current projects, whales and dolphins see: <http://www.scu.edu.au/research/whales/index.php>

Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods (RIEL)

Charles Darwin University

Research Opportunities

The Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods (RIEL) at Charles Darwin University has an exciting research agenda that presents tremendous opportunities for young and/or early career researchers to gain new qualifications and experience, while working on interesting issues and making a difference in a very special part of the world.

The breadth of partnerships, issues and opportunities summarised here illustrate that these opportunities also represent the chance to work in inter-disciplinary teams across an exciting new research institute and its partners in science, government, industry and the community. Opportunities exist in the areas of Coastal and Marine Ecology Management, Freshwater Ecology and Management, Savanna Management and Wildlife Conservation. The opportunities are those for which there is already secured funding, or reasonable prospects of funding if an appropriate post-graduate student or post-doctoral fellow can be identified.

Post-doctoral applicants should have been awarded a PhD, preferably within the last five years, in a discipline relevant to the proposed area of research. While REIL may consider alternative arrangements under exceptional circumstances, their expectation is that the base location for all of these research opportunities will be Darwin.

PhD scholars should ideally have or be eligible for an Australian Post-graduate Award (APA). PhD scholars who are successful in attracting funding from either the North Australian Marine Research Alliance ([NAMRA](#)) or Northern Research Futures initiatives will be expected to enrol in a joint PhD between Charles Darwin University and the Australian National University (ANU), and will most likely have supervisors from both institutions on their supervisory panel.

PhD Scholarships Charles Darwin University is calling for Expressions of Interest for PhD Scholarships under the Collaborative Network Program with partners the Australian National University, James Cook University and the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

For more information see: <http://riel.cdu.edu.au/prospective/current-research-opportunities>

THINKK: The Think Tank for Kangaroos

University of Technology Sydney

The killing of kangaroos is a highly charged ethical matter. Australia has been accused of hypocrisy for opposing the killing of whales while at the same time engaging in the largest commercial killing of land-based wildlife in the world. This killing raises a myriad of ethical concerns, including concern for the welfare of joeys and adult kangaroos, the environment and Indigenous rights.

The mission of THINKK is to foster understanding among Australians about kangaroos in a sustainable landscape, through critically reviewing the scientific evidence underpinning kangaroo management practices and exploring non-lethal management options that are consistent with ecology, animal welfare, human health and ethics.

THINKK is a new and innovative think tank that has been established to undertake independent research and encourage public discourse on kangaroos in Australia. THINKK is comprised of key ecology and sustainable policy experts and consults widely with stakeholders. THINKK engages in independent, practical research and consulting based on knowledge leadership. The think tank strives to fill current knowledge gaps in science, policy and law to assess the key processes relating to kangaroos and dysfunctional landscapes. THINKK actively disseminates research findings to promote change that will provide a sustainable future for kangaroos and the Australian landscape.

The think tank is governed by a Research Advisory Committee comprising of macropod experts, Dr Dror Ben-Ami and Dr Daniel Ramp, ISF sustainability expert Professor Stuart White and ISF animal and environmental law expert Keely Boom. ISF sustainability expert Louise Boronyak is THINKK's project manager. Expert advisors, macropod expert Dr David Croft, pioneering animal welfare expert Christine Townend and Indigenous elder Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison, inform and refine THINKK's research priorities and content.

For more information see: <http://thinkkangaroos.uts.edu.au/>

Minding Animals International

An important component of Minding Animals 2 in Utrecht will be lunch-time round-table discussions to be coordinated and held by the established 18 Minding Animals Study Circles. Several lunch-time round-table discussions were held at Minding Animals 1 in Newcastle, Australia, to stimulate debate on several themes. The sessions were highly successful. After Newcastle, the concept was extended and several transdisciplinary Study Circles were formed.

It was envisaged that discussions within the groups would culminate in lunch-time roundtables at Utrecht 2012 and in joint papers to be submitted for publication; and despite some quiet times, the Study Circles are proving productive and have been providing some stimulating debate.

Consider joining one of the **Minding Animals Study Circles**:

Animals and Children

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/animals-and-children>

Group email address: animals-and-children@googlegroups.com

Animals and Climate Change

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/animals-and-climate-change>

Group email address: animals-and-climate-change@googlegroups.com

Meat and Animals

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/meat-and-animals>

Group email address: meat-and-animals@googlegroups.com

Commercialisation of Animals

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/commercialisation-of-animals>

Group email address: commercialisation-of-animals@googlegroups.com

Animals and Extinction

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/animals-and-extinction>

Group email address: animals-and-extinction@googlegroups.com

Feminism and Animals

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/feminism-and-animals>

Group email address: feminism-and-animals@googlegroups.com

Animals and the Queer Communities

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/animals-and-the-queer-communities>

Group email address: animals-and-the-queer-communities@googlegroups.com

Violence and Animals

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/violence-and-animals>

Group email address: violence-and-animals@googlegroups.com

Animals and Prisoners

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/animals-and-prisoners>

Group email address: animals-and-prisoners@googlegroups.com

Activism and Animals

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/animals-and-activism>

Group email address: animals-and-activism@googlegroups.com

Animals in Art and Aesthetics

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/animals-art-and-aesthetics>

Group email address: animals-art-and-aesthetics@googlegroups.com

Animals in Captivity, Entertainment and Sport

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/animals-in-captivity-sport-and-entertainment>

Group email address: animals-in-captivity-sport-and-entertainment@googlegroups.com

Minding Animals in Science

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/minding-animals-in-science>

Group email address: minding-animals-in-science@googlegroups.com

Animals, Politics and the Law

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/animals-politics-and-the-law>

Group email address: animals-politics-and-the-law@googlegroups.com

Minding Animals and Philosophy

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/minding-animals-and-philosophy>

Group email address: minding-animals-and-philosophy@googlegroups.com

Animals and Religion

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/animals-and-religion>

Group email address: animals-and-religion@googlegroups.com

Equine Study Circle

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/minding-animals-equine-study-circle>

Group email address: minding-animals-equine-study-circle@googlegroups.com

Animals, Language and Place

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/animals-language-and-place>

Group email address: animals-language-and-place@googlegroups.com

An exciting development has been an offer by the International Society for Environmental Ethics to assist with the publication of papers from the Study Circles. Further announcements will be made shortly on this initiative.

For more information see: www.mindinganimals.com

British Animal Studies Network (BASN)

The British Animal Studies Network Lives Again!

Thanks to the generosity of the University of Strathclyde, BASN is being revived - and it now has its own website: www.britishanimalstudiesnetwork.org.uk.

Having run over ten meetings between 2007 and 2009 in central London with the support of the AHRC and Middlesex University, BASN will be re-launched in central Glasgow in May 2012, with the financial support of the University of Strathclyde. Under the leadership of Erica Fudge once again, it is hoped that the new home for BASN will welcome both old and new members to join the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary conversations about humans and other animals.

The topics for the first three meetings will be:

- Wild
- Farm
- Looking at Animals

The meetings in Glasgow will take a different form from those in London. They will run over two days – from Friday afternoon until Saturday early evening. Papers will be by invitation and also by open call, and there will – as before – be plenty of time scheduled for informal conversation and socialising.

Details of the first BASN-Glasgow meeting and the call for papers are now available (see [Conferences and Symposiums](#) above). It is hoped that these meetings, as with those held in London, will be attended by a range of people involved in animal studies and related areas. This might include scholars and postgraduates working within the field; scholars from outside of animal studies who are beginning to recognise the significance of studying the role, place and perception of animals; people from non-academic institutions – animal welfare charities, museums, NGOs; and artists who are representing and thinking about animals in their work.

If you'd like to join the mailing list for BASN, and receive information about this and future meetings/events please go to <http://www.britishanimalstudiesnetwork.org.uk/Home.aspx> and click on the Register for Updates link.

Institute for Human-Animal Connection (IHAC)

University of Denver

IHAC is an internationally recognized center for research and training in the varied facets of human-animal interaction across the lifespan and grounded in evidenced-based practice for implementing diverse and ethically responsible animal-supported educational and therapeutic interventions.

IHAC is a respected source of scientific and scholarly information on human-animal connections within the fields of social work and social sciences. IHAC is devoted to the education, clinical training and scholarly development of social work graduate students interested in:

- the myriad ways in which animals and people intersect across the lifespan and across various contexts
- the ways that animal-supported experiences may be incorporated into efforts to promote human and animal well-being and reduce human physical and mental health problems
- encouraging and empowering people to gain understanding of the interrelationships among themselves, their families, and their communities, including the natural environment and its non-human inhabitants

Their efforts focus on educating Master of Social Work (MSW) and social work PhD candidates to use best practices in animal-supported programs and interventions, and to learn and implement effective community collaborations. Students are encouraged to contribute creatively to our understanding of human-animal connections and to join a new cadre of future academic leaders in this field.

For more information about the Center's values, faculty, news, and recourses see:

<http://www.humananimalconnection.org>

H-Animal Network

Syllabus Exchange

The syllabus exchange located at the H-Animal website has been updated with a wealth of new courses. Beth Berkowitz, Kári Driscoll, Carla Freccero, Alastair Hunt, Mary Pollock, Stephanie Posthumus, Daniel Cross Turner, and Amy Young have made new contributions. You can find the syllabus exchange at: <http://www.h-net.org/~animal/syllabus.html>

If you have new or revised syllabi that you would like to share with the H-Animal community on-line, please send them to Brett Mizelle in PDF format at dmizelle@csulb.edu

German Human-Animal Studies

Online-portal and new publication

A new online-portal for German Human-Animal-Studies has been published. On the website, information and networking opportunities for interested scholars are provided. The website is operated by the *Chimaira AK* network, from which a publication on social human-animal relationships will soon be published in the *transcript publishing house*. The anthology was released in October 2011, and includes trans-disciplinary contributions to "discuss not only issues of the

constitution of humans and animals, but also show subsequent discussions about gender, identity and political practice", the announcement text specifies.

For access see <http://human-animal-studies.de/>

Web of Life Foundation

Annual Essay Competition

WOLFoundation.org is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting fresh thinking on environmental and conservation issues. They are seeking essays for entry into their annual competition which carries \$2,000 in prizes. Essays should be up to 3,000 words and promote fresh ideas presented in an accessible form. They are looking for entries that everyone will want to read — essays should be aimed at a general readership and should be non-technical. No footnotes or citations are allowed.

Entries should be written in prose in the English language. You can submit essays or short stories, factual commentary or fiction - whichever way and whichever writing style you choose to communicate your ideas. Just make it compelling. Essays can have been previously published or awaiting publication.

A red arrow-shaped button pointing to the right, containing the text "Submit NOW" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Deadline for submissions: December 15th 2011

Further details can be found at www.wolfoundation.org and submissions can be made to submissions@wolfoundation.org

Institute of Critical Zoologists

The ICZ is an interdisciplinary center dedicated to promoting critical zoological dialogue and research. The Institute aims to develop a critical approach to the zoological gaze, or how humans view animals.

Urban societies live in relative isolation from animals; however, our demand and gaze upon them have grown significantly over the last century. It is undeniable that looking at animals is considered both desirable and pleasurable in societies. Animals convey meaning and values that are culture-specific, and in viewing the animal, we cannot escape the cultural context, political climate and social values in which that observation takes place.

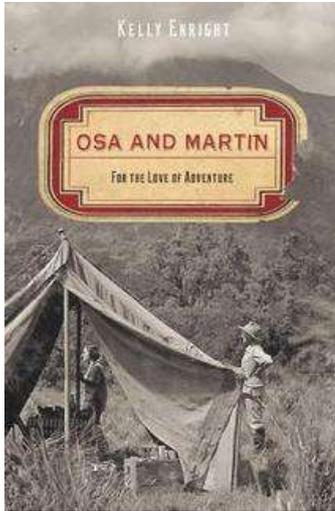
The relationship between animals and humans has reached an appalling state. There is increased visual exploitation of animals (there are more than a thousand zoos in the world and twice as many natural history museums); and there is exploitation of animals as commodity (tiger parts are traded for commerce to save them in China). Not to mention the environmental, ecological, cultural threats of zoos, animal performances, animal agriculture, poaching, economic-driven conservation biology, natural history museums displays and animal memorabilia, to which human anthropomorphism plays a pivotal role.

ICZ seeks to develop a Critical Zoological Gaze that pursues creative, interdisciplinary research that includes perspectives typically ignored by animal studies, such as aesthetics; and to advance unconventional, even radical, means of understanding human and animal relations. The institute also discourages anthropomorphism in the appreciation and understanding of zoology and has a wide variety of projects involving **scientists, zoologists, conservationists, artists and various organisations**. All their projects aim to improve the practice of zoology and contribute conceptual advances to our knowledge and understanding of zoological studies.

For information on projects, museum and journals see: www.criticalzoologists.org

New Books

OSA AND MARTIN: For the Love of Adventure by Kelly Enright. Globe Pequot Press, 2011



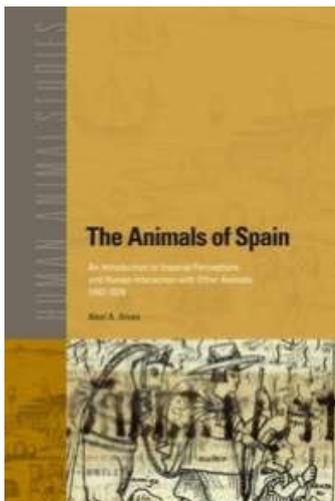
Osa and Martin tells the story of world-renowned adventurers Osa and Martin Johnson, who, from the 1910s through the 1940s, brought the jungles of Africa and the South Pacific to millions of Americans. It takes us from their first expedition to the South Seas, which established their public image as an independent, daring couple, to their first African adventure, where they proved their films were authentic glimpses of untarnished nature. From their jungle camp in northern Kenya, they filmed and lived with wildlife while Osa drew upon her pioneer roots to carve a home in the wilderness.

Back in America, Martin found respect among men of science, while Osa flirted with an intrigued general public. She wrote children's books about her exotic pets, began her own line of clothing, and marketed toy animals to benefit wildlife conservation. After Martin's death, Osa returned to Africa only once, but she remained an influential voice in the field of wildlife conservation until her death in 1953. The first book on this legendary pair written for a general

audience, *Osa and Martin* is a thrilling and inspiring read.

Kelly Enright, who holds a PhD in American History from Rutgers University, is the author of *Rhinoceros* (Reaktion Books) and *America's Natural Places: Rocky Mountains and Great Plains*. She lives in Vail, Colorado.

THE ANIMALS OF SPAIN: An Introduction to Imperial Perceptions and Human Interactions with Other Animals, 1492-1826 by Abel A. Alves. Brill Human-Animal Studies series, 2011



Writings from 1492 to 1826 reveal that the history of animals in the Spanish empire transcended the bullfight. The early modern Spanish empire was shaped by its animal actors, and authors from Cervantes to the local officials who wrote the relaciones geográficas were aware of this.

Nonhuman animals provided food, clothing, labor, entertainment and companionship. Functioning as allegories of human behavior, nonhuman animals were perceived by Spanish and Amerindian authors alike as bearing some relationship to humans. On occasion, they even were appreciated as unique and fascinating beings. Through empirical observation and metaphor, some in the Spanish empire saw themselves as related in some way to other animals, recognizing, before Darwin, a "difference in degree rather than kind."

Abel A. Alves, Ph.D. (1990) in History, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, is Associate Professor of History at Ball State University. His publications include the book *Brutality and Benevolence: Human Ethology, Culture, and the Birth of Mexico* (1996).

POPULAR MEDIA AND ANIMALS by **Claire Molloy**. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011

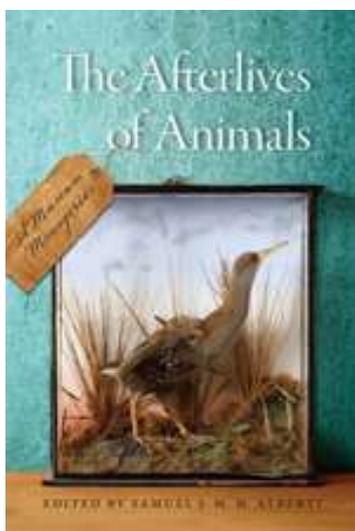


How do mainstream films, television, advertising, videogames and newspapers engage with key animal issues such as vivisection, hunting, animal performance, farming, meat eating and animal control?

Claire Molloy argues that animal narratives and imagery are economically significant for popular media industries which, in turn, play an important role in shaping the limits and norms of public discourses on animals and animal issues. Through analysis of various popular examples this book grapples with some of the industrial, social, cultural and ethical aspects of media discourses on animals. By examining how popular media forms constitute key sources of information, definitions and images, the author explores some of the myriad ways in which media discourses sustain a range of constructions of animals that are connected, appropriated or co-opted by other systems of production and so play a role in the normalisation of particular practices.

Claire Molloy is Senior Lecturer in Media in the School of Arts and Media at University of Brighton, UK. She is the author of *Memento*, has published on various topics related to media and animals and is a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics.

THE AFTERLIVES OF ANIMALS: A Museum Menagerie edited by **Samuel J. M. M. Alberti**. University of Virginia Press, 2011



In the quiet halls of the natural history museum, there are some creatures still alive with stories, whose personalities refuse to be relegated to the dusty corners of an exhibit. The fame of these beasts during their lifetimes has given them an iconic status in death. More than just museum specimens, these animals have attained a second life as historical and cultural records.

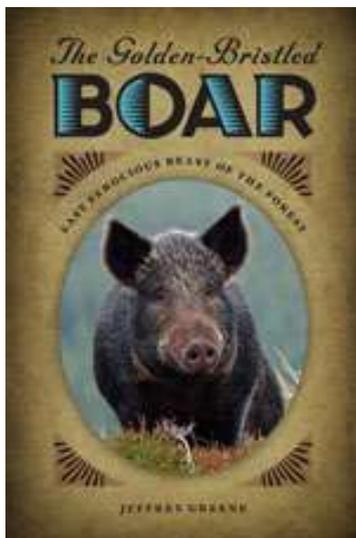
This collection of essays--from a broad array of contributors, including anthropologists, curators, fine artists, geographers, historians, and journalists--comprises short "biographies" of a number of famous taxidermized animals. Each essay traces the life, death, and museum 'afterlife' of a specific creature, illuminating the overlooked role of the dead beast in the modern human-animal encounter through practices as disparate as hunting and zookeeping. The contributors offer fresh examinations of the many levels at which humans engage with other animals, especially those that function as both natural and cultural phenomena, including Queen Charlotte's pet zebra, Maharajah the elephant, and Balto the sled dog, among others.

elephant, and Balto the sled dog, among others.

Contributors: Samuel J. M. M. Alberti, Sophie Everest, Kate Foster, Hayden Lorimer, Garry Marvin, Henry Nicholls, Hannah Paddon, Merle Patchett, Christopher Plumb, Rachel Poliquin, Jeanne Robinson, Mike Rutherford, Richard C. Sabin, Richard Sutcliffe, Geoffrey N. Swinney.

Samuel J. M. M. Alberti, Director of Museums and Archives at the Royal College of Surgeons, is also author of *Morbid Curiosities: Medical Museums in Nineteenth-Century Britain*.

THE GOLDEN BRISTLED BOAR: Last Ferocious Beast of the Forest by Jeffrey Greene. University of Virginia Press, 2011



The wild boar appears to us as something straight out of a myth. But as Jeffrey Greene learned, these creatures are very real, living by night and, despite shrinking habitats and hordes of hunters, thriving on six continents.

Greene purchased an eighteenth-century presbytery in a region of ponds and forests in northern Burgundy between the Loire and Seine Rivers of France. He soon discovered he'd moved to one of the most densely populated boar areas in Europe. Following the gift of a side of boar from a neighbor, and a dramatic early-morning encounter with a boar-hunting party and its prey, Greene became fascinated with the animal and immersed himself in the legend and the reality of the wild boar.

Although it has no natural enemies, the boar is in constant conflict with humans. Most societies consider it a pest, not only wreaking havoc on crops and livestock, but destroying golf-course greens in search of worms, even creating a hazard for drivers (hogs on the roads cause over 14,000 car accidents a year in France). It has also been the object of highly ritualized hunts, dating back to classical times.

Jeffrey Greene is the author of *French Spirits: A House, a Village, and a Love Affair with Burgundy* and *Water from Stone: The Story of Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve*. A widely published poet, he is the recipient of the Samuel French Morse Poetry Prize and the Randall Jarrell Award in Poetry. He teaches at the American University of Paris.

PIG by Brett Mizelle. Reaktion Animal series, 2011

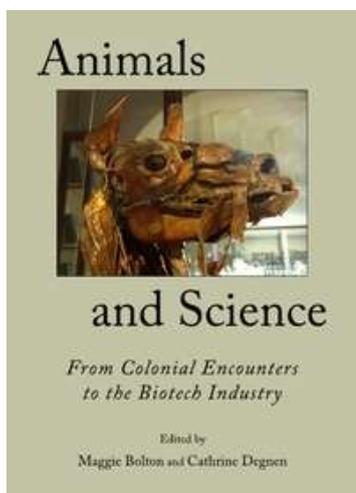


Known as much for their pink curly tails and pudgy snouts as their lowbrow choices of diet and habitat, pigs are prevalent in modern culture – from the “Three Little Pigs” to Miss Piggy to *Babe*. Humans and pigs have lived alongside each other since early pigs were domesticated 9,000 years ago, and we are facing a future in which pigs and humans will be even more closely intertwined as a result of biomedical breakthroughs and rising global pork consumption.

In *Pig*, Brett Mizelle provides a richly illustrated and compelling look at the long, complicated relationship between humans and these highly intelligent, sociable animals, focusing on the contradictions between our idealized view of pigs and the truth of the ways in which pigs have been selectively bred to fulfil human desire for their meat and to make hundreds of consumer products. This book explores human kinship with pigs in the worlds of art, literature and entertainment, but also the history of the development of modern industrial pork production. *Pig* shows how humans have shaped the pig and how the pig has shaped us in its turn.

Brett Mizelle is Professor of History and Director of the American Studies Program at California State University, Long Beach.

ANIMALS AND SCIENCE: From Colonial Encounters to the Biotech Industry edited by Maggie Bolton and Cathrine Degnen. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011



What exactly does a focus on animals bring to anthropological studies of science? This is a question that the various contributors to this edited collection set out to answer. This range of studies explores the intersections between animals and science across different ethnographic settings and in different historical periods.

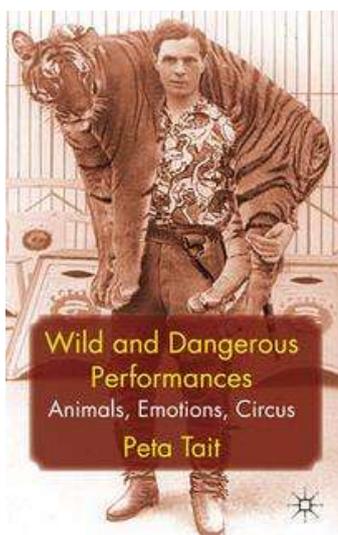
The contributions to this volume look at what it means to be human, the place of human beings vis à vis other species on this planet, our ideas of what nature and culture are, the limits to our ideas of kinship, the ethical debates that surround science, together with their interpretation by both scientific communities and the lay public, and the moral comportment of scientists.

Through focusing on science, the contributors not only demonstrate that people elsewhere have different relationships with, and knowledge of, beasts (and that different possibilities of relating to animals exist within our own Western worldview), but

further suggest that our Western knowledge about animals and their positions in society, arrived at through Western science and the social sciences, is itself in need of rethinking—to incorporate other ways of knowing. This volume contends that accounts in which animals meet science provide important theoretical insights for anthropologists and can set new agendas for theory in anthropology and science studies.

Maggie Bolton is based at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, and has published in journals such as the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* and *The Sociological Review*. Cathrine Degnen is Lecturer in Social Anthropology at Newcastle University, UK.

WILD AND DANGEROUS PERFORMANCES: Animals, Emotions, Circus by Peta Tait. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011



Elephants, lions, tigers and leopards evoked fascination and awe, fear and excitement in the twentieth-century circus. *Wild and Dangerous Performances: Animals, Emotions, Circus* explores what happened when big cats roared on cue and elephants danced together. Acts in live circus and cinema reveal how humans anthropomorphize animals with their emotions. Trained animals became caught up in scientific precepts from Darwin on emotions and in opposition to animal performance.

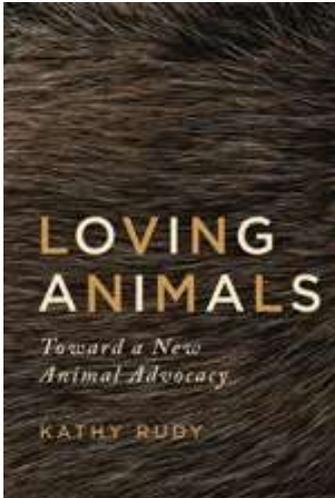
This history considers acts by Carl Hagenbeck, Frank Bostock, Alfred Court, Clyde Beatty, Mabel Stark, Patricia Bourne, Damoo Dhotre, Gunther Gebel-Williams and others in leading international circuses. Their acts featured: Nero, the horse riding lion, Rajah, the wrestling tiger, Sonia, the waltzing leopard, and Champion, lying like a fur collar across the trainer's shoulders.

Animals embody a phenomenology of transacted emotions and feelings in culture, recently exemplified by Christian, the lion.

Contributing to the growing scholarship in animal studies, this fascinating study has much to offer to anyone interested in circus animal performance, performance history, animal emotions and animal rights and ethics.

Peta Tait is Professor and Chair of Theatre and Drama at La Trobe University, Australia.

LOVING ANIMALS: Toward a New Animal Advocacy by **Kathy Rudy**. Minnesota University Press 2011

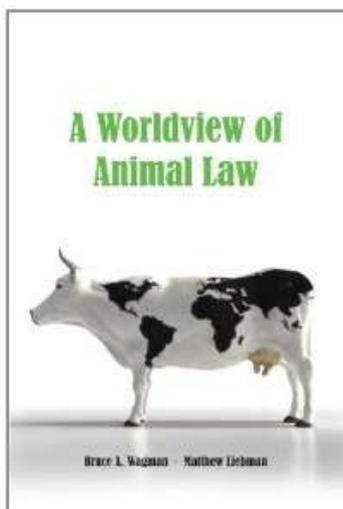


The contemporary animal rights movement encompasses a wide range of sometimes competing agendas from vegetarianism to animal liberation. For people for whom pets are family members—animal lovers outside the fray—extremist positions in which all human–animal interaction is suspect often discourage involvement in the movement to end cruelty to other beings. In *Loving Animals*, Kathy Rudy argues that in order to achieve such goals as ending animal testing and factory farming, activists need to be better attuned to the profound emotional, even spiritual, attachment that many people have with the animals in their lives.

Through extended interviews with people whose lives are intertwined with animals, analysis of the cultural representation of animals, and engaging personal accounts, she explores five realms in which humans use animals: as pets, for food, in entertainment, in scientific research, and for clothing. In each case she presents new methods of animal advocacy to reach a more balanced and sustainable relationship association built on reciprocity and connection. Rudy suggests that the nearly universal stories we tell of living with and loving animals will both broaden the support for animal advocacy and inspire the societal changes that will improve the lives of animals--and humans--everywhere.

Kathy Rudy is associate professor of ethics and women’s studies at Duke University. She is the author of *Sex and the Church: Gender, Homosexuality, and the Transformation of Christian Ethics* and *Beyond Pro-Life and Pro-Choice: Moral Diversity in the Abortion Debate*.

A WORLD VIEW OF ANIMAL LAW by **Bruce A. Wagman** and **Matthew Liebman**. Carolina Academic Press, 2011

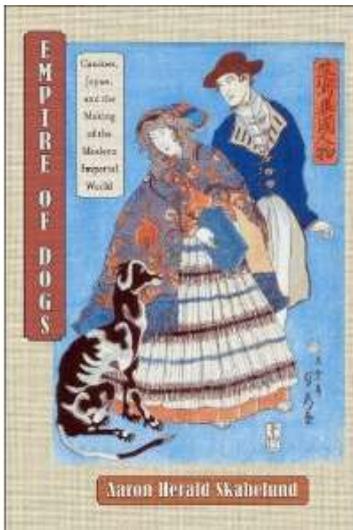


This is the first book of its kind--an exciting and illustrative survey of the way different countries and cultures treat animals under the law. Given the breadth and scope of the legal treatment of animals around the world, the book presents selected issues and laws in a text that is readable and helpful to a wide range of readers, including undergraduate and post-graduate courses in sociology, cultural anthropology, international law, animal law, and animals in society.

A Worldview of Animal Law is split into subject areas tied to the different ways we interact with animals in society, with a focus on comparing the laws in different countries in the current era. Its format and wide coverage make it interesting for readers in any country who want to know about this area of the law, whether for personal, educational or professional reasons. Unlike many casebooks on the market, this is not a law school text, and not a comprehensive survey of one specific country's laws; rather, it provides a more readable and wider view of the compelling issues that arise regarding the integration of animals into society.

Bruce Wagman is a partner at Schiff Hardin LLP and an Adjunct Professor of Law at UC Hastings College of the Law, Stanford Law School, and UC Berkeley School of Law. **Matthew Liebman** is a staff attorney at the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

EMPIRE OF DOGS: Canines, Japan, and the Making of the Modern Imperial World
by Aaron Herald Skabelund. Cornell University Press, 2011



In 1924, Professor Ueno Eizaburo of Tokyo Imperial University adopted an Akita puppy he named Hachiko. Each evening Hachiko greeted Ueno on his return to Shibuya Station. In May 1925 Ueno died while giving a lecture. Every day for over nine years the Akita waited at Shibuya Station, eventually becoming nationally and even internationally famous for his purported loyalty. A year before his death in 1935, the city of Tokyo erected a statue of Hachiko outside the station. The story of Hachiko reveals much about the place of dogs in Japan's cultural imagination.

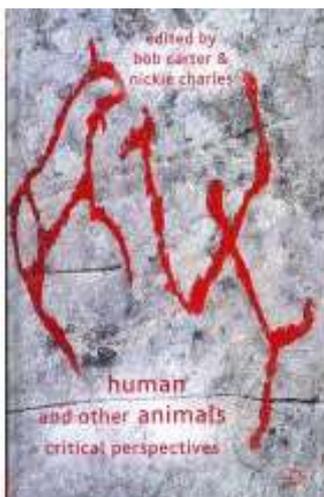
In the groundbreaking *Empire of Dogs*, Aaron Herald Skabelund examines the history and cultural significance of dogs in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Japan, beginning with the arrival of Western dog breeds and new modes of dog keeping, which spread throughout the world with Western imperialism. He highlights how dogs joined with humans to create the modern imperial world and how, in turn, imperialism shaped dogs' bodies and their relationship with humans through its impact on dog-

breeding and dog-keeping practices that pervade much of the world today.

Through this provocative account, Skabelund demonstrates how animals generally and canines specifically have contributed to the creation of our shared history, and how certain dogs have subtly influenced how that history is told. Generously illustrated with both color and black-and-white images, *Empire of Dogs* shows that human-canine relations often expose how people—especially those with power and wealth—use animals to define, regulate, and enforce political and social boundaries between themselves and other humans, especially in imperial contexts.

Aaron Herald Skabelund is Assistant Professor of History at Brigham Young University.

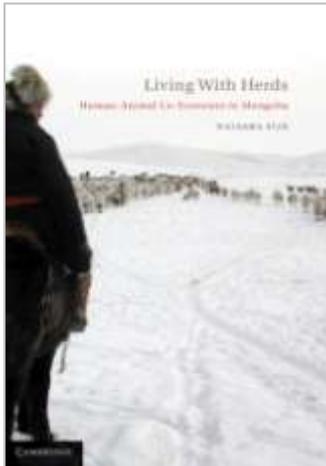
HUMAN AND OTHER ANIMALS: Critical Perspectives edited by Bob Carter and Nickie Charles. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011



This collection brings together a range of inter-disciplinary works which explore the questions raised by scientific practices and by different ways of conceptualizing the place of human beings in the material world. The contributors consider theoretical issues and the debate between those who advocate a post-humanist abandonment of any distinction between society and nature, human and animal, and those who argue for the importance of retaining these categorical distinctions. Through a range of case studies, they explore practices which reproduce and/or challenge the species barrier, including issues of animal rights and animal welfare, whether and under what circumstances animals are regarded as social actors with agency, media representations of human-animal relations, and the relation between animals and national identity. Taken together, these essays examine the social and political ramifications of different ways of theorizing and researching the relation between human and other animals.

Bob Carter is Associate Professor in the Sociology Department at the University of Warwick, UK. Nickie Charles is Professor and Director of the Centre for the Study of Women and Gender at the University of Warwick, UK. She is currently researching animals in families.

LIVING WITH HERDS: Human-Animal Coexistence in Mongolia by **Natasha Fijn**, Cambridge University Press, 2011

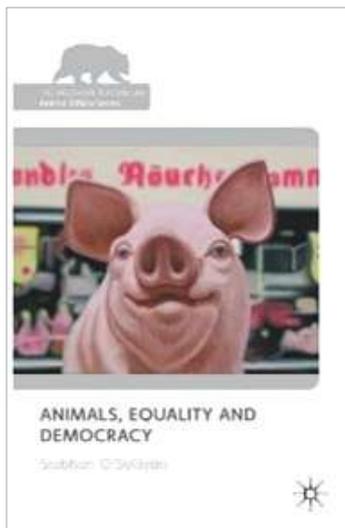


Domestic animals have lived with humans for thousands of years and remain essential to the everyday lives of people throughout the world. In this book, Natasha Fijn examines the process of animal domestication in a study that blends biological and social anthropology, ethology and ethnography. She examines the social behavior of humans and animals in a contemporary Mongolian herding society. After living with Mongolian herding families, Dr. Fijn has observed through firsthand experience both sides of the human-animal relationship. Examining their reciprocal social behavior and communication with one another, she demonstrates how herd animals influence Mongolian herders' lives and how the animals themselves are active partners in the domestication process.

This book features an in-depth ethnographic account of not only Mongolian herders but also the lives of their non-human counterparts, Mongolian herd animals, and their co-existence together. It contains a wealth of original and new ethnography, which is based in Mongolia, and is a detailed observational account and interpretation of human-animal relations and social engagement.

Natasha Fijn is a College of the Arts and Social Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Australian National University, Canberra. Her research focuses on human-other animal connections and engagement, as well as the use of observational filmmaking, as an integral part of her research. Go to the following site to view video material that links with the book: http://www.cambridge.org/gb/knowledge/isbn/item5731727/?site_locale=en_GB

ANIMALS, EQUALITY, DEMOCRACY by **Siobhan O'Sullivan**. Palgrave Macmillan Animal Ethics Series 2011



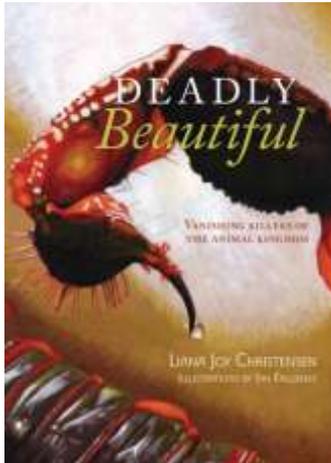
Animal welfare laws for hens in petting zoos are more comprehensive than laws for broiler hens raised for meat. Seem strange? In *Animals, Equality and Democracy* Siobhan O'Sullivan exposes inconsistencies in animal protection laws that favour the most popular, best

Animal welfare laws for hens in petting zoos are more comprehensive than laws for broiler hens raised for meat. Seem strange? In *Animals, Equality and Democracy* Siobhan O'Sullivan exposes inconsistencies in animal protection laws that favour the most popular, best known nonhuman animals. She also shows that protections vary depending on how we want to make use of a particular animal, with the most visible animals receiving the strongest level of protection. She argues that contemporary animal welfare laws make the lives of animals akin to a lottery.

O'Sullivan calls this the 'internal inconsistency' and argues that animal protection inequalities offend fundamental liberal democratic values. She argues that this is a justice issue and proposes that both human-animal studies scholars and animal advocates turn their attention to the internal inconsistency as a pressing matter of social justice.

Siobhan O'Sullivan is Research Fellow at the School of Social and Political Sciences, Melbourne University. She has a long-standing interest in animal protection and has published widely on animal issues, including articles in *Environmental Politics*, *Environmental Values* and the *Journal of Animal Ethics*. Siobhan is an Associate Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics.

DEADLY BEAUTIFUL: Vanishing Killers of the Animal Kingdom. Text by **Liana Christensen**, illustrations by **Ian Faulkner**. Exisle Publishing, 2011



Deadly Beautiful takes you on an entertaining and informative journey through a branch of the animal kingdom long feared - deadly animals. Snakes, crocodiles, spiders, sharks, octopuses, wolves, bears, tigers, hippopotamuses and many many more are explored in *Deadly Beautiful*; collected together not because of any zoological similarity but because they can and have killed humans.

Clear, up-to-date, scientifically accurate information about the natural history of these species is presented on each animal, examining their day-to-day existence, how they have developed the weapons they possess and how they use them for defence, for hunting and for making love. Woven into the text are accounts of people's close encounters with deadly animals – the good, the bad and the bizarre – as well as stories from myth and legend that have contributed to modern perceptions. In addition, realistic risk assessments are included, often in a gently humorous way; for example, how much more likely you are to die in your bed than be killed by a shark.

Liana Christensen was for five years editor of the wildlife and natural resources magazine *Landscape*. She has worked extensively with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), earning from them a citation for excellence in science journalism. Her nature essays have regularly appeared in anthologies and magazines such as *Australasian GEO*.

Ian Faulkner is an illustrator, cartoonist and cartographer with over 25 years experience and a passion for natural history. He has been artist in residence at the Australian National University, and also cartographer at *Australian Geographic Magazine*, as well as undertaking work for The Australian Museum and Sydney's Taronga Park Zoo.

Book Review

BIRDLIFE. Edited by Nyanda Smith and Perdita Phillips. Lethologica Press, Fremantle 2011. A collaborative art and text book that explores the avian world.

Review by **Yvette Watt**

Recently I went to a local designers/makers market, and was overwhelmed by the number of items from jewellery, to cards, and other art and craft works that were decorated with birds. Judging by the following Facebook exchange I saw later that day, I wasn't the only one to be struck by the flock of feathered creatures that featured on so many pieces on offer:

Christine: *A big thank you to my customers who purchased at my market stall today... And Lucy your comments are already influencing my thoughts of new work ♥.*

Lucy: *which comments? The chihuahua gush?*

Christine: *No, the ornithological one...*

Lucy: *how so? (she says suspiciously)*

Christine: *I promise never to make bird prints*

Lucy: *birds aren't bad, per se. I'm talking about the ubiquitous 'cute' birds. I love birds usually*

Christine: *A rephrasing of my previous comment: I promise never to make cute bird prints.*

Lucy: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XM3vWJmpfo&feature=youtu.be>

Christine: :-D

Just 2 days earlier I had found a rather lovely little book titled *Birdlife* nestling in my pigeonhole. Published by the Western Australian boutique publishing house, Lethologica Press, this beautifully

produced, small scale book combines the bird-themed poetry and prose of Nandi Chinna, Michael Farrell, Graeme Miles and Nyanda Smith with artwork in the form of photographs and drawings by Perdita Phillips. Phillips' evocative visuals, which act as independent artworks rather than illustrations of the text, "range from covert photography from within museums around the world, to tracking bowerbirds in the Kimberley."

With all these representations of birds fluttering around, I couldn't help but wonder what is it about birds that so captures our imagination. Of course birds appeal because so many are so beautiful, with their often extraordinary plumage, complex songs and lovely forms, and it is these kinds of birds we see rendered into the rather ubiquitous creatures that inhabit the art/craft markets. However, while not so popular as decorative motifs, the not-so-cute birds, such as crows and ravens, also inspire artists and writers. But regardless of their type, as creatures of the sky it is the other-worldliness of birds that is so compelling, as we envy their apparent freedom that comes of being able to defy gravity so readily. As such, it is no wonder birds inspire creative responses, so fittingly illustrated in Goya's wonderful image titled *The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters*, which shows a man (Goya himself, it is presumed) asleep at his desk, while above him flutter a variety of winged creatures, which has been interpreted as a comment by Goya on the creative process.

The writers and artist in *Birdlife* respond to and use birds in a variety of ways. From the selected diary entries recording the real birds slaughtered by Captain Charles Fremantle and his team in 1829, to symbolic and metaphorical birds, and birds that haunt the text, rather than being clearly described, this little book is a fitting tribute to birds in their many forms – not just the cute ones. As such, it is a little book full of big ideas, and one that anyone with even a fleeting interest in birds should enjoy.

For more information see: http://www.lethologicapress.org/teapot/?page_id=985

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Open Court Popular Culture and Philosophy Series

PLANET OF THE APES AND PHILOSOPHY

Editor: John Huss

The editor encourages contributions from philosophers and other intellectuals that explore topics connected to the Planet of the Apes franchise, from Pierre Boule's 1963 novel *La Planète des Singes* to the 1968 politically charged blockbuster starring Charlton Heston, through the sequels and TV series to the 2011 reboot/prequel, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* (the first in a planned trilogy). The prequel, which was released at roughly the same time as the documentary *Project Nim*, has recently received attention from philosophers and animal rights activists, including Peter Singer. Much public discussion of *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* has centered on ethical and philosophical issues.

Of particular interest for the volume are popular essays addressing current debates in science and religion, biology, mind, consciousness and self-consciousness, language, personhood, identity, human/nonhuman boundary, speciesism, animal ethics, social and political philosophy, philosophical anthropology, utopia/dystopia, and environmental ethics. Authors who would like to try their hand at engaging a non-academic audience in philosophical dialogue using the *Planet of the Apes* films as a touchstone are especially encouraged to submit an abstract. These essays are aimed at a popular audience of *Planet of the Apes* fans, but should nonetheless advance a substantive argument.

**Coming
up**

Deadline for submission: January 15, 2012

Notification of abstract acceptance by February 15, 2012. First drafts due by June 15, 2012; final drafts due by August 15, 2012.

For more information see <http://www.popularcultureandphilosophy.com/> . Email abstracts and a c.v. to: huss.john@gmail.com.

Critical Photography Series

THE BLIND

Editor: Alfredo Crammeroti

Images of animals are all around us. Yet the visibility offered by wildlife photography can't help but contribute to an image of the animal as fundamentally separate from the human. Yet how can we get closer to animals without making them aware of us or changing their relationship to their environment?

'The Blind' might be the answer. Developed for naturalists by the Institute of Critical Zoologists (a fictional art construct by artist Zhao Renhui), the blind is a camouflage cloak that works on the principle that an object vanishes from sight if light rays striking it are not reflected, but are instead forced to flow around as if it were not there. In fifty stunning colour photographs, this volume shows the cloak tested in nature reserves, the arctic, grasslands, and urban environments. The images show the lone figure of an observer surveying the landscape for animals, trying his best to blend into his surroundings and failing at it in the process.

The Blind offers an opportunity to explore how we see animals in photography and, in parallel to this exploration which questions the human attitude towards watching animals, the text examines the role of Darwin's evolutionary theory in the context of human relations. It critically opens up for discussion the relevance of Social Darwinism in shaping our current worldviews in the fields of geopolitics, social sciences and humanitarian relief.

*Coming
up!*

Deadline for submission 31 December 2011

Organisers are seeking an essay of up to 20,000 words (published or unpublished) that might compliment this body of work, directly or indirectly. There is a modest fee available for the selected essay.

Please send enquiries to Renhui@criticalzoologists.org -Renhui, Artist or Alcramer@gmail.com - Alfredo Crammeroti, Editor of Critical Photography Series

For more about the book series (Critical Photography) see:
<http://www.intellectbooks.co.uk/books/view-Series,id=19/>

For more about the Institute of Critical Zoologists see:
http://criticalzoologists.org/projects/blind/blind_main.html

Animal Fiction

Jamrach's Menagerie by Carol Birch. Text Publishing, 2011

A thrilling and powerful novel about a young boy lured to sea by the promise of adventure and reward, with echoes of *Great Expectations*, *Moby-Dick*, and *The Voyage of the Narwhal*. Following an incident with an escaped tiger, Jaffy, a nineteenth-century street urchin, goes to work for Mr. Charles Jamrach, the famed importer of exotic animals, alongside Tim, a good but sometimes spitefully competitive boy. **Shortlisted for the 2011 Man Booker prize.**

Animal People by Charlotte Wood. Allen and Unwin, 2011.

Animal People is a portrait of urban life, a meditation on the conflicted nature of human-animal relationships, and a masterpiece of storytelling. The novel invites readers to question the way we think about animals – what makes an ‘animal person’? What value do we, as a society, place on the lives of creatures? Do we brutalise our pets even as we love them? What’s wrong with anthropomorphism anyway? **See Charlotte Wood's website <http://www.charlottewood.com.au/animalpeople.html>** for more about this book, including an article written by her for the *Australian Good Weekend* magazine.

The Tiger's Wife by Tea Obrecht. Random House, 2011.

In a Balkan country mending from war, Natalia, a young doctor, is compelled to unravel the mysterious circumstances surrounding her beloved grandfather's recent death. Searching for clues, she turns to his worn copy of *The Jungle Book* and the stories he told her of his encounters over the years with “the deathless man.” But most extraordinary of all is the story her grandfather never told her—the legend of the tiger's wife. **Winner of the Orange Prize for Fiction 2011.**

The Life and Opinions of Maf the Dog and of his friend Marilyn Monroe by Andrew O'Hagan. Allen and Unwin, 2010.

In November 1960, Frank Sinatra gave Marilyn Monroe a dog. His name was Maf. He had an instinct for the twentieth century. For politics. For psychoanalysis. For literature. For interior decoration. This is his story. Maf the dog was with Marilyn for the last two years of her life. Not only a picaresque hero himself, he was also a scholar of the adventuring rogue in literature and art, witnessing the rise of America's new liberalism, civil rights, the space race, the New York critics, and he was Marilyn Monroe's constant companion. **[I loved Maf! – Ed.]**

Ape House by Sara Gruen. Bond Street Books, 2010.

Sam, Bonzi, Lola, Mbongo, Jelani, and Makena are no ordinary apes. These bonobos, like others of their species, are capable of reason and carrying on deep relationships—but unlike most bonobos, they also know American Sign Language. Isabel Duncan, a scientist at the Great Ape Language Lab, doesn't understand people, but animals she gets—especially the bonobos. Isabel feels more comfortable in their world than she's ever felt among humans . . . until she meets John Thigpen, a very married reporter who braves the ever-present animal rights protesters outside the lab to see what's really going on inside. **Sara Gruen is also author of *Water for Elephants*.**

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

Brock Review

Volume 12, no 1 2011 **Special Issue: Animals in Human Societies**. Edited by John Sorenson

- Animals in Human Societies: An Introduction: John Sorenson
- One of Every Type: Collection, Description and the Production of the Generic Animal at the Hamburg Zoological Garden, 1863-1911: Angeles Espinaco-Virseda
- BC's Representational Silviculture and the Negative Affect of the Pine Beetle Animal Story: V. Haynes
- Mustangs and Prisoners: Narratives of Capture and Domestication: Natalie Corinne Hansen
- Animals and Women as Meat: Patricia Denys
- Tied Oppressions: An Analysis of how Sexist Imagery Reinforces Speciesist Sentiment: Carol L. Glasser
- The Myth of "Animal Rights Terrorism": John Sorenson
- How Happy is Your Meat? Confronting (Dis)connectedness in the 'Alternative' Meat Industry: Kathryn Gillespie
- Animal Liberation: A View from Political Science: Paul Hamilton

Open Access: <http://www.brocku.ca/brockreview/index.php/brockreview/issue/view/44>

Environmental Education Research

Volume 17 no 6, 2011 **Special Issue: The Media, Animal Conservation and Environmental Education**. Edited by John Blewitt

- Critical practice and the public pedagogy of environmental and conservation media: John Blewitt
- Humans, sharks and the shared environment in the contemporary eco-doc: Helen Hughes
- Harnessing visual media in environmental education: increasing knowledge of orangutan conservation issues and facilitating sustainable behaviour through video presentations: Elissa Pearson, Jillian Dorrian & Carla Litchfield
- Conservation photography as environmental education: focus on the pedagogues: Bruce Evan Farnsworth
- Field birding and digital objects: immaterial technologies and their implications for one practice of coming to know the more-than-human: Gavan Peter Longley Watson
- Exploring use of new media in environmental education contexts: introducing visitors' technology use in zoos model: Victor Yocco, Elizabeth H. Danter, Joseph E. Heimlich, Betty A. Dunckel & Chris Myers
- Linking community communication to conservation of the maned wolf in central Brazil: Marcelo Ximenes A. Bizerril, Carla Cruz Soares & Jean Pierre Santos
- The environmental education through filmmaking project: Hallie Harness & Howard Drossman

For access see: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/ceer>

International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food

Volume 18, no 3 2011 **Special Issue: Agriculture and Climate Change**. Edited by Reidar Almås, Hilde Bjørkhaug and Marta G. Rivera-Ferre

- Climate Change: How Debates over Standards Shape the Biophysical, Social, Political and Economic Climate: Lawrence Busch
- Climate Change and Scottish Agriculture: An End to the Freedom to Farm?: Alan Renwick and Anita Wreford
- Where Is the Coherent Response to Climate Change and Peak Oil? An Examination of Policy and Practice Affecting Agriculture in Regional Australia: Ruth Beilin, Serenity Hill and Tamara Sysak
- Rural Farming Community Climate Change Acceptance: Impact of Science and Government Credibility: Chris Evans, Christine Storer and Angela Wardell-Johnson
- Increasing Food and Energy Prices in 2008: What Were the Causes and Who Was to Blame?: Jostein Brobakk and Reidar Almås
- Climate-ready Crops and Bio-capitalism: Towards a New Food Regime?: Elisabeth A. Abergel

Open access: <http://ijsaf.org>

Society and Animals: Journal of Human-Animal Studies

Volume 19, no 4 2011 **Special Issue: Minding Animals**. Edited by Siobhan O'Sullivan and Rod Bennison

- Riding the Crest of a Human-Animal Studies Wave : Siobhan O'Sullivan; Rod Bennison
- Human and Nonhuman Animals, Mutually at Risk: A Study of the Swiss Information Media: Claudine Burton-Jeangros; Annik Dubied Losa
- Protecting Animals versus the Pursuit of Knowledge: The Evolution of the British Animal Research Policy Process: Dan Lyons
- The Use of Animals in New Zealand: Regulation and Practice: Michael C. Morris
- Law and the Question of the (Nonhuman) Animal: Yoriko Otomo
- The Philosophy behind the Movement: Animal Studies versus Animal Rights; Elisa Aaltola
- How the Politics of Inclusion/Exclusion and the Neuroscience of Dehumanization/Rehumanization Can Contribute to Animal Activists' Strategies: Bestia Sacer II: Robin Mackenzie
- Attempting Animal Histories: Erica Fudge
- Learning from Teaching the Animal: Hayley Glaholt: Connie Johnston

For access see: <http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/15685306/19/4>

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture

Animals and Advertising

2012 will see the release of an *Antennae* issue entirely dedicated to 'Animals and Advertising'. For the purpose of gathering a range of diverse voices and perspectives we are soliciting the following:

1) Favourite Advertisement Portfolio

Do you have one or more favourite adverts involving animals you would like to see published on *Antennae* along with an accompanying text by you? The text could be academic as well as informal and will be published next to a still image of the advertisement in question (max 1000 words). The aim is to create a unique portfolio of adverts from any time period supported by informative and entertaining content alike. Please get in touch to discuss the necessary image requirements for your contribution.

2) Academic Essays

Academic essays on the subject of animals in advertising (any medium) Max 6000 words

3) Informal Articles

Informal articles on the subject including interviews with sector professionals

Deadline for submissions is 1 March 2012

For more information, please contact Giovanni Aloï at antennaeproject@gmail.com

Human-Animal Interaction

Announcing the new open access, online, peer-reviewed publication *Human-Animal Interaction* (HAI), devoted to the dissemination of research in the field of the interaction between non-human animals and their human counterparts. The goal of the *Human-Animal Interaction* is to bring together researchers, academicians, clinicians/practitioners, and scholarly students working in different areas for the advancement of the human-animal interaction field.

Many topics in the field are closely related to issues germane to the various branches of psychology or, more generally, the social sciences and humanities, and as such the publication is open to contributions of an interdisciplinary nature. *HAI* will publish peer-reviewed innovative, original, high-quality research articles including empirical and evidence-based methods (e.g., clinical, experimental and applied research), quantitative/empirical work, small sample size & single subject investigations, epidemiologic, and qualitative and descriptive investigations. In order to make the publication accessible to both practitioners and scientific researchers, contributions are encouraged from the broad spectrum of investigative techniques utilized by the social sciences and humanities.

All submissions to the publication will undergo a blind review process, and those selected for publication will be distributed electronically. We encourage interested researchers to submit a paper and be among the first to publish in this exciting new outlet for human-animal interaction research!

For more details regarding how to submit see:
<http://www.apa.org/divisions/div17/sections/sec13/Home.html>

Exhibitions: Discussions, talks, workshops, calls for submission

To Catch a Tiger

5 November 2011 – 11 March 2012

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

**Open
NOW**



To Catch a Tiger explores the human compulsion to connect with something which is just out of reach. In this installation by Tasmanian artist James Newitt, the thylacine (or Tasmanian tiger) creates a point of connection between issues and opinions related to conservation, wildness, Tasmanian identity and scientific 'truth'.

The exhibition presents the artist's interviews with several thylacine experts and enthusiasts, whose conversations and opinions are based on direct personal experience and in-depth research. Compelling and often contradictory, the views of thylacine seekers, scientists and eye-witnesses create points of ambiguity and represent the multiple notions of truth which permeate contemporary discussion about the thylacine.

Alongside the interviews, a collection of images creates a visual archive of thylacine fact and fantasy. Historical material combined with the artist's own imagery delves into the mystery of the remote Tasmanian landscape, creating a web of references for the viewer to decipher and interpret. To Catch a Tiger reflects our desire to search for something that continually eludes us, and visitors are invited to contribute their own records of seeking, glimpsing and gathering evidence in the search for something we refuse to let go of.

For more information, including an Interview with James Newitt see:
http://www.tmag.tas.gov.au/whats_on/exhibitions/to_catch_a_tiger

Exhibition Review

Animals in Art: Nonhumans Benefit From Responsible Representation

Marc Bekoff reviews the exhibition advertised in the June issue of *AASG Bulletin*:
Interactive futures: IF'11 Animal Influence

Animals in art force us to reflect on who we are and who "they" are
Many artists are focusing their attention on other animals and we must be sure they are represented in responsible ways and also pay attention to the ethical questions that are raised. Animal art truly sparks wide-ranging discussions that center on human psychology and our complex and challenging relationships with non-humans in a human-dominated world.

See: [Animals in Art: Nonhumans Benefit From Responsible Representation](#)
by Marc Bekoff in *Psychology Today*, November, 21, 2011.

In Memoriam

On November 19, ecofeminist, author, and human-animal studies scholar Marti Kheel died. She co-founded Feminists for Animal Rights in 1982, the first organization to work to end the dual oppressions felt by animals and women, and to show the links between both forms of oppression. Kheel was a prolific writer; her book, *Nature Ethics: An Ecofeminist Perspective*, was published in 2008 by Rowman & Littlefield, and she published chapters in such widely read books as *Animals and Women: Feminist Theoretical Explorations* (Carol J. Adams and Josephine Donovan, eds), *Food for Thought: The Debate Over Eating Meat* (Steve F. Sapontzis, ed), *Ecofeminism: Women, Animals, Nature* (Greta Gaard, ed), and *Igniting a Revolution: Voices in Defense of the Earth* (Anthony J. Nocella and Steve Best, eds). Her work inspired a generation of feminists, animal rights activists, and human-animal studies scholars.

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Art Work: Projects, research, installations, reviews

Dacia Pierson



Over 100 million cows, pigs, and sheep are raised and slaughtered in the United States alone each year, and for poultry, which includes geese, duck and chickens, the figure is staggeringly higher: 5 billion each year. Weekly, 102 million chickens are slaughtered, which is more than half a million chickens per hour.

Chicken processing from *Slaughter* series. Photograph.

Artist Statement

Slaughter is a documentation of the process by which an animal becomes food. Within the American food system, this process is largely hidden by the USDA and willfully ignored by consumers. The project aims to create more transparency in this system.

Growing up on a farm, we grew our own vegetables and raised all our own cows, chickens, and pigs for food. In late summer, we would preserve all the fresh goods that we could for winter, and when the ground began to frost, the livestock was killed, processed locally and humanely, and eaten throughout the rest of the year. Like many Americans, my perception of our food system was distorted, but for different reasons. With research, I began to understand how distanced the general population has become from our sources of food and the repercussions that has on our health, environment and the future of food. Few people know the reality of where our food is coming from, but this responsibility is not solely the consumer's; agribusiness has high stakes in keeping such knowledge out of public consciousness.

Slaughter is influenced by the elevation of a common scene of Christ-like sacrifice in Rembrandt's *The Slaughtered Ox* and Joel Peter-Witkin's complicated images that both repulse and intrigue. I explore the dichotomy of the grotesque and the beautiful within slaughter, sacrifice, blood and death.

My agenda is not to judge, not to promote veganism or vegetarianism. Simply, I am interested in what is hidden, and challenge complacency with information. This is not in protest to individual farmers, nor in direct opposition to eating meat, but to bring forth information so that we may make more mindful decisions.

Further information and 28 more works in the series see: <http://www.principleoflocality.com>

Yvette Watt



Untitled (from the *Animal Factories* series) 2011. Giclee print. Detail

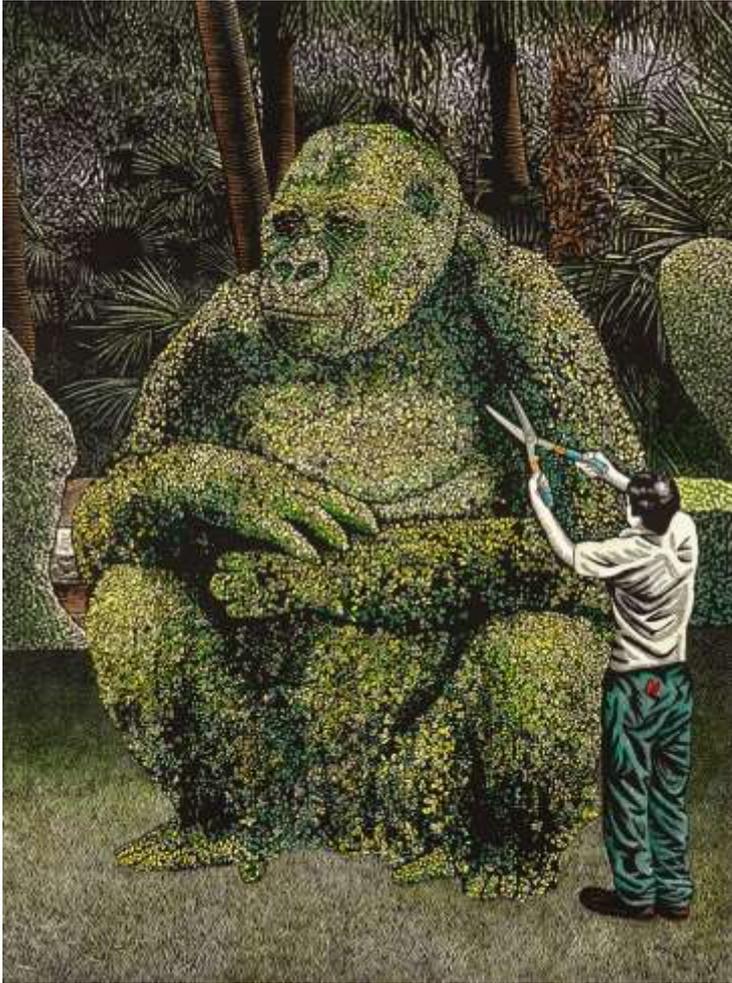
Artist Statement

The *Animal Factories* series pursues an ongoing interest in the role of art in communicating issues surrounding the ethics of human-animal relationships in regards to ‘farm’ animals. The works in this series consist of large-scale documentary photographs taken of the outside of large-scale factory farms of the type that intensively house chickens and pigs. The images aim to capture the ‘concentration camp’ style layout of these industrial farms, with the total absence of animals in the imagery serving to highlight the hidden and secretive nature of the unnatural and restricted environment endured by the animals housed inside the windowless sheds. Through being presented with external views only, the viewer is placed in a position where they must imagine what might be seen inside the sheds were they be able to view the conditions endured by the animals housed inside. The multiple images of farms from around the nation depict the superficial variation from farm to farm, while highlighting the homogeneity of these industrial complexes.

The images have been sourced from around Australia, with the project inspired by a visit to a meat chicken farm outside of Hobart a couple of years ago. The view of this farm at night, with the rows of windowless sheds lit with artificial light, had a profound impact on me. While there was no sign of life from the outside, I knew the sheds were crammed with tens of thousands of chickens, who would only ever see the outside world when sent to slaughter.

For more information see: <http://supercritical.com.au/2011/10/24/unnatural>

Rew Hanks



Defoliation. Hand coloured linocut

Artist Statement

During an artist residency at Taronga Zoo I visited the floral clock that was first installed at the zoo in 1928. Bordering the clock is a hedge of Maidenhair vine that features three topiary animals—a kangaroo, emu and elephant. A balding horticulturist maliciously manicured these topiary animals as if determined to bring them to life.

The residency coincided with the 50th anniversary of Jane Goodall's research of the Chimpanzees of Gombe, Tanzania in Africa. The Goodall Institute supports the welfare and conservation of the Great Apes: chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans. Taronga Zoo has a healthy breeding group of Western Lowland Gorillas. The magnificent leader of the group is the male "Silverback" which can weigh nearly 200kg and stand 1.8 metres in height. However it was the matriarch Mouila born in 1972 that is depicted in this handcoloured linocut. As the primary and most experienced caregiver, she was both calm and wise.

Unfortunately 90 percent of West African's original forest has already been lost to deforestation. Unless we adopt Mouila's wonderful qualities of calmness and wisdom we may be left maintaining a garden of ghostly topiary animals as a tragic reminder of our past.

For more works from Rew Hanks recent exhibition **The Devil's Garden** see Watters Gallery website: <http://www.wattersgallery.com>

Anna Griffiths



Bestiary IV' 2010, Animal skin, fur, plastic toy parts, approx 8cm high

Artist Statement

My work is informed by an ongoing interest in mythological hybrid creatures and also real life biological mutations. Throughout the ages artists have used these creatures to reflect social and moral dilemmas. Representing the flaws of creation that needed to be appeased, worshipped or destroyed, they have been variously the subjects of fear, wonder, affection, acceptability and rejection in myths, liturgies and social history.

My recent practice involves the gathering of mass-produced cast-off plastic toys and objects and also pre-loved leather garments and gloves. The manufacture and shelf life of plastic toys is short though complex. In contrast, leather is an animal product that is converted by a simple technological process into luxury objects that are valued and retained.

I have been interested to see if an amalgamation of the two materials and sets of objects can be used to create small new objects and creatures which are given a third skin and a second life; one which transcends and acknowledges both sources. In doing this, the mass-produced object destined for landfill attains the qualities of the treasured and collected one. By de- and re-constructing the toy parts and carefully cutting and stitching soft new skins around them, I create a bestiary of magical, communicative creatures occupying a dark new world. 2011

For more information about Anna's work see: <http://www.artereal.com.au> or www.marsgallery.com.au

Film and Audio

PROJECT NIM



Directed by James Marsh

A documentary about Nim, the chimpanzee who in the 1970s became the focus of a landmark experiment which aimed to show that an ape could learn to communicate with language if raised and nurtured like a human child.

Review by Simon Foster from the SBS website

James Marsh's *Project Nim* ruminates on ideas of 'nature versus nurture' but these are by no means the only contentious issues raised in this complex, heartbreaking work. The misguided intentions of those motivated – consciously or sub-consciously – by greed and exploitation fuel this sad simian soap opera.

Marsh (*Man on Wire*) utilises stills, Super-8 frames and other video footage to chart the development of Nim, a chimpanzee removed from his mother as a newborn ("He didn't struggle or try to get away; he just screamed") and taught to communicate using sign language in a 1970s linguistic experiment. The title references Jonathan Kaplan's 1987 military-monkey adventure *Project X*; one wonders whether that film's plotting was perhaps inspired by Nim's happy and well-documented adventures up to that point in time.

At first the ape became the spoilt pet of an extended hippy family on New York's Upper West side, where he smoked pot and drank alcohol in line with the prevailing beliefs of the time that such substances would expand his consciousness. His human 'mother' – a psychology student – taught him simple sign language in a radical program devised by linguistic professor Herb Terrace, the least appealing human presence in a film full of fascinating but thoroughly flawed individuals.

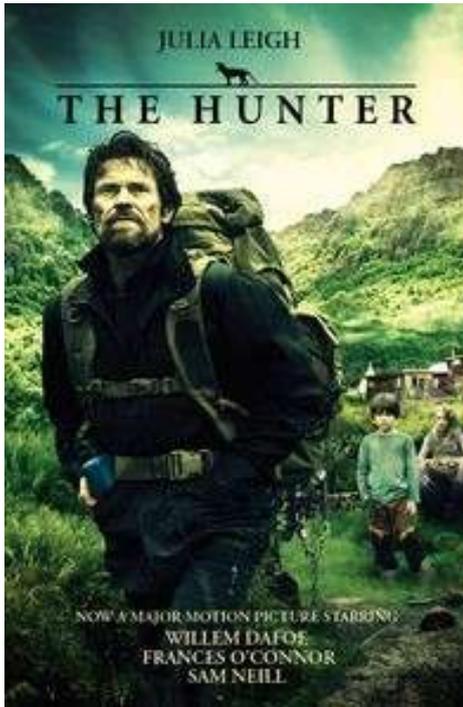
With his fate in the hands of scientists whose livelihoods are contingent upon their findings, Nim is paraded for personal and professional gain, and neglected when he begins to exhibit 'anti-social' tendencies. Of course, these tendencies merely represent the emerging animalistic urges of the beast within, but Nim's natural urges are of the least interest to those who stand to benefit from the signing chimp with the 120-word vocabulary.

Marsh poses some major existential conundrums in this fascinating film: How relatable are Nim's reactions given the chimpanzee's genetic similarities to humans?; To what extent does Nim's environment shape his psyche and, by extension, what does his forcible confinement say about the validity of the ongoing experiments?; And were those charged with his care and development sufficiently advanced emotionally and ethically to handle such a responsibility?

More so than any of the scientists or activists who fought blinkered battles over the chimpanzee's well-being, it's the filmmaker who shows the utmost respect for Nim. Not merely in the chronicling of his journey, which began as a joyous experiment full of good intentions yet became a harrowing case of neglect, but also by exposing the agendas and shortcomings of the human animals that drifted in and out of the tribal life and mind of the ape. Nim may bite and scratch and impose himself unashamedly upon man and animal alike, but Marsh's film defines his behaviour as far more genuine, soulful and, ultimately, understandable than any other presence in the film.

Project Nim was screened at the Sydney Film Festival. See the SBS website for trailers and more information about the film, including an interview with James Marsh: <http://www.sbs.com.au/films/movie/12386/Project-Nim->

THE HUNTER



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

Review by Sally Borrell

Mercy Killing

The Hunter, based on Julia Leigh's novel of the same name, is billed as a psychological thriller. Martin David has been sent to kill a surviving Tasmanian tiger for a biotechnology company, but his view of his prey is influenced by his host family, the conservationist Armstrongs. The film engages with many aspects of human-animal relations, including issues of instrumentalism, extinction and personal identification.

The opening credits appear over archival footage of Tasmanian tigers in captivity, which serves to evoke something of the tragedy and mystique surrounding the species. Its demise is then brought into the present, where it is informed by contemporary issues. On one side of the struggle, the biotechnology company, suggestively named Redleaf, hopes to obtain a toxin from the tiger for use in biowarfare. On the other side, missing naturalist Jarrah Armstrong has resisted Redleaf's overtures, and his conservationist friends try to protect the tiger. The book, though clearly aligned with their goals, expresses some frustration with the conservationist characters, but the film presents them with sympathy.

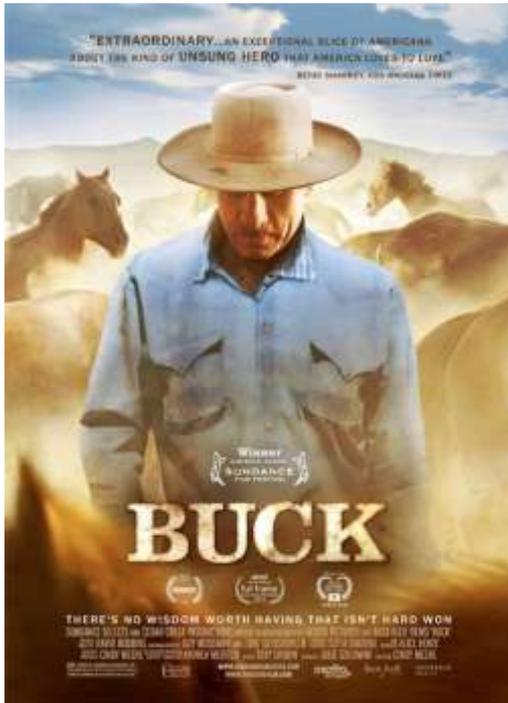
The greatest departure from the novel occurs in Martin's relationship to the tiger. In Leigh's text, his attempt to understand his prey in order to catch her results in a paradoxical but powerful empathy. In the film, he simply wonders 'if she's the last one, alone, just hunting and killing and waiting to die'. This suggestion may convey a degree of identification: Martin is a lone hunter himself. Meanwhile, through Martin's host Lucy Armstrong, the film advances the idea that killing the tiger is the right thing to do. Lucy, whose husband Jarrah may have been 'hunted down', suggests that extinction might be preferable to being the last thylacine because people will always hunt her.

After Lucy and her daughter die in a fire, Martin does kill the tiger. Because his personal involvement with his prey has been downplayed, his grief at her death comes across as a projection of his feelings about the Armstrongs. However, he has apparently aligned himself with Lucy, and acted out of compassion. He does not take samples (as he does in the book), instead calling his contact to say, 'What you want is gone forever.'

Thus, *The Hunter* condemns eradication at a species level, yet presents the killing of the last member of a species as an act of mercy towards the individual animal. The result is a moving and thought-provoking film, and like the book, a rich exploration of human-animal relations.

The Hunter has attracted 14 nominations for the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards including best film, best direction, best adapted screenplay and acting acknowledgments. For more information, including study guide, see: <http://www.thehuntermovie.com/>

BUCK



Director: Cindy Meehl
Producer: Julie Goldman
Cedar Creek Productions

Buck is the story of highly regarded American horseman Buck Brannaman, who 'helps horses with people problems'. As well as being an author, family man and much sought after clinician, Brannaman was the advisor to director Robert Redford on *The Horse Whisperer*.

Brannaman suffered a painful, brutalised childhood at the hands of his violent and abusive father and this led him to develop a deep empathy with horses, especially those who have been traumatised by humans. He is committed to building better horse-human relationships through mutual understanding.

Review by Sandra Burr:

Buck is a compelling film. Instead of force and coercion, Brannaman utilises gentle horse training methods communicating through body language, underpinned by patience and respect for the horses in his care. Each year he spends nine months away from his family, giving horsemanship clinics across America. This film documents his life on the road. It is a gentle and sympathetic portrayal of the man, with film-maker Cindy Meehl adopting a naturalistic fly-on-the-wall approach, capturing footage of Brannaman interacting with people and horses, and his family, while reflecting on his life and his horse training philosophy. Brannaman is firm yet achingly polite, although a little crusty at times, with a dry sense of humour and a sort of world weary charm that is deeply attractive.

This, however, is not a sentimental film. Inescapably, horses exist to serve humans. They are haltered, transported, directed, controlled, saddled, mounted and ridden because that is what we expect to do with them. The difference is that Brannaman shows horses how to accept their lot by teaching them with firmness, kindness, clarity and understanding. Even with the best intentions, some human-horse interactions are doomed to fail and not all horses make the grade as the somewhat shocking segment featuring the yellow colt demonstrates.

Horse lovers will be pleased to know that, thanks to Meehl's honest and pragmatic approach, this film is truly about horses. It is also so beautifully realised that you can almost smell the hot horse sweat and feel the grit of the flying arena dust on your skin. *BUCK* is a movie with broad appeal which, despite some dark passages, shows that with the right attitude, relations between humans and animals can be both beautiful and positive.

Buck screened at the Canberra International Film Festival in November this year. Madman Films will release *BUCK* in Australia on February 9th, 2012. See <http://buckthefilm.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/madmanfilms> for more information.

THE CUP



Director: Simon Wincer

Producers: Jan Bladier, David Lee and Simon Wincer

In 2002 Irish racehorse Media Puzzle trained by Dermot Weld (Brendan Gleeson) won the Melbourne Cup. At the time he was the only foreign trained horse to do so. Only days before the running of the Cup, Jason Oliver (Daniel Macpherson) brother of winning Melbourne Cup jockey Damien Oliver (Stephen Curry), died from injuries sustained in a race fall. *The Cup* tells the story of Damien Oliver's decision to ride despite his grief and to dedicate the win to his brother.

The film also stars well known Australian actors Jodi Gordon, Shaun Micallef, Tom Burlinson and the late Bill Hunter.

Review by Sandra Burr

As a well-known story about human loss and recovery, *The Cup* is okay if a bit unimaginative and pedestrian. The focus is firmly on the human narratives – the Irish trainer desperate to win the prestigious race following previous failures, the ambitious privately owned Dubai Godolphin racing business and, centre stage, the devastated Oliver. While there is a lot of footage of thoroughbreds, *The Cup* is certainly not about the horses. They are physically present through their gleaming coats, thundering hooves and flared nostrils, however the audience never gets to know them. The horses are wallpaper, background to the human stories, pivotal but never portrayed as individuals, which perhaps reflects the reality of the Melbourne Cup itself. It is never really about the horses. It is about the spectacle, the entertainment, the connections, the over-the-top fashions, the betting plunges and the antics of drunken spectators. Despite being central to the action, paradoxically, the horses are almost always absent and invisible.

What is striking about *The Cup*, however, is that while very little attempt is made to personalise the horses, the film-makers resist the temptation to romanticise them. Horses don't neigh at the drop of a hat, make silly noises, rear and flail their hooves or show the whites of their eyes to demonstrate unreliable temperaments. Instead the horses gallop, they sweat and breathe hard after fast work and they are as quiet as horses are in real life. The film makers achieved this degree of authenticity by using a mix of genuine racing footage with close ups and, from that perspective, I think *The Cup* does a fine job. It is not often that you get such a level of unadulterated realism in any animal film, let alone one with horses. What is perhaps less well known is that Media Puzzle, who earned over two and a half million dollars in his racing career, broke a leg in 2006 while competing in a race in England, and was euthanized. I can't imagine any film-maker wanting to tell that story.

<http://www.cupmovie.com.au/index.html>

BIRDSCAPING YOUR GARDEN

[Download audio from ABC Radio National](#)

Imagine a garden full of rainbow lorikeets, sulphur-crested cockatoos, rosellas, kookaburras and currawongs. What can you do to design your garden as a more bird and butterfly friendly habitat? How can you attract a variety of birds to visit your garden by creating an ecologically-friendly and sustainable native habitat, while helping to preserve Australia's natural heritage and biodiversity? <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/bydesign/stories/2011/3321538.htm>

AUSTRALIA'S LIVE EXPORTS

[Download audio from ABC Radio National](#)

A leading European Union animal welfare expert and factory farming policy adviser has called Australia's live animal export trade 'the worst in the world'. It comes as Australia only recently recommenced its live cattle exports to Indonesia.

Guest Peter Stevenson is Chief policy adviser to the UK based group Compassion in Farming. Stevenson has played a key role in winning EU bans on veal crates, battery cages and sow stalls, as well as a new status for animals in EU law as sentient beings. <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/breakfast/stories/2011/3282216.htm>

SUBHUMANS AND SUPERBEASTS: BISONS AND JEWS IN THE WARSAW ZOO

[Download audio from ABC Radio National](#)

In late 1939, as the Germans occupied Warsaw, the city zoo became a sanctuary for hundreds of Polish Jews, who were hidden in the lions' cages by Jan and Antonina Zabinski, the keepers of the zoo. Most of those who were hidden were ultimately smuggled out of the country to freedom. But there's a dark parallel tale within this story: while the Zabinskis were helping to save a race of people from extermination, Germany's eminent zoologist, Lutz Heck, had commandeered the Warsaw zoo in order to try and re-introduce, through rudimentary genetic engineering, an extinct species of ox known as aurochs.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/hindsight/stories/2011/3352395.htm>

[For more about the influence of Lutz Heck see: Carol Freeman "Ending Extinction: The Quagga, the Thylacine and the 'smart human'" in Carol Gigliotti, *Leonardo's Choice: Genetic Technologies and Animals* (Springer 2009)].

COMMUNITY VIEWS ON ANIMAL CRUELTY

[Download audio from ABC Radio National](#)

How do you feel if you see an animal being mistreated? Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan, from the University of Melbourne, has studied community views on animal cruelty and believes they are changing. She cites big protests over things like puppy farming, which again saw thousands take to the streets in Victoria on the weekend. Dr O'Sullivan has written about a perceived change in public sentiment for the online publication *The Conversation*.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2011/3321913.htm>

FREEDOM OF SPECIES

[Live streaming and podcasts from Community Radio 3CR, Melbourne](#)

Freedom of Species is animal advocacy on the airwaves – broadcasting to raise the voice of the voiceless in our society. The program is hosted by a team of local animal advocates and enthusiasts, presenting local & international news, interviews and music from this vibrant and progressive social justice movement. Tune in to hear debates and updates on a broad range of animal issues - from front line activism to academic theory, good tunes and tips on compassionate

living. Yes, you can have your Vegan cake and everyone wants to eat it too! Freedom of Species presenters are: Kate Elliott, Joanna Randall, Roy Taylor, Douglas Leigh with regular guests Sascha Dawson and Caley Otter.

<http://www.3cr.org.au/freedomofspecies>

ECONOMICALLY PRODUCTIVE ANIMALS AND THE COMMUNITY'S RIGHT TO KNOW

Listen online at Vimeo

An informative and challenging paper given by Dr. Siobhan O'Sullivan, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne, for the Animal Welfare Science Centre that aims "To contribute to improve animal welfare as a world leading provider of expert information, advice and education underpinned by rigorous research".

<http://vimeo.com/32551660>.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

FILM/VIDEO MATERIAL

Antennae: the Journal of Nature in Visual Culture

During ISAZ 2012 (<http://www.isaz2012.com/film-guidelines.html>) there will be a programme of short films co-curated by *Antennae*. For this purpose, we are welcoming submissions of short films and video-works on the subject of human–animal interaction, to be considered for inclusion in the programme. Footage should be no longer than 15 minutes and must be sent to us on DVD (2 copies of each submission for a maximum of 2 different submissions for each author). DVDs must be clearly labelled with name of author, title, date and running time. A summary of the film (up to 150 words) must also be included.

*Coming
up*

Deadline for submissions is 1 February 2012.

For more information, please contact: Giovanni Aloï (antennaeproject@googlemail.com).

Links: Resource pages, blogs, organisations

- **Ethical Design**

A creative agency for socially responsible businesses and not-for-profit organizations. Includes web design and development, print design, branding, photography and editing services. Designs that look stunning are invaluable tools in the promotion of social justice campaigns and ethical product and services. Ethical Design wants to change the world—one pixel at a time.

<http://www.ethicaldesign.com.au/>

- **World Parrot Trust**

Protecting parrots with your help . . . Nearly one-third of all parrot species are threatened in the wild and millions of pet parrots share our lives and homes. As a leader in parrot conservation and welfare, the World Parrot Trust works with parrot enthusiasts, researchers, local communities and government leaders to encourage effective solutions that protect parrots.

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

- **Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife**

The Foundation is the only organisation in Australia whose philanthropy is an investment in the country's public estate, unique species and cultural heritage – for all to enjoy. They are not-for-profit, non-controversial, a-political and independent. Funds only go to those projects that have a tangible conservation outcome, 100% of every donation given for a specific cause goes towards this project. See the Foundation's Achievements, Funding Opportunities, current Fundraising drives and Research Projects.

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

- **International Primate Protection League**

IPPL is a grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the world's remaining primates, great and small. Since 1973, they have worked to expose primate abuse and battled international traffickers. They also operate a sanctuary for gibbons (the smallest of the apes) in South Carolina and support primate rescue efforts worldwide, especially in countries where primates are native. Their goal is to keep these uniquely threatened animals safe from human cruelty, negligence, and exploitation, envisioning a world where all primates can thrive in their native habitats.

<http://www.ippl.org/gibbon/>

- **Animals and Pets in Fiction**

An extensive and useful library booklist of books about animals up till about 2007. Sections include Circus Fiction, Fiction for the Birds, Snake Fiction (35 books and 13 movies), Dog Books, Cats Real and Imagined, Anthropomorphic Fantasies, and Animal Whisperers.

<http://librarybooklists.org/fiction/adult/animals.htm>

- **Australian Vegetarian Society**

The Australian Vegetarian Society's aim is to increase the number of vegetarians in Australia in order to stop cruelty to animals, benefit human health, protect the environment and preserve world food resources. They are a non profit-making, non-sectarian organisation dedicated to promoting the vegetarian way of life by campaigning, education, information and research. They also publish a variety of literature which covers the main aspects of vegetarianism, provide an information service for those seeking nutritional advice as well as information on vegetarian products, restaurants, caterers, cooking classes and recipes.

<http://www.veg-soc.org/>

- **Choose Cruelty Free**

Choose Cruelty Free (CCF) is an independent, non-profit organisation which actively promotes a cruelty-free lifestyle. CCF encourages manufacturers and service providers to adopt a cruelty-free ethic, surveys companies which claim to sell products that have not been tested on animals and do not contain cruelly-derived ingredients, and accredits companies which satisfy CCF's criteria. The website includes a Preferred Products List (PPL) that lists companies (including vegan companies) and brand names that operate under a cruelty-free ethic and makes available an independent, consumer recognised logo which manufacturers can incorporate in their labelling and advertising material to readily identify their companies as cruelty-free.

<http://www.choosecrueltyfree.org.au/index.html>

- **Climate Change and Meat Consumption**

A widely cited 2006 report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, “Livestock’s Long Shadow”, estimates that 18 percent of annual worldwide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are attributable to livestock. However recent analysis by Goodland and Anhang, co-authors of “Livestock and Climate Change” in the latest issue of *World Watch* magazine, found that livestock and their byproducts actually account for at least 32.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide per year, or 51 percent of annual worldwide GHG emissions!

<http://51percent.org/>

- **Oxfam Unwrapped**

Are you looking for a Christmas gift? Why not go to Oxfam’s website, give someone an animal for Christmas and help Make Poverty History. You can choose from a piglet, a goat, a calf, a duck, a donkey or a hen. This gift can help provide eggs for a family in Africa and, as ducks also eat insects, are a great form of pest control. A donkey can transform life for a village in Mozambique by providing a means to carry water. In Sri Lanka cows provide manure, milk, transportation and the ability to cultivate a herd. Goats can play a key role in the livelihoods of rural communities. Families in Laos love pigs because a pig will help fertilise crops, breed with other pigs and get rid of scraps.

<http://www.oxfamunwrapped.com.au/ChooseAGift.php>

- **North American Vegetarian Society**

The North American Vegetarian Society (NAVS) is a non-profit tax-exempt educational organization. Our focus is two-pronged. The first is to provide a support network for our members, affiliated groups and vegetarians in general. The second is to inform the public about how vegetarianism benefits humans, other animals and our shared earth. NAVS accomplishes these goals through many means, including a quarterly magazine, developing and distributing other publications, hosting conferences, advising the media and assisting individuals with inquiries.

<http://www.navs-online.org/>

- **Cats Anonymous**

Cats Anonymous, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to better the lives and reduce the number of stray and feral cats in Northeastern Wisconsin. To accomplish this goal, we promote, educate and advocate the non-lethal reduction of the feral cat population utilizing the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) method in a safe and humane manner. The website contains volunteer information, resources page, products, and the story of the initiative.

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

- **Animal Consultants International**

Animal Consultants International is an internationally-based group of specialists providing multi-disciplinary expertise for animal issues. They also provide key support skills for animal advocacy campaigns worldwide. Whether you're seeking to strengthen your project or campaign, or would simply prefer to use the services of an animal-friendly professional, their consultants are available to assist you and have expertise in education, graphic design, scientific and veterinary areas.

www.animalconsultants.org

- **The White Whale Research Centre**

This website is about raising awareness on humpback whales, in particular Migaloo the white whale. Up until September 2011 Migaloo was thought to be the only all white Humpback Whale in the world. Then amazing footage emerged of a 100% all white baby humpback calf. This new white whale unofficially named MJ (Migaloo Junior) has amazed & delighted people from around the world. Hopefully this new all white whale will live as long as the average humpback whale (50 years) and assist in creating more awareness of our marine environment for future generations to enjoy and appreciate. The website contains facts about Migaloo and humpback whales, sightings and history.

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

- **Working for Animals**

Working for Animals Inc is a not-for-profit Association that raises funds and provides support for two animal shelters in India founded by Christine and Jeremy Townend. These are Kalimpong Animal Shelter (KAS) and Darjeeling Animal Shelter (DAS). Working for Animals Inc also assists other animal protection projects in India with which it is familiar and which it particularly endorses. This includes Human Elephant Learning Project (HELP) and Help in Suffering Animal shelter. WFA works closely with [Animaux Secours \(Arthaz, France\)](#) and in co-operation with One Voice (France).

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

- **IASJ – A Think Tank for Animals and Social Justice**

The IASJ's current focus is the development of long-term research and policy advocacy programmes around three core priority areas: 1. Animals' legal/political status 2. Institutional representation for animals 3. Policy Strategies for Animal Protection. A key strand of this programme is a feasibility study for a UK animal welfare audit, an essential exercise to drive forward animal protection policy. To develop short-to-medium term programmes, they are reviewing emerging critical issues for animal protection including wild animal protection and the intensification of meat and dairy production. The website includes Reports, Research, articles and Projects pages.

<http://www.iasj.org.uk/>

Profiles: Animal practitioners, activists and animal studies scholars

Dr Chris Danta



I am in the final year of my three-year ARC-funded postdoctoral fellowship at the University of New South Wales. In this project, I examine post-Darwinian stories of human-animal and animal-human metamorphosis such as Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*, H. G. Wells' *Island of Doctor Moreau* and David Garnett's *Lady Into Fox*. My claim in the book that will result from this grant is that these modern fantastic tales are in fact Aesopic fantasies: fantasies that parody the religious belief that man is made in the image of God by comparing humans to other animals. This is a mantra of my work: no human idealism without animal suffering.

My first book, *Literature Suspends Death: Sacrifice and Storytelling in Kierkegaard, Kafka and Blanchot* (Continuum Press, 2011), also investigates the sacrificial roles that animals play in stories about human identity. The book focuses on Genesis 22, which can be read as a story about the sacrifice of an animal. Genesis 22 ends with Abraham being allowed to sacrifice a hapless ram that has become caught by its horns in a nearby thicket in Isaac's stead.

Some commentators talk about Genesis 22 as an event without an event, since Abraham goes to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Moriah but doesn't have to go through with the human sacrifice in the end. But this is an anthropocentric way of looking at the story that ignores the fact of the ram's sacrifice. When I was turning my thesis into a book, I was careful to show how the death of the ram at the end of Genesis 22 makes it possible for Abraham to become the father of faith and the friend of God. What this story has taught me is that human idealism—such as faith in God—often comes at the cost of animal suffering.

Along with my monograph, I have co-edited a volume on the Australian fiction of J. M. Coetzee called *Strong Opinions: J. M. Coetzee and the Authority of Contemporary Fiction*, co-edited a special issue of *SubStance* on the Political Animal and published essays in the journals *New Literary History*, *Modernism/modernity*, *SubStance*, *Victorian Review* and *Textual Practice*. I completed a PhD. at Monash University in 2005 under Andrew Benjamin. Upon completion of my ARC fellowship in 2012, I will return to my role as lecturer in English at UNSW. I will be teaching a new course at UNSW called "Animals, Monsters and Machines" in 2013.

Dr Sandra Burr



I grew up in semi-rural Victoria and our family was never without a pet dog or a handful of weirdly named stray kittens. At quite an early age I was given my first horse which led to my lifelong passion for all things equestrian. I followed the traditional path of horse riding and training until the mid-nineties when I encountered natural horsemanship. This discovery turned me upside down. It changed everything I knew about horses and made me recalibrate how I thought about them, the ways that I interacted with them and what I expected them to do for me. The focus moved from being all about me to being all about not only the physical, but the emotional needs of the horses in my care.

I had a Bachelor of Arts degree and a librarian qualification and I enjoyed editing newsletters and writing for equestrian magazines, but I wanted to improve my writing so in 2004 I enrolled in a Graduate Diploma in Professional Communication at the University of Canberra. This led to a

PhD, *Women and Horses: a study of Australia's recreational horsewomen*, which I completed in 2009. It was a period of study that set me on a path of action for animal rights through the transdisciplinary field of human-animal studies. I firmly believe in the power of accessible language and hope, through my writing and my research activities, to improve the lives of animals by engendering more empathetic and positive attitudes towards them.

I am currently an Adjunct Professional Associate in the Faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra where I also teach creative writing and research methods. I belong to the Faculty's Writing Research Cluster, and I am a member of the editorial panel for the new online journal *Axon: Creative Explorations*. I write reviews, creative works and academic articles on a variety of topics and one of my current research projects, *City Beasts*, looks at representations of animals in Canberra's public spaces; while another collaborative project will examine industries that service companion animals; and, sometime in the future, I would like to make a visual record of equestrian statues in Australia (all suggestions/contributions most welcome).

I can be contacted at: sandra.burr@canberra.edu.au

Dr Susan Hazel



I grew up on a fruit farm 30km outside Mildura, a short walk down the hill to the Murray River. We always had dogs and a cat and later in high school when I began to think about what I wanted to study, being a vet was first choice. Veterinary School at Sydney Uni followed, then working in general veterinary practice in South Australia and England. Although I loved being a vet and helping people and their pets, desexing and vaccinating got less stimulating after a while.

My career continued with a PhD in medical research in Adelaide, postdocs in Stockholm and Sydney, running a cancer research laboratory in Adelaide, and work in public health for ASERNIP-S and the PBAC. Finally I came full circle in 2006 and accepted an academic position teaching animal behaviour, welfare and ethics for the University of Adelaide in what is now the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences.

Every job I've had has used my veterinary training and taught me new skills and ways of looking at the world, but working closely with animals again is like coming home.

In 1995 when I was doing a postdoc in Stockholm I took holidays to attend the IAHAIO conference in Geneva. My aim was to look for a research job working in human-animal interactions. However it wasn't until 2006 that I finally started work in this area. My research aims to understand more about animals and their behaviour, and how humans interact with them. I am also so happy to be able to teach vet and animal science students about animal welfare and ethics. (Note: when I said above working with animals again was like coming home it was in the TS Eliot sense of returning and knowing the place for the first time as veterinary training has changed since my day, when we were not taught explicitly about animal welfare). Concern for the treatment of animals has gathered momentum around the world, and is a significant social movement in which change will be inevitable.

In 2008 I started the Human-Animal Research Group of Adelaide. HARG has grown into a strong multidisciplinary group and a catalyst for anthrozoological research in Adelaide. It's been a surprise to find out just how many people in Adelaide are interested in this area of research and incredibly rewarding to talk to like-minded people from scientific and humanity disciplines and share ideas.

This year was heartbreaking as we said a final goodbye to our 14 year old Labrador. Cilla was a failed Guide Dog, but a great success in other areas as she volunteered with me for five years visiting a rehabilitation centre in Adelaide with the Delta Society. She was also my four-year-old daughter's closest companion. However we have just got a new Labrador puppy and member of our family. Animals will continue to be an integral part of my life.

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Australian Animal Studies Group (AASG)

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

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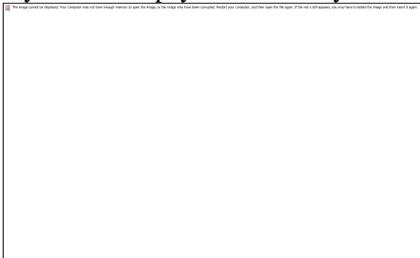
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