

Animail: June 2016

Dear All,

Welcome to the June edition of *Animail*, brought to you by the collective efforts of the AASA Executive team, and reflecting the talents of our AASA members and the diversity and strength of Animal studies in Australasia.

In the June edition you will find a profile of **Lisel O'Dwyer** (Flinders University) who is a member of the organising committee for the next AASA Conference - 'Animal Intersections' - to be held in Adelaide, 3-5 July 2017. More news on that conference to follow soon – pls remember to save the date. This edition also features a profile of **Hayley Singer**, whose fascinating work will be discussed at *Animaladies* in a couple of weeks. Thanks to Rick, and to Hayley and Lisel for their work on these profiles.

Speaking of *Animaladies* (July 11 and 12), a reminder that this will also be the occasion for our **Annual General Meeting** and that if you would like to vote or nominate a member for the committee, please make sure that your **membership is current**. If you're not sure whether or not your membership has expired – or when it expires, please email Rick De Vos, our membership secretary. –<R.DeVos@curtin.edu.au>

At the end of this Edition, we have included 2 forms (nomination and proxy) associated with the AGM. These were also sent to you by Clare Archer-Lean a few weeks ago on the AASA email forum.

In other news, our new website is now up and running. We are more than delighted with what the VERY BRILLIANT **LYNN MOWSON** has managed to achieve. The site is so much easier to navigate, use and has many more features than the old site which we had been patching up for a long time... (don't get me started..). Please take a few minutes to get acquainted with the new site: <http://animalstudies.org.au/>. I am amazed by Lynn's skill at setting this up – and we are incredibly grateful to her for taking it on. Thank you LYNN!

We have a new Blog entry written by **Laura Jean McKay** about her recent trip to the "Being Interdisciplinary" Symposium in Glasgow. We were delighted to be able to support Laura with funds for this trip earlier this year. You can read her blog here: <http://animalstudies.org.au/archives/5407>

Finally – a reminder about the Notice of AGM 2016. I hope to see as many of there as possible. Cheers, fiona

Australasian Animal Studies Association, Inc.

Notice of AGM 2016

This year's AGM will be held on Tuesday 12 July from 1.20pm to 2.10pm in Room N497, John Woolley Building, U of Sydney. Proceedings will include the election of the committee. All **current financial members** are eligible to vote, whether in person or by proxy. Please find attached the agenda for this year's meeting, together with nomination and proxy forms.

A note on the committee: The AASA elects its committee each year at the AGM. The committee currently consists of: President and Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, membership secretary and not less than three general committee members. Each year, all committee positions are vacated and any financial member may nominate/be nominated for election for any committee position. Positions are voluntary and not remunerated. Members will be asked to commit to attending a minimum number of four committee meetings per year (usually by teleconference). A position on the committee is rewarding but it does require you to make a commitment of time and energy to advancing the interests of the membership. We strongly encourage international members to nominate for positions on the AASA Executive Committee. To nominate, please use the nomination forms at the end of Animail (note that nominations must be received by 9am Tuesday 12 July 2016). This method is in addition to the practice of standing/nominating from the room during the AGM. Nominees will receive detailed position descriptions. If you have any questions about nominating, voting by proxy, or any other matter related to the AGM, please contact Clare Archer-Lean (Secretary) on info@aasg.org.au

A reminder to contact the following Exec members if you'd like to contribute information to be included in *Animail*.

- **Blog:** Nik Taylor and Christine Townend, [christownend@bigpond.com] and nik.taylor@flinders.edu.au
- **Conference Calls** –<joanne.sneddon@uwa.edu.au>
- **Membership News** –<R.DeVos@curtin.edu.au>
- **New Book releases** –Annie Potts <annie.potts@canterbury.ac.nz> –
- **Other news/AASA exec news** –Fiona Probyn-Rapsey (fiona.probyn-rapsey@sydney.edu.au). Please send any items to me.

AASA Blog

Edited by Christine Townend and Nik Taylor.

June 20th

Laura Jean McKay on Being wowed, being excited: about the Being Interdisciplinary in Animal Studies postgraduate symposium, Glasgow, 2016.

June 9th Varda Mehrotra on **THE END OF DOLPHINARIUMS IN INDIA**

Member Profiles

Lisel O'Dwyer



Pitch, Lisel and Telly

Although I have been an animal person ever since I can remember, my formal studies had little to do with animal studies, mainly because at that time (late 1980s, early 1990s) animal studies hadn't yet become a "thing" and the

only other work I knew of that would involve animals was becoming a vet (which I couldn't do, for various reasons!) or working with horses (a common dream amongst horse mad teen girls); no formal study required but did require hard labour, tenuous conditions and perpetual poverty - glad I didn't do that as a job either! My undergraduate degree was a double major in psychology and human geography (particularly urban and housing studies), for no better reason than psychology seemed interesting and I had enjoyed geography at high school.

While I was undertaking my PhD (in human geography), I began to come across work by Jennifer Wolch and others who were working on animal topics and publishing in geography journals. I realised that it was possible to encompass animals in social science research. Thereafter, I tried to include animals in one way or another in my subsequent work whenever possible.

My background in psychology also came in handy when the subject of clicker training (reward based training using a marker signal) came up on a horse training discussion forum, as I could immediately see the science behind it. I became proficient at this training method which I found to be humane, fun for both trainer and trainee and very fast, so much so that I undertook further training in it and quit academia to become an animal behaviourist, specialising in problem solving for horses and dogs. I absolutely loved it, but changing personal circumstances led me to resume my research career.

I began working on a project on health and obesity amongst baby boomers. Aha – I could work in dogs as a predictor or motivator of human physical activity. Unfortunately, it turned out that most people don't walk their dogs enough and that people who were already fit were most likely to have a dog. With a colleague in the Vet Science department, I have run workshops for undergraduate vet and animal science to teach them about handling animals using clicker training – we used chickens, after attending a workshop with American dog trainer Terry Ryan who uses chickens to improve dog trainers' training skills (www.legacycanine.com). We took the opportunity to measure students' attitudes towards chickens before and after they did the training and found a significant shift towards greater appreciation for chickens' ability to feel emotions such as boredom, enjoyment and frustration (see Hazel, O'Dwyer and Ryan 2015 www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/5/3/0386/htm). I am working on a project about preparing for ageing and retirement, including plans for housing – this led to examining how important pets are to elderly people and the extent to which they have to give them up. This work also led us to review the current literature on pets and mental health (see <https://theconversation.com/pets-and-our-health-why-we-should-take-them-more-seriously-47774>) I am also working on how the human-animal bond can be leveraged to help people prepare for bushfires and other natural disasters (see <http://www.bnhcrc.com.au/research/topics/animals>). I am part of the organising committee for the Animal Intersections conference to be held in Adelaide in July 2017 and am starting a new animal geography study group within the Institute of Australian Geographers.

I share my life with five horses (three of whom are retired due to old age and disability), an elderly donkey who is treated as a foal by an equally elderly horse, three cats, two dogs and nine hens and a rooster (the hens are mostly ex trainees from the chicken training workshops – note that all of the chickens used in the workshops are rehomed in safe free range situations). I live in a rural area so share the land with a range of native creatures including kangaroos, possums, native (and non-native!) rodents, tortoises, kookaburras, ducks, magpies, owls, galahs and sulphur crested cockatoos and of course the odd snake. I have also had pet cattle in the past but have not replaced them since they died of old age.

If anyone would like to find out more about my work or would like to join the IAG Animal Geography Study Group, please contact me on lisel.odwyer@flinders.edu.au or mobile 0412 199 385.

Hayley Singer



I have recently completed (and passed!) my doctorate in creative writing at the University of Melbourne where I teach in the School of Culture and Communication. I'll be graduating next month. My research engages in ecofeminist explorations of subversive tropes of the flesh of women and animals in novels by contemporary writers such as Deborah Levy, Han Kang, Ruth Ozeki, Marie Darrieussecq, Angela Carter and Charlotte Wood. For me, these writers variously expose and undermine Western culture's dual investment in patriarchal and carnivorous assumptions and practices in new political ways.

As part of my critical work I have been developing the concept of the '*Fleischgeist*'. As a pun on Hegel's *Zeitgeist*, '*Fleischgeist*' describes the dominant spirit of our times as characterised by a meat consciousness fuelled simultaneously by ethical considerations and instrumental logic. At the moment I am looking to turn my critical dissertation, titled '*Fleischgeist*', into a book.

I write fiction, too. And I agree with what Laura McKay said in her Animail profile, all writers are interested in otherness. French feminist philosopher Luce Irigaray said that the task of our time is to cultivate ways of meeting and being *with* the other *as other*. I really identify with that idea. *That* is what I try to do when I sit down to write fiction. I start by trying to feel where the edges of my world, my subjectivity, lie (not an easy task!). Then I try to look beyond those edges, hoping to see into another world. To write, I think you have to be prepared to go into other worlds, to inhabit other perspectives without carrying the prescriptions, presumptions and even the language that makes up your usual environment. At least that's what I try to do — to acknowledge others in all their uniqueness and imaginatively enter their world on their terms.

I try not to be too academic when I think about my writing practice. I need to keep my writing brain fluid, floppy and radically porous. Always, when I write, I feel like I have this jellyfish hanging where thought should be. That's a strange piece of information to share with you, but it's true. When I write I go jellyfish.

I live in St Kilda. I love it. It's so kitsch. Every day is ice-cream day in St K. But living in the inner city of Melbourne means my encounters with other animals are highly controlled and contrived. Most mornings I walk around Albert Park Lake, which is a big open area near my apartment. The lake was once part of a lagoon system but it was dredged and shaped into a lake by 1880. Now, it is an important site for bird breeding and nesting. There are black swans, sulphur crested cockatoos, cormorants, galahs, rainbow lorikeets, coots and corellas. There are also swallows, magpies and eastern rosellas. But, the lake is a complicated space. It is equal parts gorgeous and grotesque: gorgeous because of the birds, grotesque because it is the site that hosts the Grand Prix. The disruption to the birds is unbelievable. Slowly, slowly these cement barricades come up and the place starts to look like an Atwoodian dystopia. *That* is something I want to write about one day. One day. One day.

For the moment I am busy writing a paper for the upcoming 'Performance Climates' conference to be held at the University of Melbourne in July. I have been very lucky to develop a rich dialogue with Sue Pyke and Lynn Mowson around the topic of fleshly encounters in times of ecological crisis. The three of us will present works alongside one another as a curated panel of artists. I'm also presenting some critical work at 'Animaladies' held at the University of Sydney. I'm really excited about that conference. It's always exhausting getting prepared for these things, but, when everyone comes together there is such a rush of life. Everyone brings their hard thinking with them and we all just have to open up and let our work come flying, or plodding, or curling or unfurling out. For 'Animaladies' I am presenting a paper that considers the way feminist re-deployments of avant-garde textual practices can use fiction to illuminate interconnections between the cultural construction of madness as a female malady and the pathological mindset of industrial animal factory farming.

Recent publications

Thom van Dooren has co-edited a special issue of *Environmental Humanities* entitled 'Multispecies Studies', along with Ursula Munster, Eben Kirksey, Deborah Bird Rose, Matthew Chrulew and Anna Tsing. < <http://environmentalhumanities.dukejournals.org/> > Articles include:

Thom van Dooren, Eben Kirskey, and Ursula Münster: 'Multispecies Studies: Cultivating Arts of Attentiveness', *Environmental Humanities* 8 (1) June 2016; and

Thom van Dooren and Deborah Bird Rose: 'Lively Ethography: Storying Animist Worlds', *Environmental Humanities* 8 (1) June 2016.

Yamini Narayanan has edited a special issue of *Sustainable Development* on 'Religion, Sustainable Development and Policy: Principles to Practice'. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/sd.v24.3/issuetoc>. Articles include:

Yamini Narayanan (2016) 'Where are the Animals in Sustainable Development? Religion and the Case for Ethical Stewardship in Animal Husbandry.' *Sustainable Development* 24 (3): 172-180.

Simon Coghlan (2016). 'Moral Individualism and Relationalism: a Narrative-Style Philosophical Challenge'. *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, 1-17.

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10677-016-9734-5>

Simon Coghlan (2016). 'Humanism, Anti-Humanism, and Nonhuman Animals'. *Society & Animals*.

<http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/journals/10.1163/15685306-12341416>

Affrica Taylor (2016). 'Child-animal Relations'. In M. A. Peters (Ed.) *Encyclopaedia of Educational Philosophy and Theory*, Amsterdam: Springer. DOI: 10.1007/978-981-287-532-7_265-1

V. Pacini-Ketchabaw, **A. Taylor** & M. Blaise (2016). 'De-centring the human in multispecies ethnographies'. In C. Taylor & C. Hughes (Eds.) *Posthuman Research Practices in Education*, Houndmills, Basingstoke & Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, pp.149-167.

Affrica Taylor and V. Pacini-Ketchabaw (2016). 'Kids, Roos, and Raccoons: Awkward Encounters and Mixed Affects', *Children's Geographies*. DOI: 10.1080/14733285.2016.1199849

<http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/udDrkcSA2qbaWTzB5JXK/full>

Perdita Phillips (2016). *Night for Day: Anticipating Environmental Futures Through Contemporary Art*. *GeoHumanities*, 1-9. doi:10.1080/2373566X.2016.1164535

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/2373566X.2016.1164535?journalCode=rgeo20#.V2vJLzfog5c>



Volume 5, Number 1 (2016)

Special Edition: Insects: <http://ro.uow.edu.au/asj/>

1. Deirdre Coleman

Toothsome Termites and Grilled Grasshoppers: a cultural history of invertebrate gastronomy

2. Perdita Phillips

Twelve Figurings: Reflections on Termites, From Below

3. Madeleine Kelly

Mimicry and Mimesis: Matrix Insect.

4. Raynald H. Lemelin, Rick W. Harper, Jason Dampier, Robert Bowles,

Debbie Balika

Humans, insects and their interaction: a multi-faceted analysis

5. Helen Tiffin

Do insects feel pain?

6. Adrian Dyer, Scarlett Howard, Jair Garcia

Through the eyes of a bee: seeing the world as a whole

7. Fiona Probyn-Rapsey, Sue Donaldson, George Ioannides, Tess Lea, Kate Marsh, Astrida Neimanis, Annie Potts, Nik Taylor, Richard Twine, Dinesh Wadiwel, Stuart White

A Sustainable Campus: The Sydney Declaration on interspecies sustainability.

8. Annie Potts

The Intersectional Influences of Prince: A Human-Animal Tribute

9. Matthew Chrulew

Review: Robert Cribb, Helen Gilbert and Helen Tiffin, *Wild Man from Borneo: A Cultural History of the Orangutan*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2014.

10. John Simons

Review: Ann C. Colley, *Wild Animal Skins in Victorian Britain: Zoos, Collections, Portraits, and Maps*. Ashgate, 2014.

11. Peta Tait

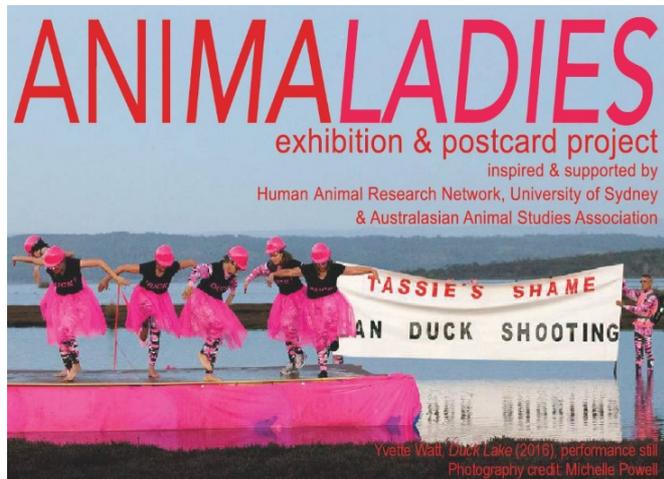
Review: David Wilson. *The Welfare of Performing Animals: A Historical Perspective*, Berlin: Springer, 2015.

12. Provocations from the field:

Michael Griffiths

The Place of Bees

Exhibitions



Lynn Mowson Kath Fries Jen Rae
Sumugan Sivanesan & Tessa Zettel
Yvette Watt Yifang Lu Vanessa Barbay
Tarsh Bates Susan Hauri-Downing
Andre Brodyk Chloe Pringle
Clare Nicholson Tessa Laird
Penny Dunstan Rowena Grace
Michele Elliot Pamela Pirovic
Madeleine Boyd with Prince the Pony
Gina Moore & Chris Barker
Teja Brooks Pribac Debra Beers

Curated by Madeleine Boyd
Melissa Boyde Yvette Watt



Interlude Gallery, Glebe

11 July - 22 July 2016

<http://animalstudies.org.au>
<http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/harm/>



[The Dog's Artist | Susan Flavell](#)

04 June 2016 - 19 July 2016 Fremantle Arts Centre

The Dog's Artist is series of video portraits, ceramic sculptures and photographs from Western Australian artist and new AASA member **Susan Flavell**, which investigates our relationships with dogs. This new exhibition intersects her life as a dog trainer and an artist. Portraiture usually celebrates an important person, important enough for time and money to be spent, for an artwork to be made to immortalise them. A dog in a portrait is there as a companion to the main subject. In these portraits Flavell invites the viewer to look closely and to 'see' the dog as a being, sentient with her own life and personality.

"When Gypsy lies on her mat in the kitchen resting her head on her paws, and we are at the table, eating or talking, I sometimes wonder what goes on inside her head. Why do I wonder? Because, I think, we are struck by the mystery of animals, their otherness to us and to our lives." Raymond Gaita, *The Philosopher's Dog*.

<https://www.fac.org.au/events/796/the-dogs-artist-susan-flavell?pid=58>

[Tender Leavings | Perdita Phillips](#)

31 July - 4 September 2016 Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts

Tender Leavings will shortly be exhibited as part of *Radical Ecologies at PICA*, Perth. It was previously on show at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga in April. *Tender Leavings* is a mixed media installation containing fragments of the remains of 850 romance novels buried for one year in a desert sand dune. The action of termites has fragmented the tales of love.

<http://www.perditaphillips.com/portfolio/tender-leavings/>

[Deep Sea \(neuroscience will not be the explanation of everything\) | Perdita Phillips](#)

25 May to 25 July 2016



The Molluskian Hermaphroditism (and sea anemones) were a part of the exhibition **enhancement: MAKING SENSE** at the i3S Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde, Universidade do Porto. Pictured is one of six A1 sized digital prints in *Deep Sea (neuroscience will not be the explanation of everything)*.

<http://www.perditaphillips.com/portfolio/deep-sea/>

[Caution, workers below | Perdita Phillips](#)



For one night only in April 2016, participants at *Love Letters to other worlds* were able to ask questions to the underworld. This event was part of *Hacking the Anthropocene* symposium organised by Astrida Neimanis for the Sydney Environment Institute.

<http://www.perditaphillips.com/portfolio/caution-workers-below-termite-ouija-board/>

<http://sydney.edu.au/environment-institute/events/feminist-queer-anticolonial-propositions-for-hacking-the-anthropocene/>

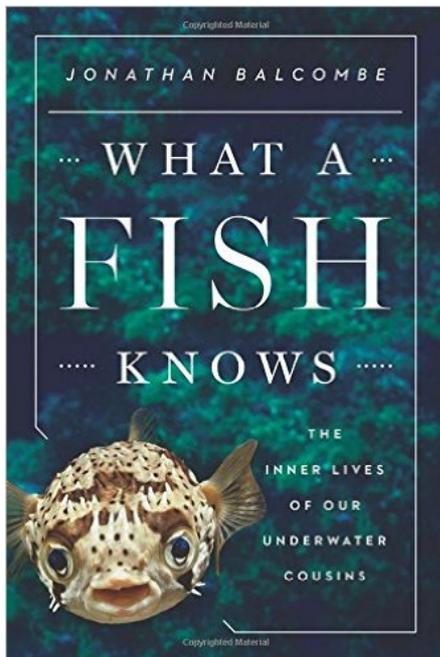
NEW BOOK RELEASES

Compiled by Annie Potts

New Book Releases June 2016 (in alphabetical order of author/editor):

What a Fish Knows? The Inner Lives of Our Underwater Cousins

By Jonathan Balcombe, published by Scientific American / Farrar, Straus and Giroux (June 2016).



Do fishes think? Do they really have three-second memories? And can they recognize the humans who peer back at them from above the surface of the water? In *What a Fish Knows*, the myth-busting ethologist Jonathan Balcombe addresses these questions and more, taking us under the sea, through streams and estuaries, and to the other side of the aquarium glass to reveal the surprising capabilities of fishes. Although there are more than thirty thousand species of fish—more than all mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians combined—we rarely consider how individual fishes think, feel, and behave. Balcombe upends our assumptions about fishes, portraying them not as unfeeling, dead-eyed feeding machines but as sentient, aware, social, and even Machiavellian—in other words, much like us.

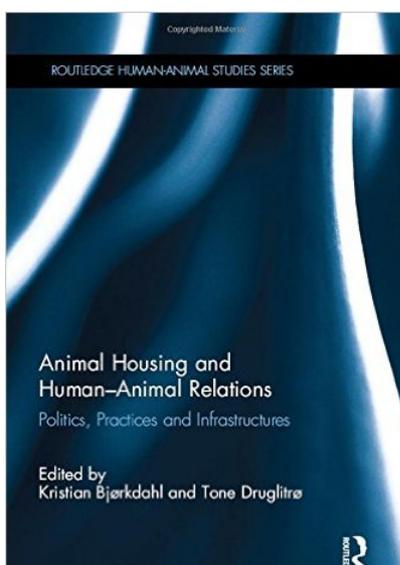
What a Fish Knows draws on the latest science to present a fresh look at these remarkable creatures in all their breathtaking diversity and beauty. Fishes conduct elaborate courtship rituals and develop lifelong bonds with shoalmates. They also

plan, hunt cooperatively, use tools, curry favour, deceive one another, and punish wrongdoers. We may imagine that fishes lead simple, fleeting lives—a mode of existence that boils down to a place on the food chain, rote spawning, and lots of aimless swimming. But, as Balcombe demonstrates, the truth is far richer and more complex, worthy of the grandest social novel.

Highlighting breakthrough discoveries from fish enthusiasts and scientists around the world and pondering his own encounters with fishes, Balcombe examines the fascinating means by which fishes gain knowledge of the places they inhabit, from shallow tide pools to the deepest reaches of the ocean. Teeming with insights and exciting discoveries, *What a Fish Knows* offers a thoughtful appraisal of our relationships with fishes and inspires us to take a more enlightened view of the planet's increasingly imperiled marine life. *What a Fish Knows* will forever change how we see our aquatic cousins—the pet goldfish included.

Jonathan Balcombe is the director of animal sentience at the Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy and the author of four books, including *Second Nature* and *Pleasurable Kingdom*.

Animal Housing and Human-Animal Relations: Politics, Practices and Infrastructures (Routledge Human-Animal Studies Series)



Edited by **Kristian Bjørkdahl** and **Tone Druglitrø**, published by Routledge (June 2016).

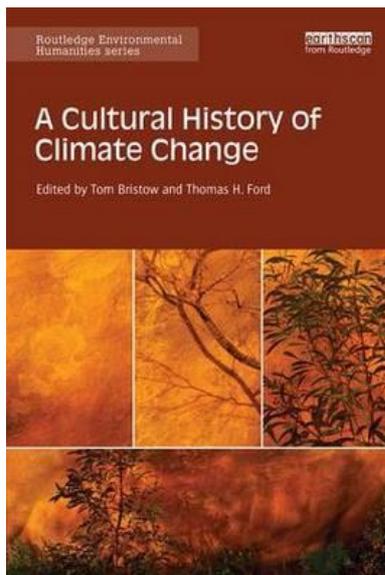
This book provides an in-depth investigation into the practices of animal housing systems with international contributions from across the humanities and social sciences. By attending to a range of different sites such as the zoo, the laboratory, the farm and the animal shelter, to name a few, the book explores material technologies from the perspective that these are integrated parts of a larger biopolitical infrastructure and questions how animal housing

systems, and the physical infrastructures that surround central human-animal practices, come into being. The contributions in the book show in various ways how *physical* infrastructures of animal housing are always part of a broader *sociocultural* and *political* infrastructure, where the material reality of housing systems combines with human and animal agents, with politics, and with practices. As such, the book explores what kind of practices and relations develop around the physical structures of animal housing, and by whom, and for whom, they are developed. This innovative collection will be of great interest to student and scholars in animal studies, more than human studies, geography, anthropology, and sociology.

Kristian Bjørkdahl is a Researcher at the Rokkan Centre for Social Studies, in Bergen, Norway.

Tone Druglitrø is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at TIK Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture, University of Oslo, Norway.

A Cultural History of Climate Change (Routledge Environmental Humanities) Edited by **Tom Bristow** and **Thomas H. Ford**, published by Routledge (2016).



Charting innovative directions in the environmental humanities, this book examines the cultural history of climate change under three broad headings: history, writing and politics. Climate change compels us to rethink many of our traditional means of historical understanding, and demands new ways of relating human knowledge, action and representations to the dimensions of geological and evolutionary time. To address these challenges, this book positions our present moment of climatic knowledge within much longer histories of climatic experience. Only in light of these histories, it argues, can we properly understand what climate means today across an array of discursive domains, from politics, literature and law to neighbourly conversation. Its chapters identify turning-points and experiments in the construction of climates and of atmospheres of sensation. They examine how contemporary ecological thought has repoliticized the representation of nature and detail vital aspects of the history and prehistory of our climatic

modernity. This ground-breaking text will be of great interest to researchers and postgraduate students in environmental history, environmental governance, history of ideas and science, literature and ecocriticism, political theory, cultural theory, as well as all general readers interested in climate change.

Tom Bristow is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at The University of Melbourne. He received his MA (Modern Literature) in 2003 from the University of Leicester, England, and his PhD (Contemporary Literature) in 2008 from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Tom's research combines affect theory and literary theory to underline an ecocritical reading of the pastoral tradition and its afterlives in contemporary literature.

Thomas H. Ford worked as a publications editor at the National Library of Australia before completing a PhD in English literature at the University of Chicago in 2007. He has since taught literary studies at a number of universities in Chicago and Melbourne and worked as a senior policy

officer in education policy at Monash University, where he is also an associate in the research units in literature and social aesthetics. Thomas joined the Humanities Research Centre in 2011 as an ARC Australian Postdoctoral Fellow to undertake the project 'Nineteenth-Century Climate Change: Atmosphere and Culture in Romanticism.'

Derrida's Breakfast

By **David Brooks**, published by Brandl & Schlesinger (June 2016).



In his later work, French philosopher Jacques Derrida made gestures towards a philosophy that grappled with the suffering imposed on animals by humans. Yet he backed away from the task, David Brooks suggests, because it exposed the limits of his ethics. He was too mired in the "continuous loop" of the Western philosophical tradition, despite his critique of it through deconstruction. In these intellectually demanding yet rewarding essays, Brooks explores how Derrida, and the Western mind in general, flinches from confronting the way we have exiled ourselves from the animal kingdom. "Something more than mind is needed to make the leap that animals demand of us. A leap of compassion ... and something – people have called it a peeling of the eye – that is harder and less common still, perhaps almost like a revelation."

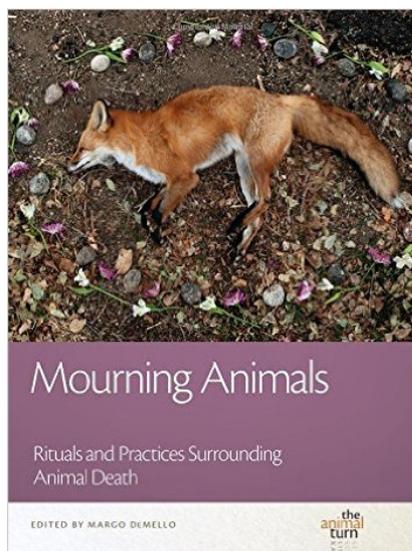
Four essays, three on the philosopher Jacques Derrida, whose writings have so influenced our time (one on his breakfast, one on his cat, one on his relationship with a snake, and one (on the killing of doves) on the great early twentieth century poet Rilke – each of them examining key failures and challenges in the relationship of poetry, philosophy and 'the animal', and each entertaining, absorbing, and thought-provoking well beyond its given subject. A book that crosses with apparent ease the boundaries of philosophy, literary criticism (there are passages on Coleridge, on D.H. Lawrence, on Henry Lawson) and human-animal relations, by a writer recently described as 'one of the most skilful, unusual and versatile of Australian writers' (*Sydney Morning Herald*, January 2016).

David Brooks is a vegan and animal rights activist who, until early 2013, taught Australian Literature and directed the graduate writing program at the University of Sydney, to which he is now attached as an Honorary Associate Professor. Since 2000 he has been a co-editor of the literary journal *Southerly*. He is the 2015/16 Australia Council Fellow in Fiction.

Mourning Animals: Rituals and Practices Surrounding Animal Death

(The Animal Turn series)

Edited by **Margo DeMello**, published by Michigan State University Press (pre-order for August 2016).



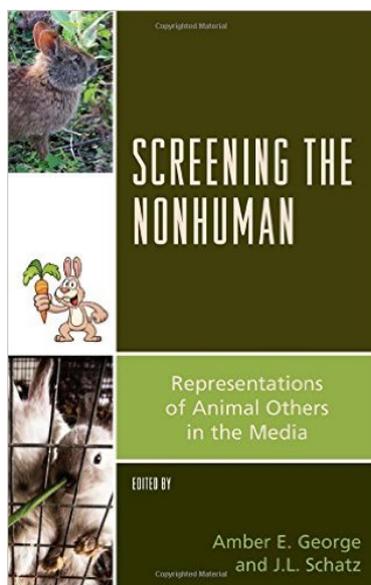
We live more intimately with nonhuman animals than ever before in history. The change in the way we cohabit with animals can be seen in the way we treat them when they die. There is an almost infinite variety of ways to help us cope with the loss of our nonhuman friends—from burial, cremation, and taxidermy; to

wearing or displaying the remains (ashes, fur, or other parts) of our deceased animals in jewelry, tattoos, or other artwork; to counselors who specialize in helping people mourn pets; to classes for veterinarians; to tips to help the surviving animals who are grieving their animal friends; to pet psychics and memorial websites. But the reality is that these practices, and related beliefs about animal souls or animal afterlife, generally only extend, with very few exceptions, to certain kinds of animals—pets. Most animals, in most cultures, are not mourned, and the question of an animal afterlife is not contemplated at all. *Mourning Animals* investigates how we mourn animal deaths, which animals are grievable, and what the implications are for all animals.

Margo DeMello is an adjunct professor in the anthrozoology master's program at Canisius College and the program director for Human-Animal Studies at the Animals and Society Institute. She is the author of numerous books in the field of Human-Animal Studies.

Screening the Nonhuman: Representations of Animal Others in the Media (Critical Animal Studies and Theory)

Edited by **Amber E. George** and **J.L. Schatz**, published by Lexington Books (April 2016).



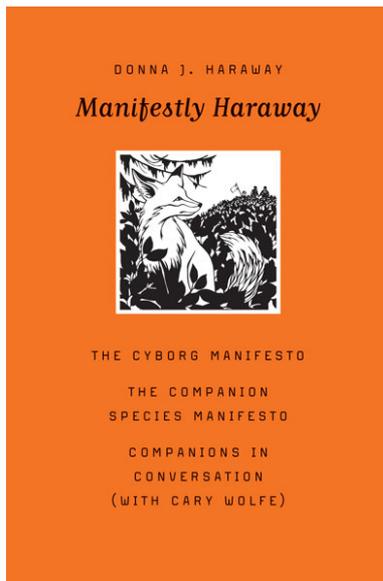
Screening the Nonhuman draws connections between how animals represented on screen translate into reality. In doing so, the book demonstrates that consuming media is not a neutral act but rather a political one. The images humans consume have real world consequences for how animals are treated as actors, as pets, and in nature. The contributors propose that altering the representations of animals can change the way humans relate to non/humans. Their hope is for humans to generate more ethical relationships with non/humans, ultimately mediating reality both in terms of fiction and non-fiction. To achieve this end, film, television, advertisements, and social media are analyzed through an intersectional lens. But the book doesn't stop here. Each author creates counter-representational strategies that promise to unweave the assumptions that have led to the mistreatment of humans and non/humans alike.

Amber E. George is the Program Coordinator for the Intergroup Dialogue Project at Cornell University. She serves as the point of contact for program development and management. Prior to this role, she taught philosophy at numerous colleges and universities. She serves as a board member of ICAS, an academic research organization dedicated to advancing intersectional social justice initiatives, and the Central New York Peace Studies Consortium. She is the Associate Editor of *Social Advocacy and Systems Change Journal* and is on the review board of the *Transformative Justice Book Series*.

J.L. Schatz is the Director of Speech and Debate at Binghamton University. He researches Animal Rights, Cultural & Media Studies, Transhumanist Studies and Feminist Theory.

Manifestly Haraway

By **Donna J. Haraway** (preface by Cary Wolfe), published by University of Minnesota Press (2016).



Breaking down the binaries: two manifestos and a conversation on dogs and cyborgs, the implosion of technology, and human and nonhuman beings

Manifestly Haraway brings together the momentous “Cyborg Manifesto” and “Companion Species Manifesto” to expose the continuity and ramifying force of Donna Haraway’s thought. Haraway joins in a wide-ranging exchange with Cary Wolfe on the history and meaning of the manifestos that promises to reignite needed discussion in and out of the academy about biologies, technologies, histories, and still possible futures.

Donna J. Haraway is distinguished professor emerita in the History of Consciousness Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she is also affiliated with the departments of anthropology, feminist studies, environmental studies, and film and digital media. She is an active participant in UCSC’s Science and

Justice Research Center and the Center for Cultural Studies.

Cary Wolfe is Bruce and Elizabeth Dunlevie Professor of English at Rice University, where he is also founding director of 3CT (Center for Critical and Cultural Theory). His books *Zoontologies: The Question of the Animal*, *The Other Emerson* (with Branka Arsić), and *What Is Posthumanism?* are published by Minnesota.

You Must Carry Me Now: The Cultural Lives of Endangered Species

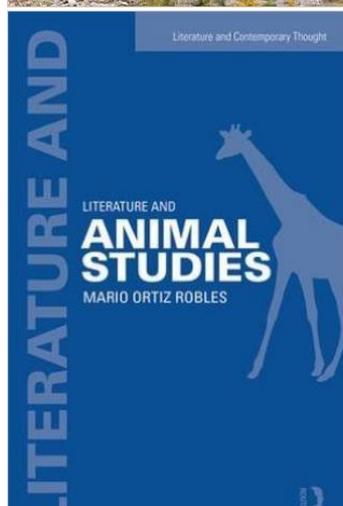
By **Bryndis Snæbjörnsdóttir** and **Mark Wilson**, published by Arizona State University Art Museum (Nov 2015).



Over a two year period, artists Bryndis Snæbjörnsdóttir (Iceland) and Mark Wilson (England) have explored the networks and ripple effects of scientific conservation initiatives in Arizona. They have focused on the reintroduction of the chub in the Colorado River and the condor in the Grand Canyon in a kind of vertical slice of our natural environment. The book is based on the results of this research, as shown in the exhibition Trout Fishing in America and Other Stories at the Arizona State University Art Museum in 2015. "In our often belated attempts to steward, care for or 'repair' environments - when individual animals and animal populations are transformed from beings and societies into data, what of consequence is really captured - and importantly, what is lost?"

Literature and Animal Studies

By **Mario Ortiz Robles**, published by Routledge (June 2016).



Why do animals talk in literature? In this provocative book, Mario Ortiz Robles tracks the presence of animals across an expansive literary archive to argue that literature cannot be understood as a human endeavour apart from its capacity to represent animals. Focusing on the literary representation of familiar animals, including horses, dogs, cats, and songbirds, Ortiz Robles examines the various tropes literature has historically employed to give meaning to our fraught relations with other

animals. Beyond allowing us to imagine the lives of non-humans, literature can make a lasting contribution to Animal Studies, an emerging discipline within the humanities, by showing us that there is something fictional about our relation to animals.

Literature and Animal Studies combines a broad mapping of literary animals with detailed readings of key animal texts to offer a new way of organizing literary history that emphasizes genera over genres and a new way of classifying animals that is premised on tropes rather than taxa. The book makes us see animals and our relation to them with fresh eyes and, in doing so, prompts us to review the role of literature in a culture that considers it an endangered art form.

Mario Ortiz Robles is Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA and the author of *The Novel as Event* (2010) and co-editor of *Narrative Middles: Navigating the Nineteenth-Century British Novel* (2011).

Conference Calls

Compiled by Rick De Vos

Upcoming Seminar at University of Wollongong:

Philosophy and Animal Studies seminar

PRESENTERS:

PROF. LORI GRUEN, WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

PROF. PETER GODFREY-SMITH, CUNY AND UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

FRIDAY JULY 15
11:00-2:30PM
RESEARCH HUB 19.2072

BIOS

Lori Gruen is the William Griffin Professor of Philosophy at Wesleyan University. Her books include *Ethics and Animals: An Introduction* (Cambridge, 2011) and *Entangled Empathy* (Lantern, 2014) and editor of *The Ethics of Captivity* (Oxford, 2014) and *Ecofeminism: Feminist Intersections with other Animals and the Earth* (Bloomsbury 2014).

Peter Godfrey-Smith is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the Graduate Center, CUNY (City University of New York), and Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Sydney. His books include *Darwinian Populations and Natural Selection* (Oxford, 2009), which won the 2010 Lakatos Award, and *Philosophy of Biology*, released in 2014 by Princeton.

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AUSTRALIA



British Animal Studies Network: 'Conserving'

18 and 19 November 2016

Hosted by the Sheffield Animals Research Colloquium, University of Sheffield

Plenary speakers: Rosaleen Duffy (SOAS, University of London), others TBC

Contact email: sharc@shef.ac.uk

Deadline for abstracts: Friday, 15 July, 2016

Call for Papers: The British Animal Studies Network seeks papers for its next meeting, to be held at the University of Sheffield on the theme of 'Conserving'. Please submit your title with an abstract of no more than 200 words and a brief biography (also of no more than 200 words) to sharc@shef.ac.uk. These should be included within your email – i.e. not as attachments. The deadline for abstracts is **15 July 2016**. Presentations will be 20 minutes long, and we hope to include work by individuals at different career stages. Sadly we have no money to support travel, accommodation or attendance costs.

Topics covered at this meeting might include (but are not limited to):

- Conserving what?
- At what and at whom are current conservation practices aimed?
- What and who should be conserved or allowed to perish?
- Is conservation fundamentally about 'species', 'ecosystems' and 'wholes' – or is there a place for individuals within conserving practices and discourses?
- Who conserves?
- Who should undertake practices of conservation and who should not?
- Are some individuals and groups under special obligations to conserve?
- Is it important that conserving practices are 'local'?
- How do and should we conserve?
- What real and potential conflicts arise in conservation practices and how are the relevant values at stake to be appropriately balanced?
- What do aesthetic practices contribute to our understanding of animal conservation and what do animals contribute to our understanding of aesthetic conservation?
- How does conservation imagine the pasts, presents, and futures of animal populations? Is conservation a species of narrative?
- What is the ultimate rationale for conserving?
- What are the links between animal conservation and other practices of natural/social/cultural persistence such breeding, the heritage industry or memorialising?
- How have practices of conserving themselves reformed across time?
- Is the practice of conserving fundamentally conservative?

We welcome papers from any discipline that deal with such issues in contemporary and historical settings and would especially like to see papers that address these issues from contexts outside the UK, including the Global South.

<http://www.britishanimalstudiesnetwork.org.uk/Portals/108/Conserving%20CFP.pdf>

Animals and Death

27th September 2016, University of Leeds

Organised by the [Animals and Philosophy Exploration Collective](#)

Keynote speaker: Alasdair Cochrane, University of Sheffield

Contact email: animalsanddeath@gmail.com

Deadline for abstracts: 5th August 2016

Animals and Death is a one day philosophy conference on the topic of the moral problems surrounding animals and death. This event is open to all. We invite presentations from anybody who does not hold a doctoral degree or who has received their doctorate within 3 years of the conference date. All speakers will receive a £30 travel bursary and have one night's accommodation and their conference meal covered. Lunch will also be provided for all attendees.

We welcome papers of both an applied and theoretical nature from any tradition of philosophy and also interdisciplinary work that considers the moral problems relating to animals and death. Speakers will be given a 30 minute presentation slot followed by a 15 minute Q and A session. We particularly encourage submissions from under-represented groups in philosophy.

Questions that might be addressed include:

- How does death harm animals and how is this different from how it harms humans?
- Should we intervene in predator, prey relations to minimize/eliminate death?
- Do we owe posthumous treatment to animals and their corpses?
- When, if ever, is it right to 'euthanise' a companion animal?
- Is death worse than non-existence for animals?

Submissions: Please send an abstract of up to **500 words** to: animalsanddeath@gmail.com before **5th August 2016**. Abstracts should be prepared for blind review and include no information that identifies the author or their institution. Please send abstracts in .doc or .pdf format, accompanied by a separate document including the author's name, paper title, institutional affiliation and contact details.

Animals and Death has been made possible by the support of the Society for Applied Philosophy, the Analysis Trust, the School of Philosophy, Religion and the History of Science at the University of Leeds and the Centre for Ethics and Metaethics at the University of Leeds.

[KHQ's Call for Eco-creative writing](#)

Journal: *Kudzu House Quarterly*

Contact email: editor@kudzuhouse.org

Deadline for submissions: Thursday, September 1, 2016

udzu House Quarterly, a journal of environment, is reading for its Winter Creative Issue (Vol. 6, Iss. 4: Winter Solstice), featuring Patty Somlo, until **September 1 2016**. The theme for our winter issue is always open. We publish creative writing and scholarship on a quarterly, rolling basis. We will begin reading for scholarship again in the fall. Send us your poetry, fiction, nonfiction, art, and multimedia work today!

Guidelines: <http://kudzuhouse.org/submissions/guidelines/>

To Submit: <http://kudzuhouse.org/submissions/>

[Human-Animal Boundary Symposium III](#)

A Symposium to be held in Mumbai (India), 6-7 January 2018

Coordinators: Mario Wenning (University of Macao) and Nandita Batra (University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez)

Contact email: nandita.batra@upr.edu

Deadline for submissions: Monday, May 1, 2017

The boundary between humans and non-human animals has been an integral part of philosophic discourse since antiquity, with mounting evidence of language, tool use and general cognitive abilities now leading scientists to contest its impermeability. These lines have been drawn and re-drawn in innumerable ways in imaginative literature, and the various ways in which humans perceive non-human animals have become the subject of study in various disciplines. Attempts to draw a boundary between human and nonhuman animals have involved the artistic imagination as well as philosophical reflection. Throughout the centuries philosophers and poets alike have defended an essential difference – rather than a porous transition – between what counts as human and what as animal. The attempts to assign essential properties to humans (e.g. a capacity for language use, reason and morality) often reflected ulterior aims to defend a privileged position for humans with regard to animals (which were, in turn, interpreted as speechless, irrational and amoral). While this form of humanism has come under attack through animal rights initiatives in recent decades, alternative ways of engaging the human-animal relationship from a philosophical and poetic perspective are rare. The conference thus aims to shift the traditional anthropocentric focus of philosophy and literature by combining the question "what is human?" with the question "what is animal?"

We welcome papers from several disciplines, including philosophy, religion, and literature,, including films, beast fables, bestiaries, fairy tales, myth, and folklore.

Papers may also address the topic vis-à-vis its intersection with

- Ecocriticism/Ecofeminism
- The Nature/Culture debate
- Liminality
- Gender/Sexuality
- Race
- Animal Rights and Speciesism
- Animals and Food
- The Discourse of Science

Please send proposals for a 20-minute paper to Nandita Batra (nandita.batra@upr.edu) and Mario Wenning (mwenning@umac.mo) by **1 May 2017** with the subject line: HUMAN-ANIMAL SYMP PROPOSAL.

<https://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/cfp/2016/06/03/human-animal-boundary-symposium-iii>

Australasian Animal Studies Association, Inc.

Committee Nomination Form

2016 Annual General Meeting: 12 July, University of Sydney

Instructions:

This form may be used by **financial members** of the **Australasian Animal Studies Association** to nominate another financial member to the **committee**.

This method of nomination is in addition to the method of nominating candidates from the floor of the meeting (by and from delegates present in person).

I, _____

Financial member

Hereby nominate: _____

Nominee

Signed _____ **Date:** / /2016

Signature of nominator

I hereby accept this nomination _____ **Date:** / /2016

Signature of Nominee

For the following Executive position:

- President**
- Vice President**
- Secretary**
- Treasurer**
- General Committee Member**

I confirm that the nominee is a current financial member of the group.

AASA committee representative

To be eligible, this written nomination must be received by Tuesday July 12, 9am 2016

Australasian Animal Studies Association, Inc.

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I,

(current financial member)

of.....

(address)

being a financial member of the Australasian Animal Studies Group Inc.

APPOINT.....

.....

(proxy's name)

who also is a financial member of the Association, as my proxy.

My proxy is authorised to vote on my behalf: *(Tick only ONE of the following)*

at the AGM (and any adjournments of the meeting/s) on
.....

(Insert relevant date/s)

OR

in the event that
.....
.....

(circumstance, e.g. I am unable to attend, etc.)

Signature:..... Date:.....

(member appointing proxy)