

# Australian Animal Studies Group

*News Bulletin \* Issue 8, June 2010*

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*News Bulletin \* Issue 8, June 2010*

## National News

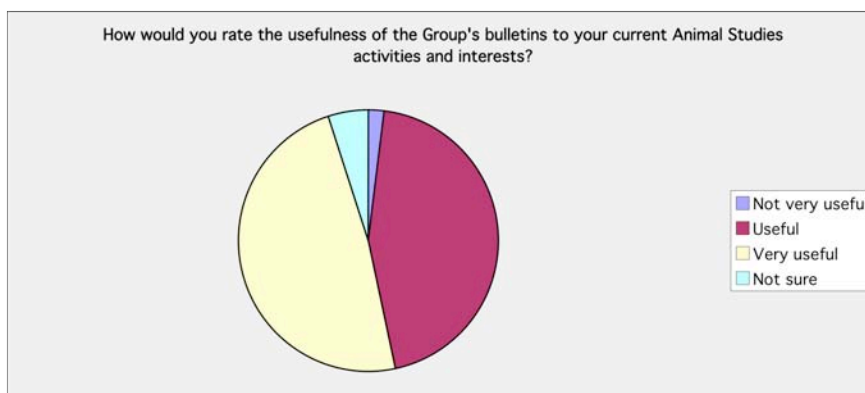
### Australian Animal Studies Group Survey

In April this year, the [Australian Animal Studies Group](#) asked recipients of the Bulletin (some 403 people) to participate in a survey. The survey's primary objectives included to capture a snapshot of readers' animal (studies)-related activities and to collect feedback on the Group's services. Accessing thoughts and suggestions about our new website was another important aim.

112 people kindly responded to the survey (a 28% response rate), generating a useful data set that goes a long way toward fulfilment of the objectives outlined above. 93 of the responses received were from those based in Australia, although the Bulletin also has a number of international readers. The broad range of interests and disciplines represented was particularly noteworthy. In the near future, participants will be approached for permission to make their details available on the website. In this way an important function of the Group – to connect people who have related interests and to provide inspiration to those who may be considering an animal studies research project or activity - will be better realized.

Encouragingly, commitment to the Group's upcoming [conference](#) in Brisbane, Queensland (July 2011) was high, with 67% of participants indicating that they plan to attend this event. A high level of appreciation for the [Bulletin](#) was also indicated (see pie chart below). The survey provided a means to determine the annual [membership fee](#) that readers consider reasonable to pay for the Group's services. Postgraduate students were happiest with a \$10 commitment, while the majority of those in academic or other employment pledged a \$25 contribution. Some participants indicated their willingness to offer further financial support in the form of one-off donations and this option will be made available through the website.

Finally, the AASG committee [thanks](#) all of those who took time out of busy schedules to complete the survey. Our aim now is to capitalise on the valuable ideas and feedback provided, particularly as we bring the website to completion over the next few months.



### AASG Website

The AASG website is presently under construction, with [Natalie Edwards](#) working closely with Zest Media, a New Zealand-based web design company, and with occasional input from [Carol Freeman](#) and the AASG committee - [Siobhan O'Sullivan](#), [Yvette Watt](#), [Rod Bennison](#) and [Leah Burns](#). Progress on the construction is slow due to the time commitments of those involved, but

we hope it is accessible by the time the next issue of the Bulletin is out, so watch this space for more details . . . .

### **Fourth AASG conference in Brisbane**

Organisation for the Australian Animal Studies Group's [4th conference](#) continues. It will be held in Brisbane from [July 10-13, 2010](#). It is being hosted by the Environmental Futures Centre at Griffith University and is entitled "Animals, People - the shared environment". The venue will be Southbank, at the beautiful Queensland Conservatorium and the historic Ship Inn.

The web site will be ready soon and further information can be obtained from the chair of the local organising committee, Leah Burns: [Leah.Burns@griffith.edu.au](mailto:Leah.Burns@griffith.edu.au)

### **Minding Animals Survey**

The [Minding Animals International Committee](#) is conducting a survey to assist the recently-formed Minding Animals Organising Committee for Utrecht to plan for the next conference in The Netherlands in 2012. Please contact Rod Bennison [mindinganimals@gmail.com](mailto:mindinganimals@gmail.com) if you would like to take part in the survey or have any specific questions about it, the conference, the pre-conference lectures, proposed study circles, or Minding Animals International.

Don't forget you can now join in a conversation with your Animal Studies colleagues on the Minding Animals Twitter and Facebook sites - follow the links on the Minding Animals website: <http://www.mindinganimals.com> <<http://www.mindinganimals.com/>>

Or join a conversation on the Minding Animals International GoogleGroups site by visiting: <http://groups.google.com.au/group/minding-animals-international>

### **Visit to Australia by Jill Robinson from Animals Asia**



Join [Jill Robinson](#) in July and support the growing animal welfare movement in Asia. She will be sharing all the latest news first-hand on animal welfare in China including positive developments on government relations, the explosion of media coverage on sensitive issues, support from the traditional medicine community to heal without harm and a growing trend of brave activists fighting for the rights of animals amidst communist rule. Also hear up to date news on [Animals Asia's](#) two latest bear rescues in China and Vietnam where 28 bears are now safe at the Animals Asia sanctuary.

Tickets are in big demand! To avoid disappointment, [BOOK NOW](#) for an event in your city.

Perth: [Wednesday 7 July, 6-10pm](#). Tim Winton Theatre, Curtin University of Technology, Bentley  
Adelaide: [Friday 9 July, 6.30-10pm](#). Sanctuary Adelaide Zoo, Adelaide  
Melbourne: [Sunday 11 July, 2-5pm](#). Erasmus School, Hawthorn  
Hobart: [Monday 12 July, 6-9pm](#). Centenary Theatre, University of Tasmania  
Canberra: [Tuesday 13 July, 6.30-10pm](#). Teatro Vivaldi, ANU arts Centre, Australian National University  
Sydney: [Thursday 15 July, 6-10pm](#). Webster Theatre, Veterinary Science Building, University of Sydney  
Brisbane: [Friday 16 July 6-9pm](#). The Ballroom, Victoria Park, Herston  
Auckland: [Saturday 17 July, 6.30-10pm](#). Conference Centre, WA Building Auckland University of Technology (City Campus)

## Canine Research Foundation – Research Grants 2011

The CRF is seeking applications for grants for research to commence in the year 2011. The Foundation is an independent public trust for the purposes of funding research directed at improving canine health, which it does through a program of annual research grants. The Australian National Kennel Council has adopted the Foundation as its research-funding vehicle.

Grants may be made by the Foundation for research projects relating to canine health where the research is conducted by an Australian university. Proposals should be received by the Foundation by [June 30, 2010](#).

Requirements of the Foundation in relation to the grants are:-

1. A report detailing progress on the project half yearly.
2. Within six months of the end of the period for which the project was funded, a final report covering the project and a summary for prospective publishing in journals of Member Bodies of the Australian National Kennel Council and other canine journals.
1. Any publications resulting from the work supported by the Foundation should acknowledge such support.

Grants per project will normally be in the order of \$5,000-15,000 in any one year. Projects may extend beyond one year but funding each year will be dependent upon satisfactory progress as given in interim reports. Funds will be available as arranged through the university. Note that funding is not usually provided for salaries, stipends or significant capital equipment.

For more details and application form see <http://www.ankc.org.au/Health--Welfare/Research-Grants--2011.aspx>

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## Regional News

### New South Wales

#### Postponement of Global Animal conference!

Because of circumstances outside the control of the organisers, [Global Animal](#) will now be held on **July 7 and 8th, 2011** at the [University of Wollongong](#). Registration and a welcome reception will be held on the Wednesday evening before the conference.

Global Animal will be followed by the fourth conference of the [Australian Animal Studies Group](#) to be held in Brisbane from Sunday evening July 10th, 2011. For those delegates who wish to attend both conferences we will be able to arrange airport transfers between Wollongong and Sydney airport to facilitate smooth travel arrangements.

The plan for Global Animal is to keep a record of abstracts that have already been submitted, for consideration for the new date. We will contact prospective delegates early next year, before issuing another call for papers, to determine if they are still interested and available for the new dates. The organisers apologise for any inconvenience this change will cause.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact Melissa Boyde: [boyde@uow.edu.au](mailto:boyde@uow.edu.au)

## Tasmania

[Yvette Watt](#) and her art work have been featured on the invitation, and in the exhibition:



**STUDIO:** Australian painters  
photographed by R. Ian Lloyd

Carnegie Gallery, Hobart  
till 4 July, 2010

*Identity Crisis (Pig)*, 2005, oil on linen, 61 x 85cm.

[R. Ian Lloyd](#) is a National Geographic photographer. Commentary by art critic and writer [John MacDonald](#) accompanies each photograph and provides a fascinating insight into the places artists work and their habits and modes of production. Yvette fits her art practice in between teaching at the Tasmanian School of Art and her animal rights activities.

## Victoria

University of Melbourne

The University's June newsletter *VOICE* focusses on [Animals and Humans](#), with articles about human-animal studies:

[Humans and Animals – The Issues](#) outlines Siobhan O'Sullivan's work in the School of Social and Political Science "spearheading this developing field".

[Regulating Life – Animals and Biodiversity Conservation](#) written by Yoriko Otomo, reports on Australia's recent review of its biodiversity strategy and the significance of a developing area of research called 'animal law'.

For full text and more articles see <http://voice.unimelb.edu.au/volume-6/number-6>

### [New Natures Seminar Series](#)

A free public seminar series on the theme of 'nature, law, and life' is to be held at [Melbourne Law School](#) throughout 2010. The series enables internationally renowned thinkers to share their most recent work with an Australian audience, live via video teleconference. New Natures offers an opportunity for sustained reflection on the place of nature in contemporary thought, and its implications for the most pressing governmental questions of our day.

This series is co-convened by [Yoriko Otomo](#) and [Connal Parsley](#). It has been funded by the Melbourne Law School, and supported by the Centre for Resources, Energy and Environmental Law under the direction of Professor Lee Godden.

The next lecture in the series will be held later this year, and will be advertised on the [Melbourne Law School](#) website: <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/>

## Special Report

*Marcus Baynes–Rock is a researcher with the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion at Macquarie University, New South Wales. He is studying the relationship between the people and urbanised hyenas in a town called Harar in Ethiopia. Here is his story about this fascinating animal:*

### Hyenas in Harar



The Old Town of Harar in eastern Ethiopia is enclosed by a wall built 500 years ago to protect the town's inhabitants from hostile neighbours after a religious conflict that destabilised the region. Historically, the gates would be opened every morning to admit outsiders into the town to buy and sell goods and perhaps worship at one of the dozens of mosques in the Muslim city. Only Muslims were allowed to enter. And each night, non-Hararis would be evicted from the town and the gates locked. So it is somewhat surprising that this endogamous, culturally exclusive society incorporated holes into its defensive wall, through which spotted hyenas from the surrounding hills could access the town at night.

Spotted hyenas could be considered the most hated mammal in Africa. Decried as ugly and awkward, associated with witches and sorcerers and seen as contaminating, spotted hyenas are a public relations challenge of the highest order. Yet in Harar, hyenas are not only allowed into the town to clean the streets of food scraps, they are deeply embedded in the traditions and beliefs of the townspeople. Sufism predominates in Harar and at last count there were 121 shrines in and near the town dedicated to the town's saints. These saints are said to meet on Mt Hakim every Thursday to discuss any pressing issues facing the town and it is the hyenas who pass the information from the saints on to the townspeople via intermediaries who can understand hyena language. Etymologically, the Harari word for hyena, 'waraba' comes from 'wer

abba' which translates literally as 'news man'. Hyenas are also believed to clear the streets of jinn, the unseen entities that are a constant presence for people in the town, and hyenas' spirits are said to be like angels who fight with bad spirits to defend the souls of spiritually vulnerable people.

There is a legend that tells of a time of famine when hyenas began attacking people in the town. The situation became so dire that the townspeople protested to the protective saints. After some consultation, the saints instructed the people to feed porridge to the hyenas and this not only ended the attacks, it ended the drought that was causing the famine. Since that time, every year on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Muharram – Ashura – hyenas are fed porridge at various shrines outside the town, to celebrate and reinforce the age old relationship. I have personally witnessed this and I must say it's amazing to see a hyena emerge from the forest and eat porridge only minutes after the food has been set down. This only happens once per year, yet the hyena was ready and waiting and I can only assume that the animal heard the praying and recognised the activity that precedes the feeding.

Last century a man started feeding scraps of meat to Harar's hyenas just outside the wall of the town and once this became publicised, tourists started coming to see Harar's hyena man. There are now two hyena men who feed hyenas nightly and tourists can participate in the hand feeding. So hyenas have added another service to those they already perform for the townspeople. They bring economic benefits.

My current research in Harar is concerned with both sides of the relationship. First is the collection of stories, traditions, songs and proverbs of which there are many and trying to understand how the most hated mammal in Africa can be accommodated in an urban environment; to understand how a society can tolerate the presence of a potentially dangerous species. Second is to understand the hyenas themselves and their participation in the relationship. In other parts of Ethiopia, and even within walking distance of Harar, hyenas are dangerous animals and attacks on people are common. Yet, in the old town of Harar, attacks are unheard of and it is not unusual to see hyenas, in search of food scraps, wandering past perfectly edible people sleeping in the streets. This localised immunity from attack is reassuring for a researcher spending nights alone with the hyenas in Harar's narrow streets and alleys.

Story and pictures: Marcus Baynes-Rock



## Conferences and Seminars: Updates, international conferences and symposiums

- **Changing the Climate: Utopia, Dystopia and Catastrophe.**  
Fourth Australian Conference on Utopia, Dystopia and Science Fiction  
30th August – 1st September 2010. [Monash University, Melbourne](#)

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference invites papers from scholars, writers and others interested in the interplay between ecology and ecocriticism, utopia, dystopia and science fiction. The opening address will be given by [Kate Rigby](#), Founding President of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Australia-New Zealand, and author of *Topographies of the Sacred: The Poetics of Place in European Romanticism* (2004).

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

[Kim Stanley Robinson](#) - Distinguished science fiction writer, winner of two Hugo Awards and author of the *Orange Country Trilogy*, *the Mars Trilogy*, *Antarctica*, *The Years of Rice and Salt*, the *Science in the Capital Trilogy* and *Galileo's Dream*.

[John Clute](#) - Science fiction writer, Director of the Department of Story Future in the Centre for the Future at Slavonice and co-author of *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* (1993) and *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy* (1997).

[Tom Moylan](#) - Emeritus Professor and Founding Director of the Ralahine Center for Utopian Studies, University of Limerick, author of *Demand the Impossible* (1986) and *Scraps of the Untainted Sky* (2000) and co-editor of *Dark Horizons* (2003).

[Deborah Bird Rose](#) - Professor of Social Inclusion, Macquarie University, author of *Dingo Makes Us Human* (2000), *Reports from a Wild Country* (2004) and *Wild Dog Dreaming: Love and Extinction* (in press).

[Linda Williams](#) - Associate Professor in Art History at RMIT University, curator of *The Idea of the Animal* exhibition (2004) and the *HEAT: Art and Climate Change* exhibition (2008).

**Abstracts due:** 30 June 2010. Approx. 100-150 words should be sent by e-mail to:  
[Utopias@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Utopias@arts.monash.edu.au)

This conference is organised by the Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies at Monash University. For more information see:  
<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/ecps/conferences/utopias/>

- **Sounding the Earth: Music, Language, Acoustic Ecology**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Biannual conference of Association for the Study of Literature, Environment, Culture-Australia and New Zealand  
20-22 October, 2010. [Launceston, Tasmania](#)

### CALL FOR PAPERS

'All of the sound we hear is only a fraction of all the vibrating going on in our universe' (ecologist and composer David Dunn, *Nature Sound*). 'Since each thing is made differently, each form of life hears a slightly different multiverse'.

**ASLEC-ANZ** invites papers, performances, panels, photo/phonographics—on music, language, sound, the earth—that reflect the multiversity of [human and non-human](#) worlds; that investigate music's power as intrinsic language to 'transcend social and cultural barriers'; that examine the process of remixing, recycling, renewing in sound and the environment.

The proposed theme, [Sound and the Environment](#), actively engages with the aural (human and



non-human), and thus seeks to bring into encounter human and non-human aural expressions and aesthetics; literature and music; conservatory and architecture; drama and legislation; arts and industry sustainability.

Among the topics that presenters will take up are: soundscapes and environmental awareness; music modeled on nature; music performed collaboratively with nature; the power of song ([human and non-human](#)) to change the way humans think and act; Indigenous 'singing up' as a mode of resilience and joy.

Topic suggestions include but are not limited to:

- \* Literature, music, other arts and media engaged with sounds and silences of the Earth
- \* Soundscapes and environmental awareness
- \* noise pollution and environmental injustice
- \* silence as extinction
- \* nature writing / nature singing
- \* popular / classical / sacred music and ecology
- \* Music as environmental 'bandaid'
- \* auditory perception, biosemiotics and extra-human acoustic ecologies
- \* capturing sound / unsound practices

The conference is to be held at the School of Architecture at Inveresk. This is the site of the Academy for the Arts, and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, and it is situated on the North Esk, in Launceston, a registered 'City for Climate Protection'. Accommodation in town is within Zimmer frame walking distance from the venue.

[Submission deadline: 15 July 2010.](#)

Abstracts (for a 20-minute paper) should be no more than 250 words and should state IT requirements. Registration information, venue and accommodation details: <http://www.asle-anz.asn.au/> or [CA.Cranston@utas.edu.au](mailto:CA.Cranston@utas.edu.au)

- **Zoosemiotics and Animal Representations**

4–8 April 2011. Tartu, Estonia

### CALL FOR PAPERS

[Zoosemiotics](#) is an interdisciplinary research program introduced by an American semiotician Thomas A. Sebeok in the 1960s with the aim to merge semiotics and ethology and to launch semiotic studies of animal communication. The foundational idea in zoosemiotics is that relations between [animals and their environment](#) as well as between different individuals are not purely physical, but are to a large extent sign-mediated. This gives a significant role to the animal subjects, and recognizes more as well as higher forms of complexity in animals than previously assumed. A lot has happened since the concept of zoosemiotics was proposed: the rise of biosemiotics and cognitive ethology are two among the many important developments in the field of animal communication studies.

Now, almost 50 years after Sebeok's initiative, the [Department of Semiotics at the University of Tartu](#) organizes an international gathering aiming to look back at the history of zoosemiotics, but also to look ahead towards the future of semiotic studies of animals. At this event, the scope of zoosemiotics is defined broadly, so as to include specific studies in the history of science, philosophical accounts of animals, case studies on animal communication as well as animal representations in literature and other media. At the same time, the focus of the conference is explicitly twofold: "semiotic processes" and "animals" are the key concepts that are to guide the conference as well as the individual presentations. Researchers from various backgrounds who have been inspired by zoosemiotics or who are interested in different aspects of semiotic studies of animals are invited to participate in the conference.

## KEY TOPICS of the Conference

- Theory and methodology of zoosemiotics
- History of zoosemiotics, the legacy of Thomas A. Sebeok
- Practical applications of zoosemiotics (e.g. zoosemiotics and conservation)
- Zoosemiotics' relation to relevant fields such as cognitive ethology, biosemiotics, ecocriticism etc.
- Animal experience (semiotics and phenomenology)
- Semiotic perspectives on animals in literature, art, films etc. (e.g. seeing man in animals, and the animal in men).
- Semiotics of human–animal relationships: historical, social and communicative perspectives (e.g. the semiotics of zoos, of wildlife management, and of domesticated animals).

Deadline for the abstracts: 15 September 2010.

To submit a proposal, interested scholars (and graduate students) should e-mail an abstract (300-600 words) and a bio-note (less than 100 words) to the address: [zoosemiotics@semiootika.ee](mailto:zoosemiotics@semiootika.ee).

Abstracts should be sent as a separate one-page file (.doc or .rtf). Earlier submissions are highly encouraged. The conference “Zoosemiotics and Animal Representations” has an international advisory board. All presentation abstracts will be peer-reviewed. The conference welcomes also proposals for poster presentations. Selected papers will be published in the conference proceedings.

The conference is organized by the [Department of Semiotics at the University of Tartu](#) and by [Estonian Semiotics Association](#) under the auspices of the International Society of Biosemiotic Studies and the Centre of Excellence in Cultural Theory (CECT, EU/Estonia), and is supported by the Estonian Science Foundation (ETF/ESF). Organizing team includes Dr. Timo Maran, Dr. Jelena Grigorjeva, Morten Tønnessen, Kadri Tüür, Silver Rattasepp, Nelly Mäekivi.

For further information see: [http://www.ut.ee/SOSE/conference/2011\\_zoosemiotics/index.html](http://www.ut.ee/SOSE/conference/2011_zoosemiotics/index.html) or email: [zoosemiotics@semiootika.ee](mailto:zoosemiotics@semiootika.ee)

- **Camel Conference**

25-26 May, 2011. University of London.

In May 2011 the [School of Oriental and African Studies](#) will host an international conference examining, documenting and celebrating camel cultures from around the world. The conference will address all aspects of camel culture, past, present and future and in all continents. It will deal with both material and cultural concerns, and will cover both Dromedaries and Bactrians.

A major part of our activity will be the preparation of Situation Papers, based on pre-circulated questionnaires, to provide a data base of [camel cultures](#) in individual member countries. These will be presented at a special Press Conference to be held at SOAS on 26 May 2010 (one year before the main conference). This archive documentation will be also be made available. Both conferences are open to members of the general public.

If you wish to present a paper at the 2011 conference, or would like to join our mailing list for conference updates, please write to the conference organiser at [camelconference@soas.ac.uk](mailto:camelconference@soas.ac.uk)

For more information see also: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/camelconference/>

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

### Animals and Society Institute

#### 2010 Human-Animal Studies Fellowship Recipients

The [ASI Fellowship](#), taking place May 24–July 2 at Clark University in Massachusetts, brings together scholars from the United States and abroad for individual research related to a wide range of fields. It is designed to support recipients' individual research through mentorship, guest lectures, and scholarly exchange among fellows and provide opportunities to contribute to the intellectual life of the host institution. The final week of the fellowship, [June 28 to July 2](#), features guest speakers, and the final research projects usually are published within a year after the fellowship. This is the first time CU has hosted the program; the host faculty are [Jody Emel](#), professor of the Graduate School of Geography, with [Susan McHugh](#), a professor of English at the University of New England, as the adjunct host.

Selected scholars and their individual research topics:

[Jane Elizabeth Harris](#), Ph.D. candidate and Associate Counselor, Psychodynamic Studies Programme, University of Oxford Counselling Service – *Displaced Animals and Misplaced Empathy? Cultivating a Posthuman Psychotherapy*

[William Lynn](#), Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies, Williams College – *Practical Ethics: Moral Understanding in a More Than Human World*

[Robert McKay](#), Ph.D., University Teacher, School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics, University of Sheffield – *Animal Ethics in Cold War Literary Culture*

[Siobhan O'Sullivan](#), Ph.D., Research Fellow, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne – *Equality and Democracy: A Study into the Nature of Discrimination in Animal Welfare Regulation*

[Krithika Srinivasan](#), Ph.D. candidate, Department of Geography, King's College London – *Living in a More-than-Human World: Ethics and Politics in Environmental Discourse in India*

[Jenny Vermilya](#), Ph.D. candidate, Department of Sociology, University of Colorado – *Tracking "Large" or "Small": The Human-Animal Relationship for Veterinary Students within the Tracking System*

[Dita Wickins Drazilova](#), Ph.D., Senior Research Associate at the Department of Philosophy, Lancaster University – *Cloning Extinct Species of Mammals: Ethical and Public Policy Analysis*

The ASI thanks the Animal Welfare Trust, the American Anti-Vivisection Society and Best Friends Animal Society for their generous support of this year's program.

For more information about the Fellowships visit the ASI website:

<http://www.animalsandsociety.org/content/index.php?pid=101>

### National Sporting Library

#### 2010-2011 John H. Daniels Fellows

The [National Sporting Library](#), a research library in Middleburg, Virginia, has selected nine recipients for its John H. Daniels Fellowship for 2010-2011. The NSL received 42 applications from scholars in ten countries.

Fellowship projects encompass a wide range of topics from the fields of history, art history,

fashion theory, and literature. Historian [Pellom McDaniels, III](#), is writing a biography of African-American jockey, Isaac Murphy (1861-1896), whose percentile of races won (44%) has never been surpassed. [Rebecca Splan](#), a professor at Virginia Tech's MARE Center in Middleburg, is the NSL's first fellow in equine science. The NSL's collection of angling books will aid Finnish scholar, [Mikko Saikku](#), in writing a history of Atlantic salmon fishing. [Alison Goodrum](#), a professor of fashion theory from England, will be researching the history of riding apparel from 1904-1949. Art historians [Carmen Niekrasz](#) and [James Glisson](#) will examine the hunting images of two important artists of different eras, the 16th-century Flemish artist Jan van der Straet or Stradanus (1523-1605) and American painter, Martin Johnson Heade (1819-1904). [Patricia Akhimie](#), a doctoral student from Columbia University, is analyzing the NSL's rare early books on hunting, hawking, and shooting. [Elizabeth Letts](#) is writing the rags-to-riches tale of the show jumping horse, Snowman, for Ballantine Books. Snowman was rescued from a slaughterhouse truck by horseman Harry de Leyer, and later went on to win the National Jumper Competition in 1958-59. Medical historian [James Alsop](#) of MacMaster University in Canada is exploring how riding has been used for centuries to promote health and fitness.

The Fellowship program began in 2007 in memory of John H. Daniels (1921-2006), a member of the Board of Directors, and provides stipends and complimentary housing to researchers working on topics related to [horse and field sports](#). Since 2007, the NSL has awarded fellowships to a total of 24 researchers from the United States and from England, Canada, Finland, France, and Ireland.

The next [deadline for applications](#) is February 1, 2011.

For more information contact Elizabeth Tobey, Director of Communications and Research, at 540-687-6542 x 11 or [fellowship@nsl.org](mailto:fellowship@nsl.org) or visit <http://www.nsl.org/fellowship.html>.

## **Centre for the Interaction of Animals and Society**

The [Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society](#) (CIAS) is a multi-disciplinary research center within the [School of Veterinary Medicine](#) at the University of Pennsylvania. It was re-established in 1997 to provide a forum for addressing the many practical and moral issues arising from the interactions of animals and society. The study of human-animal interactions is still a new and developing field that straddles the boundaries between traditional academic disciplines. For this reason, the CIAS strives for an interdisciplinary approach and the involvement of scholars and researchers from a wide variety of different backgrounds and interests.

The broad goal of the CIAS is to promote understanding of [human-animal interactions](#) and [relationships](#) across a wide range of contexts including companion animals, farm animals, laboratory animals, zoo animals, and free-living wild animals. More specifically, the CIAS aims to:

1. Study the positive and negative influence of people's relationships with animals on their physical and mental health and well being.
2. Investigate the impact of these relationships on the behavior and welfare of the animals involved.
3. Encourage constructive, balanced, and well-informed debate and discussion on the ethics of animal use.
4. Use the knowledge and information gained from this work to benefit people, and promote the humane use and treatment of animals.

See the Centre's website:

<http://research.vet.upenn.edu/Default.aspx?alias=research.vet.upenn.edu/cias> for details of Research Projects, Publications, Conferences, a Bibliography and Contacts

## **Voiceless: The Animal Protection Institute**

### Animal law Lecture Series 2010

In 2010, the [Voiceless Animal Law Lecture Series](#) returns for its biggest run yet, with law schools, law firms and professional associations across the country gearing up to host what is sure to be a most popular Series.

For the first time the reach of the Series will be extended to Perth this year, with leading US animal lawyer, [Joyce Tischler](#), addressing 12 venues across the country in a record-breaking 10 days. In her presentation entitled '[Past Lives and Future Hopes – A vision to end animal suffering](#)', Ms Tischler will share her experience of the birth of the animal law movement thirty years ago in San Francisco and how a handful of attorneys set in train a revolution that has touched the lives of billions of animals worldwide.

About our guest lecturer:

- [Joyce Tischler](#), Co-founder and General Counsel for the [US Animal Legal Defense Fund](#) <http://www.aldf.org/>, is widely known as 'the mother of the animal law movement'. Ms Tischler is a pioneer in the field of animal law. Combining her life-long affinity for animals with her legal skills, she has been instrumental in developing, nurturing and growing the animal law movement in the US and around the world. In 2009, Ms Tischler was recognised by The American Bar Association's Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section Animal Law Committee with an Excellence in the Advancement of Animal Law Award.

About the presentations:

In this Series of [FREE](#) lectures for lawyers and the general public, Joyce Tischler will recount the birth of the animal law movement 30 years ago, explaining how legal education and strategic litigation have placed animal law firmly on the agenda in America's key institutions and courtrooms. The recent emergence of animal law in Australian universities and professional associations suggest that this country is preparing to following suit.

The 2010 Animal Law Lecture Series will be chaired by [Katrina Sharman](#), Corporate Counsel, who will attend each lecture to provide Australian insights. A number of distinguished legal practitioners and scholars will also be present at selected events to participate in panel discussions and share news of local animal law developments.

Highlights of this year's Series include:

A night of animal law at Sydney Law School involving:

- The launch by NSW Governor Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO of Australia's newest [animal law text](#), *Animal Law in Australia and New Zealand* (by Deborah Cao & Ors);
- A keynote address by Joyce Tischler; and
- A presentation by Dr Melissa Perry QC.

[Series commences 3 August, 2010.](#)

To find out more details and when the lecture will be visiting your state, and to reserve your seat see: [http://www.voiceless.org.au/Law/Lecture\\_Series\\_2010/2010\\_Lecture\\_Series\\_.html](http://www.voiceless.org.au/Law/Lecture_Series_2010/2010_Lecture_Series_.html)

**Interview:** Academics, activists, researchers

**Helen Tiffin** interviewed by [Elizabeth Leane](#)



(Fortuna Bay, South Georgia)

[Helen Tiffin](#) is the co-author of the influential text *The Empire Writes Back: Post-Colonial Literatures, Theory and Practice* (Routledge 1989) and numerous other publications within postcolonial studies. She holds a BSc in science, specialising in zoology, and in the last decade has applied the insights of postcolonial studies to environmental concerns, and particularly to human-animal studies. Her recent publications include (with Graham Huggins) *Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature, Animals, Environment* (Routledge 2010) and the edited collection *Five Emus to the King of Siam: Environment and Empire* (Rodopi 2007). She is currently Adjunct Professor of English and Animal Studies at the University of New England.

**Elle:** [How did you come to move from post-colonial to Animal Studies, and do you see any parallels or connections between the two fields?](#)

*In the 1970s I began my PhD at Queen's University in Canada on a comparative study of the ways in which animals were represented in nineteenth-century Australian and Canadian writing; but after a couple of months I found the all too prevalent casual attitude(s) to animal hurt and killing too distressing to read about. I then changed my topic to the uses of history in West Indian literature, which led me into the study of post-colonial literature generally and eventually, with Bill Ashcroft and Gareth Griffiths, to writing *The Empire Writes Back*, a text we hoped would move literary curricula towards the excellent and fascinating works emerging from the African countries, the West Indies, India and settler-invader colonies such as Canada and Australia.*

*I had, however, always intended to return to the issue of animal representation, and after being awarded a Canada Research Chair, I began teaching a course in the ways in which animals were/are represented in some post-colonial cultures. There are of course many analogies which can be drawn between the horrendous abuse of people by people (slavery is one outstanding example) and our treatment of animals today; moreover, racism and speciesism are still closely interwoven.*

**Elle:** In addition to your literary training, you hold a Science degree. Why did you undertake this degree, and does it play a role in your Animal Studies research?

*My favourite school subjects were English and Zoology, but at university one had to choose between Arts and Science, since the combined degree now offered at some universities was not then available. In choosing the Arts degree I was able to include two years of Zoology as well. While doing my Masters and PhD in Canada I worked part-time as a Lab Assistant in a project on slime moulds. On my return to the University of Queensland to teach English, I began a Science degree part-time with majors in Zoology and Parasitology. While the Science degree was a symptom (rather than a cause) of my continuing interest in animals, it has certainly given me a basic knowledge of particular areas; but perhaps its more valuable effect is to give me some insight into scientific approaches to the study of animals, and to enable me to ponder ways of breaching that divide which might prove beneficial to animals themselves.*

**Elle:** What can literary studies contribute to Animal Studies?

*Perhaps the broad issue for both post-colonial (literary) studies and Animal Studies is the political one. While not all post-colonial literary studies or Animal Studies are energised by the wish to alter an unjust status quo, i.e. by a critique of past and current practices, many indeed are. Neither post-colonial nor Animal Studies therefore rejects political approaches as unscholarly. Both areas demonstrated (and are demonstrating) that acknowledgement of an interested approach does not preclude rigorous scholarly and scientific inquiry. Rather, it aids in revealing that any epistemology is always to some degree an interested one.*

*But your question was really about literary studies rather than specifically post-colonial literary ones. First and foremost, representation, i.e. the way animals are represented in fiction (and other forms of writing and art), and the study of this representation, really matter. As Steve Baker and Nick Fiddes have noted, most urban humans are acquainted with animals much more through representation than in the “real” – except of course for pets or as meat on their plates. And literature, because it uses complex language, is a much more evocative medium than, for instance, a scientific description. Literature appeals to reason and feeling and in so doing can prove formative in our attitudes to animals.*

*Secondly, since literature is read and absorbed in a context different from our absorption of say, economic or scientific facts, it enables us to empathise not just with human, but with animal characters. It often requires us to do so for the narrative to function. It thus legitimises human feelings for animals which, in other contexts, we may be obliged to put aside, in order to, well, just keep sane in the world of animal abuse in which we live.*

*Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, literature enables and encourages us to “think outside the box”; to imagine worlds different from ours and to imagine what animal consciousness and sensibilities might be like without the balking fear of anthropomorphism. It also enables speculation about ways of being that are not necessarily anthropocentric.*

**Elle:** What problems do you see for the future of Animal Studies in the Academy?

*Most important are probably structural. First, the down-sizing, amalgamations, even disappearances of Humanities/Arts faculties to a certain extent world-wide, but to a much more serious degree in Australia. No university has ever been, nor can it ever be, a great institution without a really strong Humanities Faculty at its core. Successive Australian Federal Governments seem catastrophically oblivious of this, and it is even less excusable that the so-called “managers” of universities have blindly or happily followed where the Government has (mis)led – investing in money-making disciplines at the expense of the thinking ones.*

*Animal Studies requires innovative and cross-disciplinary (re)thinking on the part of scientists, social scientists and Humanities scholars – and this brings me to the second problem, cross- or trans-disciplinarity. Lip service is constantly paid to interdisciplinary thinking, but there are few structural moves within universities or in research funding bodies to back this rhetoric up.*

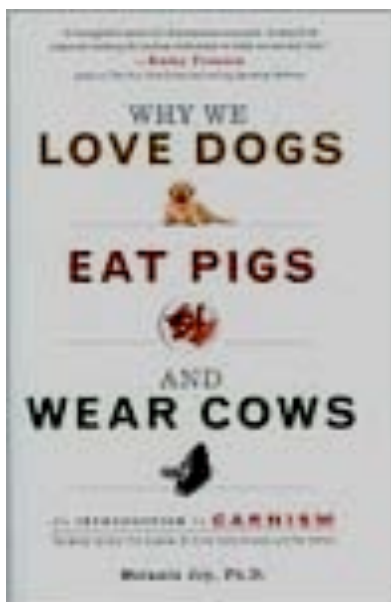
*The third problem is a corollary of the second – for Animal to become influential Studies as an interdisciplinary field, it must disseminate the innovative thinking through undergraduate and graduate teaching. Current university disciplinary structuring militates strongly against this necessary development. Not all is doom and gloom however. Many academics from many different fields are vitally interested in pursuing Animal Studies – every Animal Studies conference held anywhere in the last 15 years had generally been oversubscribed –for example, there were nearly 400 at Newcastle in 2009 etc. – suggesting a really encouraging groundswell. Most such academics smuggle in teaching and research in the field under disciplinary banners and are pressing on against current odds.*

*The other major problem may be related to these structured ones, but has to do with respect. I think Humanities scholars generally respect the work of scientists (even if they sometimes deplore their methods) but scientists have been less ready, at least on the whole, to respect the contributions Humanities can make in understanding animals and animal cultures.*

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## New Books

*WHY WE LOVE DOGS, EAT PIGS AND WEAR COWS* by [Melanie Joy](#). Conari Press, 2009.



Review by [Patti Breitman](#):

The vast majority of Americans view eating meat as natural, normal and necessary while recognizing that vegetarianism is an ideology, or belief system. Thanks to *Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs and Wear Cows* by Melanie Joy, Ph.D. (published November, 2009), the way we eat animals now has a name and is exposed to be every bit as much an ideology as vegetarianism.

"**Carnism**" is the belief system that says it's okay to eat certain animals and not others. Like feminism, racism, ageism and speciesism, carnism has been inflicting harm for centuries. And because it was invisible and unnamed, it was challenging, if not impossible, to confront it and and to argue against it. Now that carnism has been identified, explored, and brilliantly analyzed, it will become a powerful tool in changing the ubiquitous and dangerous misconceptions about eating meat.

[Melanie Joy](#) is a social psychologist, professor, and author. She teaches psychology and sociology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston and is the leading researcher on carnism, the ideology of meat production and consumption. She is the author of *Strategic Action for Animals: A Handbook on Strategic Movement Building, Organizing, and Activism for Animal Liberation*. Dr. Joy can be found online at [www.melaniejoy.com](http://www.melaniejoy.com)



*TEACHING THE ANIMAL: Human-Animal Studies across the Disciplines*. Edited by Margo de Mello. Lantern Books, 2010.



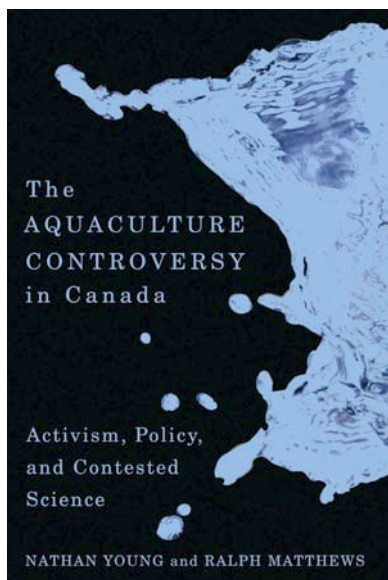
This volume provides in-depth analysis of the nature of the discipline, the resources available, expectations of students and faculty, and a number of sample curricula in the fields of humanities, social sciences, and the natural sciences.

*Teaching the Animal* promises to be the definitive handbook for all teachers of H.A.S. at both undergraduate and graduate levels. It also offers a comprehensive overview of the state of the disciplines in question, as well as the philosophical and practical issues involved in discussing the intersections of human and nonhuman animals in society.

**Contributors:** Philip Armstrong, Jody Emel, Mylan Engel Jr., David Fraser, Theresa Goedeke, Lori Gruen, Kathie Jenni, Cheryl Joseph, Linda Kalof, Marina A.G. von Keyserlingk, Georgina M. Montgomery, Molly Mullin, Pete Porter, Annie Potts, Christina Risley-Curtiss, Carrie Rohman, Kenneth Shapiro, Julie Urbanik, Paul Waldau, Daniel Weary, Kari Weil

Margo DeMello is the Program Director for Human-Animal Studies at the Animals and Society Institute, and President and Executive Director of the House Rabbit Society. She holds a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology and lectures at Central New Mexico Community College. Her books include *Bodies of Inscription: A Cultural History of the Modern Tattoo Community*, *Stories Rabbits Tell*, *Low-Carb Vegetarian*, *Why Animals Matter: The Case for Animal Protection*, *The Encyclopedia of Body Adornment*, and *Feet and Footwear*.

*THE AQUACULTURE CONTROVERSY IN CANADA: Activism, Policy, and Contested Science* by Nathan Young and Ralph Matthews. UBC Press, 2010.



The farming of aquatic organisms is one of the most promising but controversial new industries in Canada. The industry has the potential to solve food supply problems, but critics believe it poses unacceptable threats to human health, local communities, and the environment. This book is not about the methods and techniques of aquaculture, but it is an exploration of the controversy itself. The authors present the controversy as a multi-layered conflict about knowledge, rights, and development. Comprehensive and balanced, this book addresses one of the most contentious public-policy and environmental issues facing the world today.

Nathan Young is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Ottawa. Ralph Matthews is a professor of sociology at the University of British Columbia and professor emeritus of sociology at McMaster University.

*THE PHILOSOPHY OF ANIMAL RIGHTS: A Brief Introduction for Students and Teachers* by Mylan Engel and Kathie Jenni. Forthcoming Lantern Books, July 2010.

In this clear elucidation of the philosophy and animal rights, professors Mylan Engel Jr. and Kathie Jenni explore some of the fundamental outlines that have marked the debate over our duties and responsibilities toward nonhuman animals. They also examine how the issue of animal rights plays out in a classroom setting and address some of the questions that arise for both students and teachers in presenting and studying this subject. In two course syllabi, Engel and Jenni place animal rights in the context of ethical practice and the environmental movement. The book also contains an extensive bibliography of references and philosophical resources.

For more details see <http://www.lanternbooks.com/detail.html?id=9781590561775>

## CALL FOR BOOK PROPOSALS

### Critical Animal Studies Series

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

(a) focus on ethical issues pertinent to actual animals (as opposed to animals as only metaphors, tropes, or philosophical concepts); i.e. work with a certain normative value;

(b) adopt a broad critical orientation to animal studies, including (but not limited to) work that investigates and challenges the complex dynamics of structural, institutional, and discursive power formations that organize life conditions, relations, and experiences of animals, humans, and the environment alike; work that explores diverse forms and sites of human/animal resistance; work that contributes to current global debates by contextualizing critical animal issues within, for instance, processes of globalization, climate change, and biotechnology; work that intervenes in the animal economy of the production, science, service, experience, and culture industries; as well as work that critically analyzes ideologies, practices and effects of the current animal welfare movement;

(c) bridge boundaries between academic/activist knowledge, between theory/practice, as well as between existing disciplines. Based on this commitment to interdisciplinarity, all work published must be in language that is as clear and accessible to as wide an audience as possible;

(d) contribute to creative, bold, innovative, and boundary shifting knowledge development in critical animal studies.

If we can be of any further help or assistance in discussing projects please do not hesitate to contact either of us via email.

Further information and submission guidelines are found on the book series website: [http://www.criticalanimalstudies.org/?page\\_id=299](http://www.criticalanimalstudies.org/?page_id=299)

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

### **Cinematic Canines**

**Proposals** are sought for essays to be included in a volume devoted to the history and significance of the **representation of dogs in fictional narrative film**, with a particular emphasis on commercial cinema. Although any relevant approach will be considered, subjects we hope to cover include well-known film dogs as stars and as characters (Jean the Vitagraph Dog, Luke the Biograph Dog, Rin-Tin-Tin, Asta/Skippy, Lassie, animated dogs, et al.) as well as various canine characters and the issues they raise or suggest (Cujo and other "evil" film dogs, the "magic canines" of disaster flicks, dogs in other national cinemas, controversies surrounding the treatment of dogs in a number of recent films, for example). While the book is not an encyclopedia, some comprehensive chronological treatment is hoped for.

Please send abstracts of 300-600 words, along with a brief CV or biographical sketch, to Adrienne McLean at [amclean@utdallas.edu](mailto:amclean@utdallas.edu).

**Deadline for submission of abstracts: July 30, 2010.** Full essays, of 6,000-7,500 words (all-inclusive), due in eighteen months.

### **Beyond Human: From Animality to Transhumanism**

The essays included in **Beyond Human: /From Animality to Transhumanism** are theoretically informed by a range of thinkers from the continental and analytical traditions of philosophy and critical theory. The collection seeks to investigate and discuss the various questions raised by contemporary understandings of the animal/human interface, on the one hand, and the emergence of human/ post- or trans-human interface on the other. The volume deals with various ontological, ethical, aesthetic and socio-cultural debates which are grouped across four sections. The first section of the book explores human/animal boundaries and definitions, the second section focuses on representations of animality, the third section is concerned with human/animal encounters whilst the fourth section brings together essays that explore how the machine and the 'inhuman' intervene in our understanding of 'the human animal'.

The editors of **/Beyond Human: /From Animality to Transhumanism/** are currently soliciting one additional chapter contribution for Section II ('**Representing Animality**'). The essays in this section explore human endeavours that seek to imagine what it means to be an animal from a range of perspectives. We are particularly interested in submissions that examine representations of animality in contemporary popular culture although proposals that deal with some other aspect of the representation of animality will be considered.

**Beyond Human: From Animality to Transhumanism** will be published in 2011. Interested authors should note that the 6000 word chapter will be required by the end of October 2010.

**Deadline for submissions: June 28th 2010.**

Please submit a 250 word abstract and an author biography to the Editors:  
**Dr. Claire Molloy**, University of Brighton, UK: [C.R.Molloy@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:C.R.Molloy@brighton.ac.uk) or  
**Dr. Steven Shakespeare**, Liverpool, Hope University, UK: [shakess@hope.ac.uk](mailto:shakess@hope.ac.uk)

### **Culture & Organization: Commodities & Markets**

Edited by **Stephen Shukaitis** (Autonomea / University of Essex) &  
**Ming Lim** (University of Leicester)

**What would commodities say if they could speak?** Marx's wistful question can seem playful in some registers. Paul Jennings, for instance, proposed in his "Report of Existentialism" (1963) that everyday objects are constantly at war with their users: "things are against us," he gleefully pronounces. And yet, objects voice themselves not only through our playful – or rueful – gaze. If

Marx had listened long enough, these talking commodities would have announced the traumas of their exploitative and violent birthing to him. Eventually, one imagines, they would have described the nature of the various forms of labour necessary for their production in the capitalist mode. As Fred Moten (2003) points out, history is marked by the revolt of the screaming commodity: the body of the slave fighting against its imposed status of thing-lieness.

The rise of consumer culture, the proliferation and intensification of the commodity, can be understood as the expansion of the violence of accumulation all across the social field. The ferocious forces which separate the producer from the product of the labour process have not waned; on the contrary, they have become monstrously multiplied and rendered all the more invisible by their ubiquity in the society of the spectacle (Debord 1983). The critique and denunciation of these forces, have, in fact, become yet another commodity in the spectacle; something we witness today in the backlash against banks, bankers and speculators and all the glorified preening of capitalist consumption they stand for. [Is this trend, then, the 'new spirit of capitalism'?](#)

And yet, an alternative exists to the vicious dynamics described above. One thinks, for instance, of the practices of Russian constructivists during the 1920s. The Constructivists, employing their artistic practices and knowledges to reconfigure industrial design and production, argued that rather than denouncing the seductive lure of the capitalist commodity it would be possible to utilize these energies to reshape the socialist world. This would move the objects produced for use and consumption from being capitalist commodity to be active participants in the building of this world: it would make them into comrades (Kiaer 2005). [Yet, how attractive is this vision to the postmodern consumer? Is it more or less dangerous than its alternative?](#)

Today, therefore, we need to reconsider the "state of things," or, put another way, the "state" of things. Both bloody commodities and comradely objects exist, as a double edge, all around us: the stubborn existence of sweatshop production and labour exploitation exist side-by-side with the proliferation of 'helpful' technologies and all sorts of interactive gadgets and participatory media networks. Fair trade products have moved from the status of marginal subcultural practices to multinational corporate cash schemes. Are we seeing the inauguration of a new era of ethical production through the commodity form (Arvidsson 2006) or the latest and most comprehensive example of alienation, one that is now self-managed through the fetish of ethical consumption? [What would objects now say to us?](#)

This issue aims to find out. Possible areas for inquiry could include but are not limited to:

- Commodity fetishism, surfaces and glosses
- Revolting objects and rebellious products
- The current 'ethical' fetishes in production and consumption
- Autoreduction and reappropriation of commodities
- The labour of making labour 'disappear' from commodities
- Spectacular society and its other
- The commons in and through the 'market' and 'markets'
- The madness of crowds and the taming influence of objects

More details and full submission instructions are available on the Culture and Organization publishers' homepage <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/14759551.asp> Please read these in full before submitting your manuscript.

#### Important Dates

- [Paper submission deadline](#): 3rd June, 2011
- Camera ready papers: 30th April, 2012

Publication scheduled for September 2012.

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

**CALLS FOR PAPERS:**

***Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy***

Animal Others Special Issue

Volume 27 Number 3, Summer 2012

Guest Editors: [Lori Gruen](#) and [Kari Weil](#)

Scholarship in “Animal Studies” has grown considerably over the last few years, yet the feminist insights that much of this work borrows from and builds on remains relatively unrecognized. This special issue of *Hypatia* will remedy this by showcasing the best new feminist work on nonhuman animals that will help to rethink and redefine (or undefine) categories such as animal-woman-nature-body. The issue will provide the opportunity to re-examine concerns that are central to both feminist theory and animal studies and promote avenues of thought that can move us beyond pernicious forms of othering that undergird much human and non-human suffering.

We are interested in submissions from a wide range of [feminist perspectives](#). Possible topics might include, but are not limited to:

- non-human animals and intimacy/affection/love/domestication
- gendered ethics and the politics of animal rights discourse and activism
- racial, gendered, and cultural conflicts about eating animal bodies/using animals
- animals and “nature”/ animals in “culture”
- the significance of gender differences in the study and/or care of non-human animals
- violence against women and violence against animals
- material feminism and companion species
- pet love and the boundaries of kin, kind, and sex
- technologies of seeing or the gaze of/on sex and species
- otherness, empathy, and animal care ethics
- the woman and the animal – pitfalls and strategies of essentialism

[Deadline for submissions: March 15, 2011](#)

Submission guidelines: Papers should be no more than 8,000 words, inclusive of notes and bibliography, prepared for anonymous review, and accompanied by an abstract of no more than 200 words.

For details please see: [http://depts.washington.edu/hypatia/submission\\_guidelines.shtml](http://depts.washington.edu/hypatia/submission_guidelines.shtml) Please submit your paper to: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/hypa> When you submit, make sure to select “Animal Others” as your manuscript type, and also send an email to the guest editor(s) notifying them of the title of the paper you’ve submitted: Lori Gruen: [lgruen@wesleyan.edu](mailto:lgruen@wesleyan.edu); Kari Weil: [kweil@wesleyan.edu](mailto:kweil@wesleyan.edu)

***Between the Species***

[Between the Species](#) is an electronic journal devoted to the philosophical examination of the relationship between human beings and other animals. While most articles are ethical inquiries, others raise issues involving metaphysics, epistemology and other areas of philosophical investigation. See <http://cla.calpoly.edu/bts/>

The journal is seeking submissions for its Fall 2010 edition. Please consult the guidelines for submission at <http://cla.calpoly.edu/bts/submissions.htm> and submit to Joseph J. Lynch, Ph.D. Editor: [jlynch@calpoly.edu](mailto:jlynch@calpoly.edu)

[Deadline for Fall edition: July 1, 2010](#)

The website also states: "Those interested in the interdisciplinary scholarly investigation of questions about ethics and animals should look into the new Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics established by Andrew Linzey. This international organization is hosting conferences, leading to the publication of *The Link Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence*, which Linzey edited. There's a forthcoming journal as well. The editor would very much like this work to be reviewed in *Between the Species*. If you are interested in reviewing this collection please contact: [jlynch@calpoly.edu](mailto:jlynch@calpoly.edu) .

## RECENT ARTICLES:

### "Galah"

Bill Gammage. *Australian Historical Studies* 40.3, 2009.

When Europeans arrived in Australia, galahs were typically inland birds, quite sparsely distributed. Now they range from coast to coast, and are common. Why did this change occur? Why didn't it occur earlier? I argue that because galahs feed on the ground they found Australia's dominant inland grasses too tall to get at the seed, so relied on an agency to shorten them: Aboriginal grain cropping before contact, introduced stock after it.

Free download: <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a913994592~db=all>

### "Platypus Diplomacy: Animal Gifts in International Relations"

Nancy Cushing and Kevin Maxwell. *Journal of Australian Studies* 33.3, 2009.

Making use of government archives, media coverage and family biography, this paper examines a little studied aspect of human-animal relations: the use of live native fauna as gifts for diplomatic purposes. Gifts of platypuses from the Australian government to their British and American allies in 1943 and 1947 reflect the status then enjoyed by iconic Australian fauna as a resource to be exploited in the national interest. The great scientific and popular interest generated by the platypus's distinctive characteristics imbued these animals with the cache required to serve as a powerful statement of international goodwill. However, these same qualities made the platypus difficult to keep in captivity and its export a great challenge. This article examines the motives for platypus diplomacy, the process through which it was conducted and its significance for human-animal relations in Australia. Subsequent legislation has increased the protection of the platypus such that no further platypus diplomacy has been attempted and none have been exported for half a century. The use of the platypus to enhance Australia's standing with other nations marked a transitional stage in the evolution of attitudes to Australian native fauna.

### "What the hyena's laugh tells: Sex, age, dominance and individual signature in the giggling call of *Crocuta crocuta*."

Nicolas Mathevon, Aaron Koralek, Mary Weldele, Stephen E Glickman, Frédéric E Theunissen. *BMC Ecology* 10:9, 2010

Among mammals living in social groups, individuals form communication networks where they signal their identity and social status, facilitating social interaction. In spite of its importance for understanding of mammalian societies, the coding of individual-related information in the vocal signals of non-primate mammals has been relatively neglected. The present study focuses on the spotted hyena *Crocuta crocuta*, a social carnivore known for its complex female-dominated society. We investigate if and how the well-known hyena's laugh, also known as the giggle call, encodes information about the emitter.

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6785/10/9/abstract>

## Exhibitions

### Catherine Clover



Continuing my exploration of our relationship with common noisy wild urban birds I use the idea of sprechgesang (spoken-song) and the phonetics of naturalists in field guides to try to communicate with the birds (or talk to the animals) – in this case the pigeons.

Two shows are upcoming and coinciding in **May-June-July 2010**, both in Melbourne:

#### **billing and cooing II**

A large external banner on the Trocadero billboard, Footscray.  
Billboard@Trocadero 6<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010

24 hours (though no lighting after dark) The billboard is external and located above the Trocadero shopping centre on the corner of Hopkins and Leeds Streets, Footscray, opposite Footscray Market

<http://trocaderoartspace.com.au/site/>

#### **Pigeon Post (billing and cooing)**

'Mailbox 141' is the lovely old group of wooden pigeonholes in the main entrance area of 141 Flinders Lane (the entrance to The Narrows) 3<sup>rd</sup> June – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2010

7am-6pm Mon-Fri and 12-6pm Sat closed Sun. Also, look up! Part of the installation is on the windows of the building's stairwell, viewable internally and externally.

<http://www.mailbox-141.artabase.net/>



## Film and Radio

- **Rattle the Cage Productions**

[Documentaries on Animal and Environmental Protection](#)

[Rattle The Cage](#) is an award winning video production group formed for one very important reason - to raise awareness. The company writes, directs, and produces documentaries, commercials, and public service announcements concerning animal and environmental protection issues. It is a non-profit organisation founded in 2003 by [Tim Gorski](#) who is passionate about exploration, social issues, wildlife, and environmental issues and [Val Silidker](#), also founder of [The Voice of the Earth](#), an organization that offers workshops and humane education programs which focus on the interconnectedness of life and inspire action and active participation in the shift to a life-sustaining society.

Find out more and watch videos on their website: <http://www.rattlethecage.org/>

### **Nature Calls: Animals and Visual Culture Radio Program**

[Resonance 104.4 FM](#),

London's Arts Radio Station. Now on Fridays from 4pm (GMT)

[Rikke Hansen](#) presents a weekly programme on animals in contemporary art and culture. Recently art has taken an animal turn, with increasing numbers of artworks centring on the animal as theme and possibility. Examples include artist duo [Snæbjörnsdóttir/Wilson's](#) collection of stuffed polar bears from museums around Britain in their *nanoq*, 2004, [Marcus Coates'](#) sound and video installation *Dawn Chorus*, 2006, investigating the relation between human and animal voices, and [Angela Bartram's](#) video piece *Licking Dogs*, 2007, which examines some of the unusual and disturbing ways we interact with our non-human others. The programme Nature Calls looks at this recent trend and asks what might be at stake in the preoccupation with the animal aesthetic.

June 4 edition has Rikke Hansen in conversation with [Nigel Rothfels](#).

For worldwide live-stream from Resonance FM please go to <http://resonancefm.com/listen> Podcasts to follow.

*A recent request for educational films about vegetarianism on the HAS discussion group, led to a number of suggestions. Here are just two of them ....*

### ***Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home***

A riveting story of transformation and healing, *Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home* explores the awakening conscience of several people who grew up in traditional farming culture and who have now come to question the basic premises of their inherited way of life.

Presented through a woven tapestry of memories, music, and breathtaking accounts of life-altering moments, the film provides insight into the farmers' sometimes amazing connections with the animals under their care, while also making clear the complex web of social, psychological and economic forces that have led them to their present dilemma.

A Tribe of Heart Documentary. USA, 78 minutes

Director: [Jenny Stein](#) Producer: James LaVeck Associate Producers: Eric Huang, Kevin Smith.



## ***Meat the Truth***

The documentary *Meat the Truth* is the first major project undertaken by the Nicolaas G. Pierson Foundation. *Meat the Truth* is a high-profile documentary, presented by Marianne Thieme (leader of the Party for the Animals), which forms an addendum to earlier films that have been made about climate change. Although such films have convincingly succeeded in drawing public attention to the issue of global warming, they have repeatedly ignored one of the most important causes of climate change, namely: intensive livestock production. *Meat the Truth* has drawn attention to this by demonstrating that livestock farming generates more greenhouse gas emissions worldwide than all cars, lorries, trains, boats and planes added together.

The Nicolaas G. Pierson Foundation chose to compile the best scientific information on climate change and livestock farming, which is presently available and to translate this for a broader audience. The film was produced by Claudine Everaert and Gertjan Zwanikken. The calculations on greenhouse gas emissions used in the film derive from and have been validated by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN (FAO), the World Watch Institute, the Institute for Environmental Studies of the Free University Amsterdam and numerous other authoritative sources.

For more information see: <http://www.meatthetruth.nl/content/view/113>

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## **Links:** Resource pages, blogs

- **Ecological Humanities**

The [ecological humanities](#) bring together ways of knowing and interacting with the world from the sciences and the humanities, as well as from indigenous and other 'non-western' worldviews, nourishing the connectivities and possibilities that these dialogues produce for people and the more-than-human environment. The website is built around the ongoing work and other activities of a group of people who began their association at the [Australian University in Canberra](#), but are now working and researching all over Australia and the world.

A number of people in this group working on human-animal relations:

<http://ecologicalhumanities.org/index.html>

- **Hyenas in Harar Blog**

[Marcus Baynes-Rock](#) (see Special Report above) is investigating the nature of the relationship between hyenas and the people of Harar and, along the way, collecting the stories and histories of the two species who coexist in this World Heritage listed city.

[Read his Blog](#) and access the continuing story:

<http://hararhyenas.wordpress.com/>

- **All Animals**

[All Animals](#) is a bimonthly membership magazine of The Humane Society of the United States. Each issue is full of beautiful photography and fascinating stories about animals. In *All Animals*, members will find updates on HSUS activities, helpful advice on caring for the animals in your life, investigative reporting, and suggestions for helping animals in need.

The Sept/Oct, 2009 issue has cover stories [available online](#) that relate to AASG Special Report about street dogs in developing countries that featured in our last issue:

[Slum Dogs by the Millions](#) by Jodie Falconer – with help from Humane Society International, animal lovers are bringing hope to the world's street dogs

[Profile of Jack Reece, DVM](#) – veterinarian Jack Reece has been helping street dogs and other animals in Jaipur, India for over 11 years.

[http://www.hsus.org/press\\_and\\_publications/humane\\_society\\_magazines\\_and\\_newsletters/all\\_animals/](http://www.hsus.org/press_and_publications/humane_society_magazines_and_newsletters/all_animals/)

- **Animal Blawg**

This blog focuses on [animal law, ethics and policy](#). It provides a forum for community and collegiality as well as debate and the exchange of ideas. Founded by Pace Law School professors, David N. Cassuto, Luis E. Chiesa and law student, Suzanne McMillan, the blog is now principally maintained by [David Cassuto](#). Contributors include academics, practitioners, and law students, as well as other interested members of the animal advocacy community.

<http://animalblawg.wordpress.com/2010/03/03/thinking-about-elephants/>

- **Britta Jaschinski Photography**

Award winning [animal and nature](#) photographer Britta Jaschinski was born in Germany and lives and works in London. 'How many pictures of lions are taken every year? And how many come close to this one? It has a painterly, rather ethereal feel that makes it completely timeless.'  
*Mark Carwardine, Writer, BBC Presenter and Judge of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2009*

<http://www.brittaphotography.com/index.htm> and an interview with [Jaschinski](#):  
[http://www.captiveanimals.org/images/Britta\\_interview\\_CAPS.pdf](http://www.captiveanimals.org/images/Britta_interview_CAPS.pdf)

- **AnimalTheory Blog**

[Natalie Gilbert](#) is a conceptual photographer, writer and online expert. Her interests lie in human-animal studies and she feeds on creative ideas and alternative thought.

<http://nataliegilbert-animaltheory.blogspot.com/> .... and see Natalie's work:

[www.nataliegilbert.net](http://www.nataliegilbert.net)

- **Animal Aid**

[Animal Aid](#) is the UK's largest animal rights group and one of the longest established in the world, having been founded in 1977. They campaign peacefully against all forms of animal abuse and promote a cruelty-free lifestyle, investigate and expose animal cruelty, and their undercover investigations and other evidence are often used by the media, bringing these issues to public attention.

Visit their website for information about their campaigns, educational programs and more ...

<http://www.animalaid.org.uk/h/n/ABOUT/>

- **Protecting Animals in Democracy**

[Protecting Animals in Democracy](#) (PAD) is a historic new project that aims to turn people power into a peaceful political force for compassionate change. What's unique about the PAD initiative is its positive, democratic focus on a political system that holds the lives of millions of animals in its hands. Animals can't vote, they can't protest, they can't lobby MPs and they can't sue the Government for breaking the law. They are utterly dependent on good, caring people to defend them.

<http://www.animalconcerns.org/resource.html?itemid=200612311148370.0812382&catid=5>

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## Profiles: Animal studies scholars and activists

### Dr Thom van Dooren



My passion is really for *multispecies* entanglements, more than for animals in particular. In the past I have explored these entanglements through plants and their seeds, but for the last few years my attention has been captured by the birds. Animal Studies is quite new to me, but is an increasingly important thread in my work – alongside environmental philosophy/anthropology and science and technology studies.

My current research is focused on bird species that are in decline or sliding towards extinction. I'm particularly interested in the changing relationships between these disappearing birds and the communities of humans that care about them or rely on them in a vast array of different ways (an ornithology of sorts). But I am interested in much more than human/bird relations, so my work also tries to explore all of the other non-humans that are drawn into these spaces of loss and transformation. This bird work is the focus of my current three year position as a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Technology Sydney.

I spent most of last year working on the decline of Asian vultures in India, and this year am working mainly on the conservation of an endangered colony of little penguins at Manly. For the last four months of 2010 I'll be a visiting fellow at the University of California at Santa Cruz. In addition to taking advantage of being based at such a fascinating university, I also hope to do some fieldwork in the Mojave Desert, looking at the impacts of increasing numbers of ravens on the endangered desert tortoise.

A great deal of my current work on extinctions is a collaborative project with Debbie Bird Rose. With Debbie I also co-edit the Ecological Humanities section of the *Australian Humanities Review* – [where we're always looking for great Animal Studies papers](#). For more information on my work or this journal, see: [www.ecologicalhumanities.org](http://www.ecologicalhumanities.org)

## Dr Georgette Leah Burns



As a child I was allergic to cow's milk, so my parents bought goats. I tried to ride the goats, so they bought donkeys and later horses. I smuggled the kids and foals into the house, so my parents bought dogs, cats and chickens for me to play with. I also grew up with pet magpies who slept on the shower rail, and a very cantankerous (and foul-mouthed) Corella.

If I'd been better at chemistry I would have studied vet science, but a first lecture in anthropology convinced me that this was my calling. It's little surprise though that over time my research interests have headed towards the relationships between people and animals, resulting in interdisciplinary papers in journals such as *Australian Zoologist*, *Tourism Management*, *Anthropological Forum*, and the *Australasian Journal of Environmental Management*.

I now lecture in the School of Environment at Griffith University in Brisbane, and am foundation member of the Griffith Environmental Futures Centre. I hold a PhD in Tourism from Murdoch University, and MSc and BSc degrees in Anthropology from the University of Western Australia. My research interests have taken me to fieldwork sites in Nepal, Fiji and Australia. My PhD thesis, entitled "Lines in the Sand: An Anthropological Discourse on Wildlife Tourism", is based on case studies of dingoes at Fraser Island (QLD) and penguins at Penguin Island (WA). This research has led me to argue for a reconstruction of management boundaries that allow for greater coexistence between people and wildlife, and I am working a wildlife tourism book for Edward Elgar Publishers.

After attending the first Animal Studies Group conference in Perth in 2005 and the second in Tasmania in 2007 I was inspired to chair the fourth conference. This will be held in Brisbane in July 2011. When not working, I enjoy playing with my two young sons and watching the brush turkeys and carpet pythons that frequent our sub-tropical Queensland garden.

<http://www.griffith.edu.au/environment-planning-architecture/environmental-futures-centre/staff/leah-burns>

## Dr Nik Taylor



My interest in academic human-animal studies began when I was lucky enough to be able to incorporate my passion for animal rescue/shelter work into my academic life by completing a PhD on the sociology of animal studies in 2000. Since then I have worked in both the UK and Australia on a number of animal related projects, both academically- and community-based.

My interest in human-animal relations is both academic and practical - I believe firmly that in order to secure a better future for all animals (humans included) we need to address broad societal attitudes towards disenfranchised others. This necessitates an analysis of the operations of power, discourse and inclusion in modern society: an analysis which has animals firmly at the centre as they are often the most excluded and disempowered. It is this belief which informs my theoretical and philosophical interest in post-humanist theory which I see as a way to deconstruct embedded ideologies and discourses regarding the 'proper' place of animals.

Sociologically, I am interested in many aspects of human-animal relationships on a broad level. More specifically, I currently research links between human directed and animal directed violence in the Department of Sociology, Flinders Uni, South Australia. I am keen to develop thinking beyond its current anthropocentric foundations by arguing that human-animal violence links are important beyond the consequences to humans alone. I am also currently researching philosophies of animal welfare and animal rights; the lives of animal shelter workers; attitudes towards animals as companions, food and pests; emotional management strategies of those working closely with sick animals, and, social theories as they pertain to our beliefs about other animals.

I also work within local communities on 'animal-related' issues. This has led to the development of a CD resource called 'Happy Animals' aimed at teaching children respect and empathy for animals which is now regularly used throughout Australia with school children. Additionally, I am an Associate Editor of *Society & Animals*, an editorial board member of *Anthrozoos*, the *International Journal for Critical Animal Studies*, *Sociology* and *Sociological Research Online*, and an honorary member of the New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies.

In the last three years I have published on human-animal issues in the *Australian Animal Law Protection Journal*, the *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, *Sociology*, *Society & Animals*, *Anthrozoos*, *Qualitative Sociology Review*, and *Sociological Research Online*. A co-edited collection (with Dr Tania Signal, CQUniversity) *Theorizing Animals: Human-Animal Relationships* is forthcoming from Brill Academic Press in 2011.

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