



Issue 16, June 2012

News Bulletin

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

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AASG News

AASG Annual Meeting

The AGM will be held to coincide with Animal Death Symposium at the University of Sydney. The meeting is open to all AASG members, including those who are not attending the symposium.

DAY & TIME: June 13, 1.15pm

LOCATION: University of Sydney, Room N497, John Woolley Building. This map indicates the Parramatta Rd side of the Campus:

<http://db.auth.usyd.edu.au/directories/map/building.stm?location=12E>

For those who cannot attend the meeting in person it is possible to both nominate for committee positions and vote by proxy - see forms attached. Please note that nominations by email must be submitted by Wednesday 6th June. Our Sydney hosts have indicated that it may be possible to set up a Skype link at the meeting. If you are interested in attending the meeting via Skype please contact Fiona Probyn-Rapsey: fiona.probyn-rapsey@sydney.edu.au

Animal Studies Journal

The AASG is pleased to announce its new online journal, the *Animal Studies Journal* <http://ro.uow.edu.au/asj/>. The journal is interdisciplinary and international, publishing animal studies scholarship from Australia, New Zealand, Asia-Pacific areas and beyond. It will appear twice-yearly in an open-access format. A call for papers for the 2012/2013 editions is now open – see the [Journals](#) section of this bulletin for more details. Editor: Melissa Boyde boyde@uow.edu.au Associate editors: Sally Borrell sb1211@live.mdx.ac.uk and Natalie Edwards n.j.edwards@massey.ac.nz

Membership

AASG relies on membership fees to support and improve its initiatives. With these funds we can continue to provide you with services such as the *Bulletin* and the website—where you can access information about animal studies, find funding opportunities, and access past issues of this publication. Membership will also ensure listing of your profile on the website: <http://www.aasg.org.au/participants>

JOIN AASG

You can join AASG online:

Pay fees by EFT, accessible by hitting the **JOIN US** button on the Group's website: <http://www.aasg.org.au/>

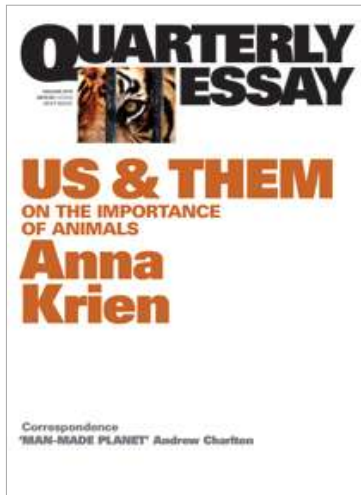
Or scan, fax or email a completed membership form, available online or at the bottom of this *Bulletin*, with your payment to: yvette.watt@utas.edu.au, fax: 6226 4308 or post to: Dr Yvette Watt, Treasurer, Australian Animal Studies Group, Box 4648, Bathurst St PO, Hobart TAS 7001

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

National News

Report: Conversations with Anna Krien in Melbourne and Sydney

By Siobhan O'Sullivan and Fiona Probyn-Rapsey



The Quarterly Essay is an institution in Australia. It was therefore unexpected, but most pleasing, to learn that the March 2012 essay would be dedicated to nonhuman animals. "Us & Them: On the importance of animals" by Anna Krien is probably the first quarterly essay that addresses the subject of nonhuman animals.

When Siobhan met Anna at Melbourne's Wheeler Centre she asked her how the essay came about. Anna relayed that in conversation with the editors she commented that the quarterly essays tend to be about white men. She told O'Sullivan that the editors asked her what she thought they should be about, and her replay came back 'animals'.

With that she was on her way. Over the next couple of months Krien travelled to Indonesia and rural Australia; read extensively; and thought at length about animal issues. The result is a reflection on how we currently treat animals and the complex

moral issues surrounding the human/nonhuman relationship. In Krien's view the question should not be 'is our relationship with animals just?' She believes it is not. Rather, the question should be 'how much injustice are we prepared to accept?' Unfortunately the answer to this question seems to be: quite a lot. Whether or not tolerance for cruelty is related to ignorance, denial, distance, speciesism, cultural relativist arguments that displace the problem on to 'them', or indeed a combination of these and other factors, is still up for discussion. Interestingly, her essay identifies age as a factor in the heightening of what Coetzee would call a 'sympathetic imagination'. An awareness of our own mortality is one factor, Krien suggests, that seems to awaken sensibilities.

At the Gleebooks event in Sydney, Krien traced through some of the observations in each chapter. She spoke very animatedly and passionately about the time she spent in Indonesia visiting the slaughterhouse that 'processes' Australian cattle. Sensitive to Australian complicity in this trade she spoke of the paradoxes related to a trade that ships 'them' like things and then objects to their treatment as 'things' in a different cultural context.

She doesn't propose any particular answers to the questions that her essay raises. What the essay does is present problems (which will be well known to many Animal Studies people) to a new audience in a way that I imagine, I hope, will be effective. It invites a level of speculation and self-reflection largely within the genre of travel writing and as such does not arrive at any particular destination or resolution. It indicates an uneasiness but also a desire to keep going. As such the genre is well chosen for raising the issues within the format of the Quarterly Essay.

The essay has been very well received and has helped reignite public debate in animal issues. The topic was covered by Triple J's HACK; various newspapers; and she has appeared many times on ABC radio. Anna Krien has spoken at the Wheeler Centre, Gleebooks and the University of Melbourne's Knowing Animals Past and Present reading group.

Read the essay and view other reviews on:

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

<http://whisperinggums.wordpress.com/2012/03/22/anna-krien-us-and-them-on-the-importance-of-animals-review/>

<http://www.abc.net.au/triplej/hack/stories/s3466814.htm>.

Animals Asia

Public Forums in Australia June 2012



Dr Jill Robinson MBE, CEO of Animals Asia and internationally acclaimed animal welfare champion will visit Australia & NZ for a series of public forum events in June.

The six-date tour schedule will provide audiences in key capital cities with the opportunity to hear Dr Robinson's first-hand reports regarding the current and unprecedented wave of popular Chinese support for the eradication of bear bile farming. Bear bile farming is the practice of extracting bile from live and highly endangered Asiatic Black Bears (moon bears) for use in Traditional Chinese Medicine. More than 14,000 bears are being kept in cages across Asia for this purpose. "This year we've witnessed a rapidly growing wave of opposition to bear bile farming from within the Chinese population itself, largely as a result of the online release of secret footage shot by three independent film makers revealing the shocking practices committed in a number of so-called legal bear farms," says Dr Robinson. "It's significant and highly encouraging to note that the push to end the practice is coming from within the country itself and is being strengthened by a growing band of prominent Chinese including well-known lawyers, TV hosts, actors, sportspeople, and animal rights advocates. This enormous support gives us great cause for hope that the Chinese authorities can be convinced to finally shut the industry down."

Some of the key points Dr Robinson will discuss during her tour include:

- The vital and ongoing role played by Australian vets and volunteers at the Animals Asia bear sanctuaries in China and Vietnam.
- The current level of Chinese media coverage around the bile farming issue, which has equated to over 8,000 separate news items so far this year.
- The possibility of developing a timetable for the phasing out of bear bile farming within the next three to five-years.
- The importance of encouraging efforts to develop alternatives to bear bile as an ingredient in Chinese medicines.

Tour Dates

**On
NOW**

Hobart – June 2 (29 Davey Street)
Canberra – June 3 (Teatro Vivaldi - ANU Arts Centre)
Sydney – June 4 (Bands for Bears II, Notes, Newtown)
Melbourne – June 5 (Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club)
Adelaide – June 7 (Woodcroft College)
Adelaide – June 8 (Jarvis Subaru)
Perth – June 9 (Hyatt Regency Perth)
Brisbane – June 12 (Mercure Hotel)
Auckland - June 13 (Novotel Ellerslie)

To book tickets go to www.animalsasia.org/roadshow

New listserv on Animal Ethics

A new listserv is being launched on Jiscmail. It aims to promote the sharing of information that is relevant to the discipline of animal ethics. To subscribe to the list, please mail 'join animaethics' to jan.deckers@ncl.ac.uk

Voiceless: The Animal Protection Institute

Lecture Series 2012

Keynote Lecture: Hunted by Land and Sea

Australia's iconic kangaroos are hunted in the largest commercial slaughter of land-based wildlife on the planet – almost 90 million have been lawfully killed in the last 20 years. Canada's harp seals are hunted in the world's largest commercial slaughter of marine mammals – almost 4 million have been lawfully killed in the last 20 years. With two countries holding such similar records, it is worthwhile exploring the legal parameters of the hunts. In order to do this, Voiceless is proud to present Canadian lawyer **Lesli Bisgould** as their keynote speaker for 2012. Lesli is a leader in animal law, having practised in the area for ten years, authored the first Canadian text on the subject and lectured widely throughout Canada and the US. In what is sure to be a fascinating presentation, Lesli will reflect on her experiences with the seal hunt and offer insights into Australia's own native hunt. [Read an abstract from Lesli's presentation.](#)

**Register
NOW**

Lecture series locations:

University of Sydney – 30 May
Australian National University, Canberra – 31 May
Arnold Bloch Leibler, Sydney – 1 June
Clayton Utz, Brisbane – 4 June
Bond University, Gold Coast – 5 June
Griffith University, Brisbane – 6 June
Allens Arthur Robinson, Perth – 7 June
Murdoch University, Perth – 8 June
Flinders University, Adelaide – 12 June
Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Melbourne – 14 June
University of Melbourne – 15 June
University of Tasmania, Hobart – 18 June

For registration and details of times, venues, speakers and topics see:

<http://www.voiceless.org.au/lecture>

RSPCA Science Seminar

Animal Welfare and Ethics: From Principles to Practice

The RSPCA Australia Scientific Seminar is a key national event for the RSPCA. The Seminar brought together leading experts in animal industries to explore the latest developments in animal welfare research, knowledge and practices:

For the love of lab rats: kinship, human-animal relations and good scientific research: **Simone Dennis**. Recreational, conservation and traditional hunting – The ethical dimensions: **Dominique Thiriet**. Teaching animal welfare and ethics: from principles to practice: **Teresa Collins**. Animal welfare research: the funding dilemma (abstract & presentation only): **Clive Phillips**. Welfare and ethics in companion animal breeding: An opinionated perspective: **Richard Malik**. The interaction of ethical questions and farm animal welfare science: **Peter Sandøe**. Pain, death and concern for animal life: **John Hadley**.

A PDF of these seminar papers is available at:

<http://www.rspca.org.au/assets/files/Science/SciSem2012-Proceedings.pdf>

Food Standards Australia New Zealand

Call for submissions on pet dogs in outdoor dining areas

Australia only: Food Standards Australia New Zealand today invited submissions on whether to allow pet dogs in outdoor areas of eating establishments. FSANZ Chief Executive Officer, Steve

McCutcheon said the Food Standards Code currently doesn't allow animals, except guide dogs, in areas where food is handled. "However a number of jurisdictions have specifically regulated to allow pet dogs in outdoor dining areas, resulting in an inconsistent approach across Australia," Mr McCutcheon said. "While the proposal aims to provide a consistent approach nationally, businesses will retain the right to have the final say in whether pet dogs are allowed on their premises. A FSANZ risk assessment has found that the risk of food borne transmission of disease from pet dogs in outdoor settings to humans is very low to negligible.

Submissions close: 13 June 2012.

For more information see: [Proposal P1018 – Companion Dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas](#)
[How to make a submission](#) ; [See latest Notification Circular](#)

Annual Whale Migration

During the next few months, an estimated 17,000 humpback whales are expected to migrate along Australia's east coast. Federal and state government bodies will combine in Operation CETUS to ensure whales are not disturbed by people keen to experience the animals at close quarters

See: <http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/species/cetaceans/index.html>

Regional News

QUEENSLAND

[University of Queensland](#)

A public seminar **Talking About Animals** was held on Friday 11 May to open the exhibition ANIMAL/HUMAN at the University of Queensland Art Museum (see [Exhibitions](#) below).

Speakers and their topics were as follows:

Welcome: Professor Gay Hawkins (chair), Deputy Director, Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, The University of Queensland

Barbara Creed **'When Elephant's Weep: Animals, Ethics and the Art'** (keynote speaker)
Is it possible to represent animals and their emotions? Some species, such as elephants, have been seen to carry out burial rituals: other animals to engage in acts of empathy and altruism. Creatures such as birds are endowed with a strong aesthetic sense. Yet despite our growing awareness of the emotional and even aesthetic lives of animals, we continue to treat the majority of species as abject others. Although Charles Darwin in his book of 1872 argued that animals experience a range of emotions and that the emotions evolved in human and animal alike, his ideas have not been widely disseminated. What is the role of the artist in relation to the animal? Is the artist, as Joseph Beuys saw himself, a shaman mediating between human and animal? What responsibilities, if any, should the artist take into account when representing the animal and animal emotions?

Barbara Creed is Professor of Screen Studies and Head of the School of Culture and Communication at The University of Melbourne.

Janet Laurence **'After Eden'**

My work in the exhibition ANIMAL/HUMAN continues my exploration into the fragility and destruction of the natural environment with a focus on the plight of animals and the loss of their habitat. *Fabled* 2012 features projected images of animals photographed in the Sumatran rain forest by a camera trap. This technology reveals these animals living here like a secret, where humans cannot go. However wondrous it is to see them living here in the wild, one knows it will

be short lived and not long before human habitation takes over this forest too. For me it is about the loss of the wild and the loss of our idea of nature. I will speak about my desire to bring attention and empathy to animals, to see the gap between the intimate care we are able to give them within sanctuary spaces, and the cruel neglect of those animals outside human care. We wonder for their future.

Sydney-based artist Janet Laurence exhibits widely and has an impressive record of representation in important group exhibitions and solo exhibitions, including her current project *After Eden* for the Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation in Sydney. See [Exhibitions](#) section below.

Morgan Richards '**Looking at Animals: The Wild Life of the Animal Image**'

This paper revisits John Berger's beautiful and highly significant essay 'Why look at animals?' (1980) and its implications for thinking about the contemporary place of the animal in visual culture. Berger's essay speaks of the alienation of humans and animals as a consequence of industrialisation, and contrasts this with a timeless, almost romantic, period when humans and animals lived side by side. As Jonathan Burt points out, Berger's powerfully expressed critique of the increasing marginalisation and subjection of animals is difficult to argue with but the essay itself raises a number of questions. Firstly, there is Berger's problematic simplification of human-animal relations in nineteenth-century capitalism. And, secondly, Berger sidesteps the highly influential and political role of the rise of animal imagery over the last 100 years as animals themselves have receded from view (Burt 2005). Building on Burt's critique, this paper takes the proliferation of animal imagery seriously and develops another perspective for understanding the power and ambiguity of animals on screen.

Morgan Richards is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies at The University of Queensland. She is currently working on *Wild Visions: The Rise of Wildlife Documentary* (forthcoming, Manchester University Press), which investigates the BBC's central role in shaping the wildlife genre in the UK and internationally.

Pat HOFFIE '**Brother Beast**'

My series *Brother Beast* 2011 in the exhibition *ANIMAL/HUMAN* is part of a larger ongoing project entitled *Fully Exploited Labour*. In *Brother Beast* images of people training wild animals are counterpointed with archery targets, portraying introduced species, into whose bodies I have inserted needlework scenes of manicured rural settlements, while smaller panels feature images of refugee boats at sea, plastic replicas of Indigenous eucalypt pods and excerpts from a 'tagalog' (Philippines) alphabet. Taken together these works suggest connections and connotations that may pose questions about our treatment of those aspects of life that might lie beyond an anthropocentric world view; one where both animals and 'refugees' are represented as outsiders. This series addresses issues that have been central to my ongoing project exploring the way labour and visual culture are valued and how social justice, human rights and cross-cultural mistranslations can be re-translated in the flux of changing global/local scapes.

Pat HOFFIE is a visual artist who has worked extensively in the Asia-Pacific region for the past three decades. She is currently a Professor and Director of the research focus group *SECAP* (*Sustainable Environment through Culture, Asia Pacific*) at Queensland College of Art..

For full seminar program and details about speakers see: <http://www.artmuseum.uq.edu.au/e-news/UQArtMuseumE-news39.html>

[Griffith University](#)

PhD Survey

Sally Healy's PhD is an investigation into the factors that influence whether consumers are concerned about the treatment of animals when purchasing animal-based foods such as meat, dairy, and eggs. As part of her project, she has developed an online survey that seeks to investigate consumption patterns of animal-based foods – namely eggs, pork, and chicken, and attempts to quantify participant knowledge of farming systems in Australia. The survey also looks

into attitudes towards the treatment of animals, preferences for animal-based foods (including labelling of welfare standards), and socio-demographics.

The survey takes between 15 and 20 minutes to complete and by participating you will be invited to enter the draw to win a \$100 Coles Myer Gift Voucher. The survey is open to anyone aged 18 and over and is relevant to Australian consumers. For any further information on this survey or the project please e-mail Sally at: sally.healy@griffithuni.edu.au.

The survey is available through the following link:

<https://prodsurvey.rcs.griffith.edu.au/prodls190/index.php?sid=61351&newtest=Y>

VICTORIA

Melbourne University

Animal Issues Melbourne

May 28 meeting was joined by Anna Krien, author of Quarterly Essay "Us & Them: On the importance of animals".

April 30 meeting considered the article Fraser, J. (2009), 'The Anticipated Utility of Zoos for Developing Moral Concern in Children', *Curator*, 52/4

March 26 meeting read something a little different: a recently released government report, Parbery, P. and Wilkinson, R. (2012), *Victorians' Attitudes to Farming*, Department of Primary Industries. Peter Parbery, one of the report's authors, joined the discussion.

For more information about the group contact Siobhan O'Sullivan: siobhano@unimelb.edu.au

Centre for Ideas and Philosophy

In Flesh and Blood: The Animal in Art and Philosophy. This recent symposium in 3 parts saw leading artists, writers and philosophers focus on animals.

April 3 'Translating The Animal: philosophy, schema, chimera' with keynote speaker Peter Singer

April 24 'The Philosopher's Dog' with keynote speaker Raimond Gaita (Melbourne Law School and the Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne and King's College London)

May 11 'Of Jews and Animals' with keynote speaker Andrew Benjamin

For more information about the Centre and the first event in this series see:

<http://events.unimelb.edu.au/events/2131-centre-for-ideas-present-in-flesh-and-blood-the-animal>

Animal Protection Society

The University of Melbourne Animal Protection Society is a club dedicated to campaigning for and advocating the interests of animals at the University of Melbourne. If you care about animals and want to do something about it, meet like-minded people, or even just learn more about this important issue, the University of Melbourne Animal Protection Society is for you!

Their activities include:

- Social excursions (such as Edgar's Mission and Kindness House)
- Social dinners at some of Melbourne's great vegetarian / vegan restaurants
- Film Screenings
- Outreach including leafletting and demonstrations
- Raising awareness about animal rights on campus
- Protecting animals on campus
- Hanging out at the co-op and eating vegan cake!

For more information see: umapsociety@gmail.com or come along to the Co-op on Tuesdays at 12pm or to one of their social dinners.

Facebook: University of Melbourne Animal Protection Society Group - <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=18053019518&ref=ts>

Veterinary Science and Hospital

The annual Faculty of Veterinary Science and University of Melbourne Veterinary Hospital Open Day was held on Sunday 25 March. The event welcomed over 8500 prospective students and members of the community with an interest in animals and veterinary science. 700 of those attended course advice seminars whilst others attended seminars on animal health, behaviour and wellbeing. Staff from the University of Melbourne as well as education partners were available in the 'Education Hub' to assist students interested in a career in veterinary science or with animals.

Other highlights included the Canine Blood Bank donor dogs, pathology display, the Victorian Police Mounted Branch, former Melbourne Cup winners, Doriemus and Brew from Living Legends, the Reptile Education Victoria bus and petting zoo just to name a few!

For slideshow and more about the Faculty see: <http://www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday/>

The Wheeler Centre

Lunchbox/Soapbox: Animals, Equality and Democracy

On Thursday 24 May, Siobhan O'Sullivan discussed the proposition that "While it may be true that nature is red in tooth and claw, it seems that for animals subject to human law – rather than the law of nature – life is much more like a lottery. For an animal, where you are born, and why you were bred, is critically important. This is because animal welfare laws in Australia and around the world are inconsistent. If a rabbit is bought as a family pet and then sold to a fur farm, the law will protect the same rabbit very differently". In this presentation political scientist Dr. Siobhan O'Sullivan outlined inconsistencies in Australia's animal protection laws and explains why for animals it is critically important to be born good looking, popular, and highly visible to the community.

Dr. Siobhan O'Sullivan is a research fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne. She specialises in animal protection issues including the structure and functionality of animal welfare laws.

More information about this event can be found here: <http://wheelercentre.com/calendar/event/animals-equality-and-democracy/>.

RMIT University

Art and Environmental Sustainability Research Cluster

The exhibition *Us and Them: Umwltten*, opened at Project Space on 11 May with a good crowd, and an eloquent address by Assoc. Prof Kate Rigby, who gave an outline of the German history of ideas leading to the work of Jakob von Uexkull, the early 20th century German biologist and ethologist whose works were the inspiration for the exhibition. All in the show are members of the research group, and the exhibition was curated by doctoral students Cath Clover and Jen Rae. For more information see below under [Exhibitions](#).

For more information about the Cluster see: <http://www.rmit.edu.au/art/artandenvironmentalsustainability>

TASMANIA

University of Tasmania

Colonialism and its Aftermath (CAIA) Winter Symposium

Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, 20-21 June

CAIA's 2012 Winter Symposium "Curating Cultures" brings together an exciting range of speakers, including Harriet Ritvo from MIT, Wendy Webster from the University of Huddersfield, UK and a delegation of scholars from Zhejiang University, Hangzhou.

****Thursday 21st June**

9.00-10.00: Session Five (Plenary)

Harriet Ritvo (MIT): 'Achieving Endangerment: Breeds, Species, and Degrees of Difference'

The symposium will conclude with a public talk on Thursday 21 June by Professor Guan Changlong, Institute for Ancient Books, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou followed by dinner at MeWah Restaurant, Inveresk.

**Register
NOW**

As with all Winter Symposia, numbers are strictly limited so if you would like to attend please RSVP to CAIA.centre@utas.edu.au by 1 June.

UTas Animal Studies Group

On 26 May Helen Hopcroft gave a seminar about her exhibition Strange Tales at Despard Gallery, Castray Esplanade, Hobart. Helen's talk concentrated on the artist's books in the exhibition. Each book is an exquisite handwritten, unique volume. Helen told the story of the production of *Whalesong*, her collaboration with illustrator David Hampton and student Pamela Poulson, and the influence of Helen Tiffin's analysis of the book *Wish*. Helen also spoke about her artist's book *Sirena: A Love Story*, and of her interest in human/animal hybrids, and fairy tales that often portray characters that slip between these states and resist categorisation. Her work, she said, seeks to 'rattle the bars of the cage'.

For more information about Helen's work see [Exhibitions](#) section below and her website: <http://helenhopcroft.wordpress.com/>

Royal Society of Tasmania

Winter Lecture Series 2012: Saving Tasmania's Unique Animals

**Coming
soon**

Session One: **Tuesday, 19 June, 7.30 pm**

Sir Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

Chair: His Excellency, The Honourable Peter Underwood AC, Governor of Tasmania

"Mammalian Extinctions: Lessons for Tasmania"

Professor Chris Johnson, School of Zoology, University of Tasmania

"The Nature of the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumor Disease"

Associate Professor Greg Woods, Menzies Research Institute, University of Tasmania

"Managing Devils for Species Survival"

Mr Andrew Sharman, Manager, Save the Tasmanian Devil Program, DPIWE

Session Two: **Tuesday, 17 July, 7.30 pm**

Sir Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

Chair: Professor Peter Rathjen, Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania

"Sex and Social Behaviour in Mammalian Conservation"

Professor Elissa Cameron, School of Zoology, University of Tasmania

"Will Tasmanian Devils follow Tasmanian Tigers to Extinction?"

Dr Menna Jones, School of Zoology, University of Tasmania

“A Tasmania without Devils: Environmental Impacts and Implications for Feral Species”
Mr Nick Mooney, Richmond, Tasmania

Members of the public are warmly invited to attend. Admission is free.

Tasmanian Government

Excerpts from Media Release, 2012 State Budget

Growing Industry and Improving Animal Welfare

The Minister for Primary Industry and Water Bryan Green today announced the phasing out of battery hen farming in Tasmania and fast tracking of a planned ban on sow stalls. Mr Green said the Government would work with both industries to grow production and keep Tasmania at the forefront of improving animal welfare outcomes nationally.

Mr Green said funding in the Budget would help pork producers transition out of sow stalls by the middle of next year, well ahead of when it was expected in 2017. The move is part of a \$2.5 million initiative which will also look at boosting non-cage egg production in Tasmania. “This will help pork and egg producers respond to growing consumer demands in specific market segments and further enhance Tasmania’s brand values.

Mr Green commended pig producers on their proactive and positive approach to the changes and said he was confident of a high level of compliance. “The support the Government is delivering will help producers adjust to the changes because managing sows will require more space, new equipment and different animal husbandry practices. It is important from an animal welfare perspective and for the future of our pork industry in Tasmania.

Mr Green said the Government will ban immediately any future battery hen operation and cap the existing number of pens in production. “I will work with industry to develop a transition plan to end battery hen operations in Tasmania. A range of actions will be explored in a bid to increase non-cage egg production and phase out battery hen operations. The demand for locally produced eggs, particularly free range, is growing and the industry acknowledges this change and is eager to work with Government on a transition. The Government will support farmers to transition away from practices such as sow stalls and battery hens in response to the growing consumer preference for products that are sensitive to animal welfare,” Mr Green said.

This means the end of sow stalls by mid 2013 – years before their former pledge (which was 2017). The budget provides for a buy out of the stalls and the cages. Nick McKim (Green Tas) says his party has the agreement of both the pig and hen industries in Tasmania and the ALP government onside with this. The legislation is intended to prevent the placing of any more hens in cages, and so the ‘phase out’ would be no more than about 18 months away (once the legislation is in place). Good news for hens and pigs in Tasmania

The Spindle Tree

**Coming
soon**

Australian Birds and Beasts Exhibition **26 June-2 July**

The Spindle Tree Co-operative is a small business in the Salamanca Arts Building Hobart, Tasmania. It encourages the production of high quality items made from natural fibres sourced from Tasmanian producers. Their 2012 creative arts competition has a number of categories such as life-like and mythical forms and will result in category winners, as well as an overall winner. The entries will be exhibited in the Side Space Gallery, Salamanca Arts Centre, Hobart.

For information about the competition and exhibition see: <http://www.spindletree.com.au/>

NEW SOUTH WALES

University of New South Wales

Report on Symposium: Jacques Derrida's *The Beast and the Sovereign*. April 20 2012.

By Matt Chrulew

"Why is political sovereignty, the sovereign or the state or the people, figured sometimes as what rises, through the law of reason, above the beast, above the natural life of the animal, and sometimes (or simultaneously) as the manifestation of bestiality or human animality?"

Jacques Derrida's 2001-2003 seminars on *The Beast and the Sovereign*, recently published by Éditions Galilée, and in translation by Chicago University Press, bear significantly on a number of important questions within contemporary humanities research. Derrida's earlier work, *The Animal That Therefore I Am*, has set the agenda for "the question of the animal" in posthumanism, animal studies and related ethical and philosophical debates. These recent seminars delve further into literary and political discourse: on the fables of the Bible and La Fontaine, on those of Hobbes, Machiavelli and Schmitt, and on the entire question of the "bête" in Western thinking about sovereignty. In a seminar swarming with fabled creatures, Derrida traces the figure of the wolf, returning once more to Rousseau, to Freud and to Heidegger. He takes on Deleuze's studious sarcasm and Agamben's scholarly tics. He reads the poetry of Valéry, Celan and Lawrence, the novels of Defoe and Blanchot, prompting his auditors and readers to confront the philosophical ramifications of the richly fraught pairing of sovereignty and bestiality.

This symposium, convened by Chris Danta and Matthew Chrulew and hosted by the School of the Arts and Media at the University of New South Wales, brought together a number of readers of Derrida for a full-day discussion of the two volumes of *The Beast and the Sovereign* (hereafter *BS*). The talks ranged across a number of fields that intersect with the questions of sovereignty and bestiality broached so insistently in these seminars. Vicki Kirby's paper on "Originary Humanicity" traced the question of human uniqueness in several of Derrida's texts. Bringing older works into dialogue with *BS*—such as *Of Grammatology* and his unpublished seminars on life and death—she explored how his more recent reflections might recast common readings of his earlier work on writing, and give pause to posthumanist excesses. James Phillips's paper on "Sovereignty's Ontological Indecision" showed how the anthropological maintenance of a bestial limit is necessary to both monarchical and democratic sovereignty. Bringing Derrida into dialogue with Hegel, Heidegger and Valéry, he explored the interplay of decisiveness and indecision at the human/animal border.

The next few papers added some political, historical, and literary inflections to this philosophical anthropology. Dinesh Wadiwel's discussion of "The *Gewalt* of Stupidity" emphasised that human domination of animals is central to the articulation of sovereignty. The specificity of this interspecies domination, he argued, can be characterised by two concepts: stupidity and *Walten*. Matthew Chrulew's paper on "Biopolitical Thresholds in the Zoological Garden" correlated Derrida's discussion of the zoo and biopolitics in *BS* with his ongoing dispute with Michel Foucault over the marking of historical thresholds. Understanding the emergence of the biopolitical apparatus, he argued, allows us better to critique contemporary human-animal relations. Christopher Peterson focussed on Derrida's discussion of Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* and the solitary islander's loneliness and fear amid uncanny footprints and a parrotting bird. He explored this question of animal speech through a discussion of ape language experiments and anthropocentric assumptions in the definition of language.

Turning the discussion to sociology, Melanie White asked how suffering, both human and animal, is central to our understanding of the social. She contrasted the continuism of Derrida's Benthamite focus on the passive capacity to suffer, with the exceptionalism of Durkheim's focus on the active will to suffer as a uniquely human effort. Paul Patton closed the day's proceedings with his reflections on "Sovereignty, Unconditionality and Bestiality." He placed *BS* among Derrida's previous deconstructions of sovereignty and, attending to the rhythms of the seminars, asked how the new presence of the beast alters the foregoing analyses.

The symposium had a strong and engaged audience, with attendees from many of Sydney's universities as well as from Melbourne and Canberra. Each paper was followed by ample

discussion which grew as the day progressed, and will extend to a broader sphere as the essays are collected and published. Particular thanks go to Susan Danta for her help with catering and designing the programme booklet.

Report on Eben Kirksey's Environmental Humanities Seminar: Interspecies Love: Being and Becoming. 18 May 2012

By Thom van Dooren

"Interspecies Love: Being and Becoming With a Common Ant, *Ectatomma ruidum* (Roger)"

This seminar is part of a growing program of scholarship in the Environmental Humanities and Animal Studies at UNSW. Visiting from the City University of New York, Eben Kirksey presented some of his recent research in the emerging field of multispecies ethnography.¹ Focused on a common South American ant, *Ectatomma ruidum*, Kirksey's work explores the tangled cosmopolitical worlds at stake in his, admittedly unrequited, love affair with the species. As Kirksey notes, he is not the first person to be captivated by *Ectatomma*; the lives of local people have long been entangled with those of this peculiar ant that spends its time on cotton and other plants, feeding from extra-floral nectaries while protecting the plant from boll weevils and other 'pests' that threaten agrarian projects. In the early 20th century, this mutualistic relationship between humans, ants and cotton, became the subject of a US Department of Agriculture project, that brought *Ectatomma* to the US with the goal of enrolling it into emerging industrial agricultural agendas.

In exploring this complex history, Kirksey is interested in the many ways that organisms are 'enfolded' into common worlds; but he is equally attentive to their possibilities for *escape*, to the inability of any single agent to dictate who will participate in emergent multispecies worlds and on what terms. As in the work of Donna Haraway – one of Kirksey's dissertation advisors – the focus here is on 'worlding': on the very material and political questions of who wins and who loses, why and with what consequences, as living bodies and their worlds are continually made and remade. Ultimately, the effort to introduce ants into US cotton fields failed, but in exploring this rich history alongside his own ethnographic work with the species, Kirksey uncovers an opening into more hopeful and generous modes of thinking about and constituting cosmopolitical worlds.

Eben Kirksey will take up a position as a lecturer in Environmental Humanities at UNSW in September 2012.

For more information about these seminars please contact Thom van Dooren: thom.van.dooren@gmail.com or Matt Chrulew: mchrulew@gmail.com

University of Sydney

HARN: Human-Animal Research Network.

**Register
now!**

Animal Death Symposium

12-13 June 2012. University of Sydney

The Animal Death Symposium to be held at the University of Sydney will be launched by Professor Annamarie Jagose, Head of School of Letters, Art and Media. Keynote lecture by Professor Deborah Bird Rose. HARN lecture by Assoc Professor Annie Potts, NZ Center for Human Animal Studies.

You can still register for this exciting conference!

Registration details, including the cost of attending the conference and the conference dinner (both cheap and cheerful, they hope!) are available on the HARN: Human Animal Research Network website: <http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/harn/>

¹ <http://www.culanth.org/?q=node/338>

Special Report

When the Lort Smith Animal Hospital was established on its present site in North Melbourne in 1935 by the Animal Welfare League, its vision was to provide a place where people with limited financial means could obtain veterinary treatment for their animals. Since that time, the hospital has grown into one which on any day averages about 100 consults, cares for 50 plus inpatients, runs a shelter for cats, dogs and a variety of exotic animals, provides respite care for animals whose owners are temporarily unable to care for them, and runs 'PALS' (Pets are Loving Support) programmes with animals visiting hospitals and nursing homes. Throughout its long history, the hospital has been committed to serving both animal welfare and social welfare – a unique vision in which the animal human bond is supported and fostered.

Animal Hospital Chaplain: Adele Mapperson



Seven years ago, the then CEO of the Animal Hospital (Rick Holland) appointed the hospital's first chaplain to help in this work. When I was appointed to the position of Chaplain at Lort Smith nine months ago, I asked the present CEO Liz Walker why she was appointing a chaplain and not a counsellor to help support people grieving the loss of a pet. She replied that what she really wanted was a person who could just come and sit down beside someone, to listen, offer care and comfort, to be a supportive presence to people at this time more than a counselling presence. Really that is, to be a holder of the 'sacred space'.

In practical terms, much of my work happens in supporting families at times of loss and grief, often through being present before, during and after a euthanasia, following up with phone calls and cards of sympathy. We have recently set up a memorial table recording names of animals that have died, and offering a space for people to write their own thoughts. We conduct two memorial services a year, and are in the process of setting up a bereavement support group.

Not all of my work with families is at the time of loss and grief. Very often I will just simply join in conversation with people waiting for their animals to be treated for a variety of reasons. I have not yet learned to speak rat, snake, mouse, bird, tortoise, frog, goat, guinea pig, rabbit, or even cat or dog, but I have spoken with those for whom these animals are a large part of their lives. Sometimes they are there in the process of enjoying their pet, taking care to keep them in good health; sometimes they are worried, concerned for what may come. Sometimes they are just glad that someone who does not have a designated practical function as such (e.g business services, veterinary) just notices and takes the time to stop to recognize and affirm the relationship between them and their animal companions.

In today's busy world where we often have little time for each other, people are often surprised and then delighted to find that Lort Smith takes the care to employ a chaplain. Maybe, it is a bit like the divine interruption in the world, that enables us to stop, and to know the love and care of the other, where and when we often don't expect to find it. So often, when I call people after the death of their pet, they are surprised, but then very moved that I have rung them. They will say things like, 'This is not what we have come to expect from our world. I am very glad that you have acknowledged and affirmed the depth and importance of the relationship I have had with this animal, and recognize the depth of the loss I am feeling'. Very often the deep bond of the relationship has offered them

comfort, support, a way to keep going, unconditional love in the midst of loneliness, acceptance when they cannot find it elsewhere, a companion who is sensitive to all that they hold dear about themselves; the one to whom they have given the best of who they are and in whose loving companionship they experience the world as they would like it most to be. I think that this work of listening to, and acknowledging 'the heart' of the other, is rather like 'praying with them' about their dreams and their longings, a keeping of the 'sacred space.'

Sometimes it happens that the death of a pet opens up all sorts of other griefs in a person's life and they are very glad of the chance to be held in this. A woman I rang recently, grieving also the loss of her mother a few months earlier, was surprised that I had called about the death of her dog when she had received no such follow up care from the nursing home where her mother had resided. In today's world where nursing staff are so busy caring for the next body that quickly fills the bed, there is often no time given to freeing staff to care for themselves, let alone for those who have now gone from their care. Unless we take the time to acknowledge the cost to staff of all that they do, we risk having people shutting down, not giving so much the next time, hardening themselves in order to keep going.

A large part of my role is to be alert to some of the feelings and stresses amongst staff as they emerge from day to day. As I am not in a managerial role I have a greater freedom to be a sort of monitor in this. I have recently been invited to be part of the work of our newly forming Ethics committee, to speak to the staff about grief, and to be part of the ongoing work with the management team to provide psychological first aid for staff; along with all the informal care that happens each day.

As a Chaplain, I am called to not only risk and maintain my own humanity, but also to encourage others to risk theirs for the sake of the other, the community and themselves. My work is often far from clear, with often unknown impact, but it is also work which I believe makes a difference in a world that sometimes forgets to stop and care.

For more information about Lort Smith Animal Hospital see: <http://www.lortsmith.com/>



Story and pictures: Adele Mapperson

Conferences and Symposiums: International conferences, seminars and updates

- **Regarding the Earth: Ecological Vision in Word and Image.** 4th ASLEC-ANZ Biennial Conference. 31 August – 2 September 2012. RMIT University, Melbourne

CALL FOR PAPERS

Keynote speakers: Professor Ursula Heise (UC Stanford) and Professor Timothy Morton (UC Davis)

Following on from the last conference, 'Sounding the Earth: Music, Language, and Acoustic Ecology' (Launceston, 2010), the 2012 ASLEC-ANZ conference, co-hosted by RMIT and Monash Universities, continues an ecological exploration of the senses with a focus on vision. Papers are invited that consider the ecological implications of different ways of perceiving, imagining, valuing and representing Earth, whether understood as planet, place or collective, comprising a multiplicity of more-than-human entities, agencies and processes. The Association for the Study of Literature, Environment and Culture (Australia-New Zealand) is a multi-disciplinary organisation, and contributions from a wide range of research fields are welcome, including ecophilosophy, environmental history, cultural geography, religion and ecology, science studies and art history, as well as ecocritical literary and cultural studies.

Areas for consideration include:

- Art, environment and ecological aesthetics
- Eco poetics, biosemiotics and onto poetics
- Environmental ethics and transpecies justice
- Prophetic witness and apocalyptic imagining
- New materialisms and speculative realism
- Mapping, modelling and inventorying
- Reading the past, envisioning the future
- Wayfaring, walking, and witnessing
- Indigenous knowledges, the colonial gaze, and postcolonial perspectives
- Ecohumanities and green pedagogies
- The earth looking back: nonhuman agency and lively worlds
- Observing human-animal entanglements

*Coming
up*

Deadline for submission June 15

For more information see: <http://www.aslec-anz.asn.au/>

Please direct inquiries and paper and panel proposals to Aslec.Conference@monash.edu.au

- **Materialities: Economies, Empiricism, & Things.** Cultural Studies Association of Australia Annual Conference
4-6 December 2012. University of Sydney, Australia

CALL FOR PAPERS

Cultural studies has a long history of investigating material practices – indeed it was a founding tenet of British cultural studies – but recently a new turn or return to materialism seems to be emerging in the field. What this materiality now means is still open, but we suggest that it flags a renewed interest in questions of how to study cultural objects, institutions and practices (methods), what constitutes matter and materiality (empiricism), and how things (humans and non-humans) are being reworked at a time of global economic, environmental and cultural flux.

Keynotes include: Ross Chambers (Michigan), Katherine Gibson (UWS), Lesley Head (UoW), Bev Skeggs (Goldsmiths, London), and Sarah Whatmore (Oxford). They have all directed critical attention to these questions – to the more-than-human, to new philosophies of matter, to the gendered material and economic circuits of media, and to 'the heavy materiality of language'. We have invited them to help us in reinvigorating what cultural studies can do today.

We encourage proposed panels and individual papers that engage with the wide spectrum of issues flagged by our title, including submissions that focus on:

- the crossing of science studies and cultural studies
- questions of method
- the relation between culture and economy
- cultural histories of objects and forms
- new ideas about empiricism
- placing sexuality, gender and race within the more-than-human
- the materiality of texts and genres
- the future and the past of material cultural studies
- environmental humanities and changing ecologies
- cultural studies within the anthropocene
- cultural relations with/in primary and natural resources
- the new materiality of globalism
- Papers and panels not focusing on the theme are also welcome

Deadline for submissions by August 24

Please send submissions to csaa.2012@gmail.com and include your name and affiliation. whole.

For more information including submission guidelines see:

http://sydney.edu.au/arts/gender_cultural_studies/research/events.shtml

- **AASG @ Sydney: Life in the Anthropocene.** 5th Biennial Conference of the Australian Animal Studies Group
8-10 July 2013. University of Sydney, Australia

'Every human of this fallen Anthropocene age is shadowed by the myriad ghosts of all the other creatures they drove extinct,' Paul Di Filippo, "Life in the Anthropocene"

The Anthropocene describes a period of geological time dominated by homosapiens and marked by the significant impact of human activity on the environment. The relationship between species is now, perhaps more than ever, subject to critique, reflection and change: humans are one species amongst many. If the cultural and scientific moment of the Anthropocene puts 'us' in our place, then it is time to reconsider our place with 'them'.

This 5th Conference of the Australian Animal Studies Group will bring together voices across a wide range of disciplines to examine how new knowledge of the human–animal relation requires novel starting points, critical tools and cross-disciplinary connections. In a time when the natural world is ever more subject to human intervention, scholarly reflection on such interspecies relations must face up to the challenges of contested Anthropocene life.

Keynotes:

Professor Cary Wolfe (Rice University USA)
Professor Paul McGreevy (University of Sydney, Australia)
Dr Siobhan O Sullivan (University of Melbourne, Australia)
Professor Kate Rigby (Monash University, Australia)
Professor Sarah Whatmore (Oxford University, UK)
Professor Peter Sankoff (Animal Law Expert, Canada)

Details on registration and abstract submission will be available shortly.

Organising Committee at USYD: Dr Fiona Probyn-Rapsey, Celeste Black, Dr Matthew Chrulew, Dr Dinesh Wadiwel, Madeleine Boyd, Dr Michelle Hyde, Dr Agata Mrva-Montoya, Nikki Savvides.

- **Animal Use in Research and the New EU Directive: Challenges and Opportunities for Animal Welfare, Science, Ethics and Society**
14-15 June 2012/ Northumbria University, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne

This conference has three interrelated strands: ethics, law and science:

- The new Directive promotes transparency and the need to keep the public well informed. It also recognises the ethical concerns of the public as regards the use of animals in research. The **ethics** strand of the conference will thus focus on public accountability, public engagement and ethical scrutiny.
- The **law** strand will examine the new Directive and the most effective ways in which the UK can implement its provisions to ensure the best protection to animals.
- The new Directive promotes the Three Rs and the **science** strand will examine the cost and benefits of animal experimentation and will consider innovative teaching methods that have been adopted in the life sciences to reduce or eliminate the need for using animals.

Keynote speakers include:

Sarah Chan - Research Fellow in Bioethics and Law and Deputy Director of the Institute for Science, Ethics and Innovation at The University of Manchester

Jan Deckers - Bioethicist at Newcastle University

Michelle Hudson - MSc in Zoology from the University of Sheffield. scientific charity Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME)

Robert Hubrecht - Deputy Scientific Director of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

Andrew Knight - British-Australian bioethicist and a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics

Duncan Wilson - Wellcome Trust Research Fellow at the University of Manchester's Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHSTM)

For more information see:

http://www.numyspace.co.uk/~unn_mlif1/school_of_law/animal_law/programme.html

- **Unruly Creatures 2: Creative Revolutions**
18 June 2012. Natural History Museum, London

Organised through The London Graduate School and the Centre for Arts and Humanities Research, Natural History Museum, London

Speakers:

- Anat Pick (University of East London)
- Jonathan Burt (Series Editor, 'Animal' – Reaktion Books)
- Erica Fudge (University of Strathclyde)
- André Dias (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)

This is the second in a series of one-day conferences that analyse and discuss the various ways in which animals have been used in the humanities and contemporary arts, the political and theoretical implications of this use, and the manner in which animals have resisted this appropriation such that they might enter into political discourse. With examples taken from philosophy, history, and the arts, it will also examine whether there is an animal political identity, and even new ways of thinking about struggle, revolt, and revolution that might be called 'animal'.
Programme

Anat Pick: Falling Towards the Heights: Worldliness and Animal Ethics. Respondent: Catherine Wheatley (Kings College, London)

Erica Fudge: Milking Other Men's Beasts. Respondent: Wendy Wheeler (London Metropolitan University)

Jonathan Burt: A pensive nature, a mechanical/And slightly detestable operandum: The Elision of Animals and Cinema. Respondent: John Mullarkey (Kingston University)

André Dias: Animal Heterogenesis. Respondent: Richard Iveson (Goldsmiths)

Online Registration: <http://unrulycreatures.eventbrite.com>

Conference Website: <http://www.thelondongraduateschool.co.uk/blog/unruly-creatures-2/>

For further information contact Professor John Mullarkey: j.mullarkey@kingston.ac.uk

- **From Grooming To Speaking: Recent Trends in Social Primatology and Human Ethology**

10 -11 September 2012. University of Lisbon, Portugal

CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference calls for primatologists, ethologists, anthropologists, sociobiologists, evolutionary, cognitive and comparative psychologists, biolinguists, evolutionary linguists, bio-ethicists, philosophers and historians of science, to provide talks on:

- Historical reviews on the introduction and use of primate studies to acquire knowledge of the origin and evolution of communication and language
- Methodologies of primate communication and language research
- Theories on primate communication and the evolution of language
- Ethical issues in social primatology and human ethology

Providing much more than a platform for the dissemination of new research results, the conference organisers will give preference to reflexive talks that deal with theoretical, methodological and ethical issues of primate research and ethology, and how the latter fields provide insight into human language evolution.

Plenary speakers:

Johan Bolhuis
Constancea Carvalho
Augusta Gaspar
Nathalie Gontier
Mary Lee Jensvold
Simone Pika
Tim Racine
Jeroen Stevens
Jordan Zlatev

*Coming
up*

Deadline for abstracts 30 June

For more details, registration, and abstract requirements see:

http://cfcul.fc.ul.pt/linhas_investigacao/Philosophy%20of%20Life%20Sciences/int_col/index.htm

Contact: Nathalie Gontier: nathalie.gontier@vub.ac.be

- **Documentary and the Environment**

14 September 2012. University of Surrey, UK

CALL FOR PAPERS

The third Symposium in the series 'Documentary and ...' to be held at the University of Surrey will be on Documentary and the Environment. The 'Documentary and ...' series seeks to explore the conjunction of the documentary project with the worlds it encounters and the practical and conceptual modifications these combinations bring.

The first decades of the twenty-first century have seen a consistent flow of environmental documentary films which have managed to gain attention beyond special interest groups. This one-day event aims to explore the emergence or perhaps resurgence of this documentary subgenre. How have documentary filmmakers worked with the concepts of the environment and environmental awareness? What are the ethics and aesthetics of environmental documentary filmmaking? How do theories of documentary, ecology, and the theorisation of environmental politics interact? How do audiences respond to environmental documentaries?

Speakers and contributors working on documentary film and non-fiction media as well as on the intersection of documentary with environmental education, environmental communication, and environmental psychology are invited to respond to these questions. The following topics are a guideline to potential paper proposals and are not meant to exclude other interpretations of the seminar's title Documentary and the Environment

- Defining the eco-doc: experimental, documentary and activist representations of environmental issues
- Place, space and ecology in environmental documentary
- Environmental justice and the documentary
- Nature and the natural in environmental documentary
- Wildlife documentary and environmental issues
- The history of the environmental documentary
- Support structures for the production and distribution of environmental documentaries
- The evolving environmental film festival circuit and the social hub
- The sustainability of documentary filmmaking

*Coming
up*

Deadline for proposals 29 June

Please submit a proposals to Dr. Helen Hughes (h.hughes@surrey.ac.uk)

For submission guidelines see: <http://www2.surrey.ac.uk/dft/research/currentprojects/surrey/>

• Food Studies: An Interdisciplinary Conference

4-5 October 2012. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA

CALL FOR PAPERS

This conference will address contemporary food challenges from interdisciplinary perspectives by exploring new possibilities for sustainable food production and human nutrition. The aim is to consider the dimensions of a 'new green revolution' that will meet our human needs in a more effective, equitable and sustainable way in the twenty-first century.

Members of this knowledge community include academics, teachers, administrators, policy makers and practitioners in food communities. Contributions range from broad theoretical and global policy explorations, to detailed studies of specific human-physiological, nutritional and social dynamics of food. Other topics are welcome, and should focus on the food sciences in the areas such as, but not limited to agricultural and environmental food sciences, food industries and markets, and local and global food sociologies.

Location: In 2012, The Food Studies Conference is strategically held in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois during the Midwestern harvest season. This is the home of the land-grant University of Illinois, located in the United States' agricultural heartland. With cutting-edge research at the University, and a full range of agricultural endeavors in the community, ranging from large agribusiness to urban farmers' markets, Urbana-Champaign represents an ideal location for the Food Studies community to gather.

This year's conference will feature a special panel discussion highlighting Urban Food Hubs and their evolving role in the local agribusiness and food industry arena. Conference tour activities will feature an exclusive farm-to-table dinner at Prairie Fruits Farm where participants will experience the slow foods movement first-hand in a unique outdoor, field-side setting. Urbana Champaign can easily be reached by commuter plane, train and road from Chicago and Bloomington, Illinois.

Proposals: Welcome are presentation proposals which range from broad explorations of theoretical, methodological and policy questions, to proposals which present finely grained evidence of the connections of economics, public health, government and community practices, sociological, medical and educational perspectives of food in our societies.

Presenters will have the option to submit to be published in the refereed 'Food Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal.'

**Check for
dates**

Deadlines for submission 5 June (consult website for subsequent deadlines)

Virtual Proposals/Registrations, as well as Non-Presenter Registrations are encouraged to submit and attend. For full submission and registration details, including an online proposal submission form, please visit the conference website <http://Food-Studies.com/conference>

- **Four-Footed Actors: Live Animals on the Stage**
12-14 December 2012. University of Valencia, Spain

CALL FOR PAPERS

Writing in 1899, Frederick Dolman argued in an article titled "Four-Footed Actors: About Some Well-Known Animals that Appear in the London and Provincial Stage" that the "growth of variety theatres and the decay of comic songs" had developed in "several kinds of diversion, not the least of which is furnished by the art of the animal-trainer" (*The English Illustrated Magazine*, Sep. 1899, 192, p. 521).

Dolman was describing the large-scale entertainments starring animals that had taken over traditional spectator recreations for the last century in a manner not unlike the success of music-halls and professional sport. In this sense, Lord George Sanger's zoological pantomimes best reflected the spirit of the new age and the advent of the commercialisation of leisure. As recalled by himself, the cast in the production of *Gulliver's Travels* included "three hundred girls, two hundred men, two hundred children, thirteen elephants, nine camels, and fifty-two horses, in addition to ostriches, emus, pelicans, deer of all kinds, kangaroos, Indian buffaloes, Brahmin bulls, and (...) two living lions led by the collar and chain into the centre of the group".

Indeed, popular amusements have featured animals since antiquity, as shown by wild animal fights (venationes and bestiarii) and ritual slaughters (hecatombs) in Greek and Roman amphitheatres. Similarly, trained animal performances peppered medieval Europe. A newspaper article published in *The Saturday Magazine* in 1839 described a 12th-century Anglo-Saxon manuscript portraying a jocolator with his pipe and tabor, accompanied by a dancing bear and dogs and even a cock on stilts. The author sadly deplored the spread of such activities amongst civilized societies and regretted the audience's infatuation with them. "What is the feeling that prompts men to run after exhibitions of this kind? It is an admiration of the skill displayed by the animal, or that displayed by the owner in teaching the animal, or merely a love for the grotesque and marvellous let it be shown in what way it may?" (*The Saturday Magazine*, April 27, 1839).

Dogs, horses, pigs, goats, cocks, bears, monkeys and "quadrupeds of all sorts and sizes" frequently performed in Europe. Memorable shows include Astley's equestrian drama or the antics of Nicolet's monkey Turco in Paris, who was capable of imitating the Comédie-Française actor Molé. Further extravagances like tightrope dancing canaries, horse-riding oxen, card-playing deer, soldier-marching little birds, pigs solving mathematical puzzles, boxing kangaroos, and dogs setting off cannons, amongst many other animaux savants shows, delighted every kind of audience. As early as 1572, Thomas Cartwright mockingly declared in his admonition to Parliament against the use of the Common Prayer that "if there be a bull or a bear to be baited in the afternoon, or a jackanapes to ride on horseback, the minister hurries the service over in a shameful manner, in order to be present at the show" (*The Saturday Magazine*, April 27, 1839).

The aim of this conference is to explore the role of live animals on the stage, from the early modern era to the present time. Papers dealing with visual or textual representations of performing animals, typologies of animals in the theatre, the hybridisation of the drama with the

circus, the zoo and the cinema, as well as the semiotic transfer of animal roles from the text to the stage are particularly welcome. Corollary topics may also include, but are not limited to:

- Animals and the birth of the mass-entertainment industry
- Animals and melodrama
- Animals and the opera
- Animals and pantomime
- Educability and animal training for the stage
- Sentience and animals as moral beings
- Anthropocentrism over non-human others
- Animal cruelty and speciesism on the stage
- Acting animals and spirituality
- Animal impersonators
- Hygiene and public safety measures and regulations in playhouses
- Stage mimicry
- Animal welfare and national identity
- Animal acting and stage scenery
- Performing animals and music
- Animals on the stage and Darwinism
- Domestic vs wild animals on the stage
- Animals on the stage and the animal rights movement (19th-20th centuries)
- Animal and gender roles on the stage
- Illustrations of performing animals

**Submit
NOW**

Deadline for abstracts 1 June

Contributions are sought from researchers at any stage of their careers. Abstracts (300 words) in English, French or Spanish for 20-25-minute papers should be sent along with a short biographical note by to Ignacio.Ramos@uv.es

Conference Updates

Minding Animals International 2

4-6 July 2012. Utrecht University, The Netherlands

The full program for the conference is now available online at:

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

Critical Animal Studies Roundtable:

The Institute for Critical Animal Studies will be holding a special Critical Animal Studies roundtable between 2:30pm and 5:30pm on 3 July in Utrecht before the Opening Reception to Minding Animals 2. A lunchtime roundtable will also follow during the main conference. Places are strictly limited to 100 people (only 30 places left as at 1 May), so you MUST register your attendance – first come, first served. If you would like to register for this special event, please send an email to mindinganimals@gmail.com. Venue details and an agenda will be sent to all registrants before the Utrecht conference.

Minding Animals 3 in 2015:

MAI has received some exciting proposals from the US, Canada and India, for hosting the third Minding Animals conference in 2015. Nevertheless, we would still like to receive Expressions of Interest from other institutions interested in hosting Minding Animals 3 in July 2015. If you are interested, please contact mindinganimals@gmail.com to receive a copy of the 2015 guidelines. Deadline has been extended to 25 June.

Interview: Academics, activists, researchers

Lynda Stoner interviewed by **Melissa Boyde**

Lynda Stoner is the CEO of Animal Liberation NSW. She is also the author of the cookbook *Now Vegan!* which is full of delicious vegan recipes. Her work in television from the 1970s made her a household name – the roles she played were often a mix of glamour and action. Her role in the film *Turkey Shoot* caused the film critic Phillip Adams to comment that “the sight of Lynda Stoner being stabbed through the left nork by a carnivorous lesbian was too much for me to take” – Adams walked out of the cinema. For Lynda Stoner the sight of what (carnivorous) humans do to animals has a similar effect but instead of walking away she has again swung into action.



Melissa: A few years ago driving through countryside in the central west of NSW, en route to Sunday lunch with friends, we witnessed a gruesome sight. Just outside of the small country town where my friend lived, placed on fence posts along the roadside, were the bloody, decapitated heads of pigs. From conversations with students at the local university where I taught I was aware of the popularity of pig and kangaroo hunting. Some of the female students had husbands who hunted and killed pigs with knives while others went on hunting ‘dates’ and held the spotlights on vehicles while their boyfriends did the killing of various animals. For those who don’t know about the increasingly popular form of hunting known as pig dogging can you explain what it involves?

Lynda: Pig dogging entails the use of dogs and knives, and sometimes guns, to slaughter wild pigs.

MB: Is pig dogging legal?

LS: It is legal in New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory

MB: What breeds of dogs are used in pig dogging?

LS: Various hybrids from bull arabs, mastiffs, pit bulls, wolfhounds, deerhounds and ridgebacks – a combination of the strongest and fastest, among other traits.

MB: What happens to the dogs during the hunt?

LS: Dogs are confined in a cage on the back of a ute and then released to scent out pigs, at times great distances away, other times closer to the vehicle. Some hunters gear their dogs up with

breast plates and tracking systems and electric collars – there are entire businesses based on pig dogging and other forms of hunting. But kitted up or not, dogs are put in perilous situations. Too often they are ripped apart by terrified pigs twisting and fighting for their lives. Part of a hunter's kit to repair wounds to dogs includes a staple gun and a sewing kit. Caught doing that to a companion dog and you would be fined for cruelty as well attracting community outrage. It is common knowledge that pig dogs do go missing in forests, become wild and eventually feed from "stock" and native animals.

MB: What happens to the pigs?

LS: Hunters disseminate the idea that dogs are used only to pinion pigs – that in itself causes terror and pain but in point of fact there is a lot of evidence showing pigs are locked onto by up to 5 dogs around their heads and other body parts. By the time the hunter reaches the pig the animal has been ripped and torn by dogs' teeth and then it can take up to a dozen stabs before the pig finally succumbs. The screaming of pigs is sickening. Their fear, their terror, their prolonged deaths. Just so hunters can get up close and personal to fulfill their blood lust.

MB: Do the hunted pigs have any protection under the law?

LS: Pigs have little to no protection. I have documentation from the NSW Police Force which clarifies that the 'exemption provided under section 530(2)(b) of the Crimes Act 1900 for 'the extermination of pest animals' and the statutory exemption applying to feral pigs, present significant challenges in bringing successful prosecutions' on the grounds of animal cruelty.

The word "feral" twists people's empathy for the sentience of an animal. Almost like a pardon for open slather on whichever species is currently considered a "pest". I spent two years trying to get a prosecution against pig doggers and even the language of the police officer I was communicating with was indicative of his attitude to wild pigs – "vermin" was one of the descriptors. Language is powerful. Semantics provide justification to those who enjoy dominion and too often that includes torture and killing.

Pig doggers and other hunters like to portray themselves as heroic conservationists. Not everyone believes this furphy. In fact it is known that some hunters "seed" forests with pigs, deer and other animals to ensure ongoing quarry. In some ways this is not so different to the mid 19th century practice whereby hunters were paid per rabbit scalp and cut the ears off rabbits before releasing them to breed to ensure plenty of stock for continued hunting.

There is no-one in the forests monitoring what pig doggers do. The tracts of land are so vast; the numbers of pig doggers is large. No-one is checking what happens to their prey.

MB: In the magazine section of the bookshop at the university where I now work pig dogging magazines, some with DVDs are on display for sale. Typically these magazines have images of pretty young women, sometimes with knife in hand astride the corpse of a pig. You mentioned to me that pig dogging is gaining popularity with young women, why do you think this is happening?

LS: The reputation of hunters has long been tarnished as macho posturing and a "Deliverance" image – I believe getting women and children involved is supposed to help "soften" their image, make this blood sport appear more "family friendly" – perhaps the family that slaughters together stays together. Sometimes young women are trying to out-posture the boys, show how "tough" they can be. Sadly many children are coerced into this barbarism by fathers, older brothers and other men. Too often I have heard adults reflecting on pressure when they were little to kill to "become a man." It takes a very brave child to withstand that kind of press-ganging and risk denial of parental approval. I have spoken with men about the verbal, and sometimes physical, ramifications of their defiance when as children they refused to kill outright, or who shot to the side in order to miss an animal. It is an ugly culture and often a generational one. It is part of the cycle of violence.

MB: Is it true that children as young as 12 are being encouraged to take part in pig dogging?

LS: Pig dogging publications frequently show children as young as toddlers, sitting on the corpses of animals. My heart aches because of the messages that sends children. They are taught that

killing is “fun” and to be exalted. Now the N.S.W. Game Council is pushing to permit 12-year-olds to hunt with guns, knives and bows and arrows without adult supervision. As a society we would be retrograde almost beyond salvation if we permit this to go through.

MB: The suffering of pigs has been a strong interest for you for many years – from your arrest in 1992 protesting at the intensive farming piggery which the then Prime Minister of Australia Paul Keating owned shares in, to your current work on pig dogging. Are the risks you take now the same or greater?

LS: There are inherent risks in many of the things that animal rights activists do but we try to ameliorate them by doing as much research beforehand and watching each other's backs. Without undercover work though the confinement and mutilation of, for example, farm animals would never be made public. Animal abusers like the cloak of secrecy.

MB: How important is it to educate young people on animal issues?

LS: Young people are joining Animal Liberation and other animal rights groups in ever increasing numbers. Social media has transformed the way we advise people of the plight of animals. The moment we need to send out news or a call to action, for example getting people to sign petitions to make CCTV cameras mandatory in slaughter houses, we can instantly get the word out. Social media is not exclusive to, but is more frequently used by, young people. Young people (and again I am not generalising because I know some octogenarians who changed their lifestyle later in life to no longer contribute to the suffering of animals) will often influence their peers in school and university and indeed be the catalyst for their family changing their lifestyles to a more compassionate one.

Animal Liberation has had a Humane Education Officer speaking to schools for about 5 years and helping individuals and groups to develop their own animal rights groups. The work being done by Tracey Keenan at Peanuts Funny Farm is simply remarkable. She takes in children and animals who have been abused and they work symbiotically to heal each other. Trust and respect are mutually gained and love follows. Lives are turned around. Tracey has her own stories about the damage of children being coerced into going hunting as a rite of passage.

MB: What are some of the other burning issues for you?

LS: Leather is a huge issue. People are still very ignorant of the suffering of humans, the environment and animals caused by the production of leather. They assume, or want to believe, that leather is a “by-product” whereas the majority of leather produced in the world comes from cattle who are used only for their skins. The cost to humans working in this industry, particularly in India and Pakistan, is truly awful; from cancers in their bodies to the total corruption of waterways which would once have sustained communities. The chemicals used to keep leather from disintegrating (as does all animal flesh) are among the most lethal in the world. And the cost to animals is exorbitant. I have been communicating with animal rights groups in India who are working to ban leather shoes in schools, this has been quite effective, partly because of the cruelty to animals, partly because of the toll on children and adults and the environment and partly thumbing their noses to the Imperialism imposed by England.

Getting rid of cages of any kind would be a great start – from people with birds imprisoned in domestic cages to egg laying hens to animals in cages being gawked at in zoos to those in laboratories. All cages must go. That would be a start in trying to redress the crimes against animals in some way. It would be a beginning.

MB: What are your thoughts about humans in the face of our cruelty to so many different animals, in so many different situations?

LS: Some days it is simply overwhelming when you consider the magnitude of atrocities we inflict on animals, in the name of profit and entertainment. I believe some people close their eyes to all animal suffering because there is so much of it, they feel they can't change anything so they look away. That's why it's so difficult to get this information out. If it is suffering of animals in another country Australians seem more keen to look and blame but if it's animals they are consuming or wearing the majority of people keep their heads down and their eyes closed. We can screen war

and mayhem during “children’s dinner time” but not animal suffering because the majority of that suffering is something most Australians are responsible for. There is a quick way to immediately help stop cruelty, heal your body and help the environment and that’s to go vegan. Anything less and you are directly responsible for the suffering of animals.

MB: Sitting in your office at the end of the week do you ever think if only we had... or, if only we were able to.... In other words, how can people reading this help the work of Animal Liberation?

LS: If only we had the gigantic funds of the animal abusers then we could counter their lies and their propaganda machines. If we had the financial resources to maximize getting the truth out there on T.V., radio and on billboards. We can do all of these things in small ways but all too infrequently. If only we had the secret to offsetting the apathy of society so that people took to the streets in their hundreds of thousands to call for an end to harming animals. If only....

Thankfully we manage to do a lot on a shoe string budget so if people want to help this grass roots organisation please become a member – it’s only \$45/year for waged people and \$25/year for unwaged. Assist financially or donate your talent and skills. Sign a petition. Help at a stall. There are so many ways that every person can make a difference. The first little action I did was on behalf of battery hens about 34 years ago. I stood in Victoria markets handing out brochures on the plight of these chickens. Until 6 months prior I had no idea such wretched things were happening. How wonderful that this week Tasmania has announced it will put an end to battery cages!

Right now the Codes of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures related to practices such as pig dogging are under review and they are calling for submissions. This presents an opportunity to demand an end to pig dogging and poisons like 1080 and Pindone which are used to kill so-called feral animals. **But be quick, submissions close June 8:**

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/431191/RIS-for-the-proposed-game-and-feral-animal-regulation-2012.pdf

Melissa Boyde is a Research Fellow in the School of English Literatures and Philosophy, University of Wollongong NSW, and Chair of the Australian Animal Studies Group.

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

Voiceless: The Animal Protection Institute

Voices of Art 3: For the Love of Animals

In an extraordinary show of respect for animals, 22 of Australia’s top contemporary artists participated in Voices of Art 3 on May 3, 2012, the annual fundraiser for Voiceless, the animal protection institute. Now in its third year, Voices of Art 3: For the Love of Animals took as its theme the role that animals play in all of our lives.

The exhibition featured painting, drawing, digital photography, sculpture and ceramics from some of Australia’s most significant contemporary artists including Shaun Gladwell, Janet Laurence, Peter Tyndall, Jonathan Delafield Cook, Louise Hearman, Sam Jinks, Michael Zavros and many more.

The exhibition can be viewed online at voiceless.org.au/voa3

Writing Prize

Entries have now closed for the 2012 Voiceless Writing Prize sponsored by Australian Ethical Investment, with more than 350 writers competing for a total prize pool of over \$20,000.

The Prize advances public understanding of animal sentience, the human – animal relationship and the ethical treatment of animals.

Judging has begun under the leadership of J. M. Coetzee, 2003 Nobel Laureate and twice winner of the Man Booker Prize. He is joined on the judging panel by Voiceless co-founder and Managing Director, Ondine Sherman; Literary Editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Susan Wyndham; and former Director of the Sydney Writers Festival & Voiceless Council member, Dr Wendy Were.

Established by Voiceless, the animal protection institute, the Prize challenged writers to give a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves. Entries focused on animals produced for food or found in the Australian environment.

Watch the Voiceless website for more news: <http://www.voiceless.org.au/news>

Farm Forward

Farm Forward is a nonprofit organization which implements innovative strategies to promote conscientious food choices, reduce farm animal suffering, and advance sustainable agriculture <http://www.farmforward.com/>

This organisation is offering an opportunity for **college and high school educators** to bring the critically acclaimed and bestselling author Jonathan Safran Foer into their classrooms to discuss his nonfiction book *Eating Animals*. This free program is sponsored by Farm Forward in collaboration with Foer.

Foer's first two books, *Everything is Illuminated* and *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*, have both been made into major motion pictures and, while highly regarded for their literary merit, are also popular with the college demographic. In *Eating Animals* Foer provides what Shelf Awareness calls "an extremely powerful and incredibly illuminating look at the moral and environmental impact of eating animals." Kirkus. Reviews called it "wholly compelling" and the *LA Times* argues that it offers a wisdom "that, in all its humanity and clarity, deserves a place at the table with our greatest philosophers." In Fall 2011 both Duke University and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill made it required reading for their incoming freshman class.

On October 3, 2012, Jonathan Safran Foer will make a number of virtual classroom visits to discuss *Eating Animals*, using professional videoconference technology. From 10:00am - 4:30pm (US Eastern Time) there will be 8 available sessions to choose from. Each session will consist of a 15-minute presentation by Foer, followed by a 20-minute Q&A session. While multiple classrooms may be included in each time slot, there is limited space and high demand is anticipated. With this in mind, we encourage all interested educators to schedule their classroom visit from Foer as soon as possible. Instructors can sign their classes up for a session by visiting our page on SignUpGenius <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E48AAAB2DA75-jonathan> .

NOTE: YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP FOR SESSIONS THAT SAY "ALREADY RESERVED." ALL SESSIONS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR SIGN-UP.

Because *Eating Animals* looks at the consumption of animals from a variety of perspectives, it contains material that is applicable to a wide range of scholarly disciplines, including Business, English, Environmental Studies, Philosophy, Public Policy, and Religious Studies.

For further information contact Program Coordinator Joey Tuminello: joseph@farmforward.com

Animal Geography Research Network

The Animal Geography Research Network was established in September 2011 and brings together individuals working on human-animal relations from across the discipline of geography and beyond. The network is striving to be an international and interdisciplinary network with a

broad range of academic and non-academic research outputs. The central aims of the AGRN are to:

- Develop animal geographies to make it an area which is increasingly of central importance within the discipline, through research, teaching, conferences and publications.
- Strengthen ties with the AAG Animal Geography Specialty Group and broader groups with an interest in human-animal relations.
- Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration with the aim of shaping broader research in human-animal studies.
- Stress the role that animal geography can have on engaging and influencing wider policy making and public communities across the world.

For more information see: <http://animal-geography.blogspot.com.au/>

Animals and Society Institute

Research Prize

The Animals and Society Institute (ASI) and Wesleyan Animal Studies (WAS) invite applications for the first annual undergraduate prize competition for undergraduate students pursuing research in Human-Animal Studies.

ASI and WAS will award a prize to an outstanding, original theoretical or empirical scholarly work that advances the field of human-animal studies. Papers can come from any undergraduate discipline in the humanities, social sciences or natural sciences, and must be between 4,000-7,000 words long, including abstract and references. The winning paper will be published in *Society & Animals*, a quarterly, interdisciplinary journal that publishes articles describing and analyzing experiences of and with non-human animals. Topics can include human-animal interactions in various settings (animal cruelty, the therapeutic uses of animals), the applied uses of animals (research, education, medicine and agriculture), the use of animals in popular culture (e.g. dog-fighting, circus, animal companion, animal research), attitudes toward animals as affected by different socializing agencies and strategies, representations of animals in literature, the history of the domestication of animals, the politics of animal welfare, and the constitution of the animal rights movement.

Eligibility: Applicants must be currently enrolled on a full or part-time basis in an academic program at a college or university, or have graduated from a college or university within the 12 months of the application. Prior first place winners are ineligible, as are papers that have won prizes in other competitions. Students may submit only one paper per year for consideration. Submissions are encouraged from the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences, and must deal explicitly with non-human animals and/or the human-animal relationship. Students are responsible for keeping prize coordinator updated with current contact information. If student cannot be contacted, the prize is forfeited.

Submission deadline 1 August

For application specifications and selection process see:
<http://www.animalsandsociety.org/pages/asi-was-undergraduate-prize>

Würzburg Summer School for Cultural and Literary Animal Studies

Call For Applications

33 Scholarships for the Summer School for Cultural and Literary Studies, Sep 24-Sep 29, 2012 at the University of Würzburg

1. Würzburg Summer School for Cultural and Literary Animal Studies, funded by Volkswagen Foundation

Cultural and Literary Animal Studies constitute a research area that has begun to establish itself only in recent years. In its approaches, CLAS assemble research disciplines as different and distinct as Philosophy, History, Art History, Film Studies, Literary Studies, the History of Science, Cultural Studies, Biology, Psychology, Anthropology, Geography, Sociology, and Jurisprudence. The "Würzburg Summer School for Cultural and Literary Animal Studies" intends to address the question as to the historical and systematic position of animals in our culture in the form of three consecutive annual themes, designed to build up on one another while still defining their unique and independent focal points. These annual themes will be "Nature, Culture, Agency" (2012), "Political Zoology" (2013), and "Zoological Aesthetics" (2014). Each year, the respective theme will be investigated in keynote lectures, workshops on animal theory and animal themes, panel discussions, artistic presentations, and open formats on project development and project networking. The Summer Schools predominately aim at providing a platform to junior researchers who are working on projects that address the relevant issues within the context of CLAS and wish to explore and develop the field of CLAS together with the workshop facilitators and the speakers, young academics and academics who have laid the foundations for CLAS.

The focus of "Nature, Culture, Agency," the first of the Summer Schools, will be on general questions as to an epistemology and methodology of CLAS: In the debates currently held, the animal appears as a peculiar object, whose epistemological status cannot be determined easily, a circumstance which makes it necessary to clarify a first methodological approach. Two diametrically opposed conceptions may be distinguished here, a naturalist and a culturalist one. In the problem area between a scientific realism on the one side, and the anthropologically oriented construction of animals on the other, Agency Theories have established themselves as a third way: From this perspective, animals are actively involved in the cultural activities of humans, albeit not as self-aware subjects, but clearly as acting agents. This makes conceivable a form of participation in which the animal is neither a pre-existing given, something natural, completely untouched, nor exclusively a mere construct or product, a projection foil for human activity.

2. Program Summer School 2012

The 2012 Summer School is to look into the issues revolving around a conceptualization of animals in the context of keynotes which raise the questions of the "great divide" between Culturalism and Naturalism and of a cultural theory of animals (Philippe Descola, Paris; Stefan Rieger, Bochum). Primatologist Julia Fischer from Göttingen will meet philosopher and cultural scholar Markus Wild (Berlin) in debate. In a reading followed by a discussion section, facilitated by Julika Griem (Frankfurt), writer Marcel Beyer will present a variety of textual animals and speak about the relationship of nature and culture in his fictions. Our excursion day will lead participants to a prominent site of animal research. Workshops will address our subject in both a theoretical and example-based fashion. In theory workshops, we will read and discuss texts that introduce fundamental theoretical and methodological positions (e.g., by Jacques Derrida, Philippe Descola, Bruno Latour, and Donna Haraway). Running in parallel, three example-driven theme workshops will serve to deepen our insights into the subject.: "Nature/History" (Aline Steinbrecher, Robert Suter) discusses the efficacy of animals in historical processes; "Response/Responsibility" (Herwig Grimm, Julia Bodenbun) inquires into the subject, respectively, the object status of animals, and their consequences for a practical animal ethics; "Experiment/Performance" (Roland Borgards, Esther Köhring) analyzes cases of animal action in the borderline region between natural-science and artistic experimental designs.

Looking forward to meeting with junior researchers from a variety of disciplines and countries, we envision the Summer School as a laboratory for our research area. There will be opportunities to present and discuss personal projects, as well as spaces for networking and development.

**Coming
up**

Deadline for submissions 15 June

Scholarships cover travel expenses as well as accommodation. The School seeks to attract an interdisciplinarily and internationally oriented field of participants. Working languages will be German and English.

Application form, program, and further information may be found at:
www.summerschool-clas.de

Universität Basel

Call for Applications

Law and Animals: Ethics at the Crossroads – Doctoral Program at the Law School of the University of Basel, 2012-2015

The law school launches the doctoral programme “Law and Animals: Ethics at Crossroads”. Law and animals is a novel field of legal research which examines how human society deals with animals and how such treatment is reflected in the law. The programme’s starting date is September 2012, with a first cycle of studies running until 2015. The programme comprises **ten doctoral student positions**. Scholarships (at least in form of seed money) will most likely be available. The doctoral programme will be advertised internationally. It is addressed to jurists from all over the world who aspire to obtain a PhD degree in law, in the field of “law and animals”. The bi-lingual programme (English and German) is carried out in Basel.

*Coming
up*

Deadline for submissions 15 June (for the autumn semester 2012, late applications can be accepted for the spring semester 2013)

Please find all information, especially regarding selection criteria and the application procedure, on <https://ius.unibas.ch/fakultaet/projekte/life-sciences-recht/law-and-animals/>. For additional information please contact the coordination office: animals-ius@unibas.ch

University of Strathclyde

PhD research studentship

Studentship in History at the University of Strathclyde: Beyond consumption and commodity: human-animal relations in Scotland c.1500-c.1800

The University of Strathclyde in Glasgow is funding a three-year full-time PhD studentship in History with its core focus in the area of the early modern Scottish studies, supervised by Dr Alison Cathcart (History) and Professor Erica Fudge (English Studies).

The studentship, with a start date of October 2012, covers a fee-waiver for those eligible for home/EU fees (2012/13 rates) and offers an annual stipend of £13,800. Applications are welcomed from students with a upper second or first class degree in History or a related subject and who have, or are currently completing a Masters programme.

The project will examine the nature of the relationship between humans and animals in Scotland during the period 1500 to 1800, focusing on animals that formed the staple of the Scottish diet, cattle and fish, as well as animals regarded as prestige items, such as hawks and hunting dogs. All Scots, whether arable or pastoral farmers, merchants, or the nobility, had a relationship with animals: buying, selling, eating, breeding, hunting or wearing them. This PhD will explore how animals were regarded and the extent to which this depended on the particular type of animal, on location or economic and social standing, and whether this changed throughout the early modern period.

As this research will be firmly grounded in empirical research, palaeographical skills and a comprehensive knowledge of the field of early modern Scottish history will be advantageous although not essential as training can be provided. In addition, working within the field of early modern studies and Animal Studies will require the student to engage with theoretical and literary perspectives as well.

*Coming
up*

Deadline for application 15 June

For informal enquiries please contact Dr Alison Cathcart (a.cathcart@strath.ac.uk) or Professor Erica Fudge (erica.fudge@strath.ac.uk). For further details and information on how to apply please contact: Graduate School, University of Strathclyde HaSS-postgrad@strath.ac.uk

Web of Life Foundation

Essay Prizes

The WOLFoundation is seeking submissions of essays to its annual competition that carries \$2,000 in prizes.

WOLFoundation is a non-profit organization aimed at encouraging fresh thinking and clear, accessible, enjoyable writing on subjects related to our environment. They are looking for ideas presented in a high quality, non-technical style. They welcome any opinion on environmental issues - be they for or against any particular debate or point of view. They are looking for clear, compelling writing in the English language showing original thinking and new ideas. They welcome any form of writing - essays, fiction short stories or any other form of prose written in accessible, enjoyable, non-technical style.

2011 winner was Jason M Brown from Utah Valley University and the winning essay can be downloaded here: <http://tinyurl.com/c3uotx4>

Second place Winner was Paul Wapner from the School of International Service, American University, Washington DC. His essay can be downloaded here: <http://tinyurl.com/c97fp2x>

Deadline for submission 30 September

More details of the Foundation and the detailed guidelines can be found at www.wolfoundation.org.

Messerli Research Institute on Human-Animal Interactions

University of Veterinary Medicine, University of Basel, Vienna

The new Messerli Research Institute on Human-Animal Interactions officially opened on 29 March 2012 at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna (Vienna University of Veterinary Medicine). The Institute is dedicated to investigating human-animal interactions, taking into account the underlying sciences of ethics, medicine and comparative animal cognition and behavior. The work will be characterized by a broad interdisciplinary approach involving the fields of biology, human medicine, veterinary medicine, philosophy, psychology and law. It will also have an international focus. As an example, the Master course conceived by the Messerli Research Institute entitled **Interdisciplinary Master in Human-Animal Interactions** will start in the academic year of 2012/2013 and will be taught in English.

Research Areas

The public and political debate on issues of animal welfare and animal protection law and animal ethics are characterized by large interests and seemingly incompatible views. This is not surprising, but touched with the employment of human-animal relationship issues of personal value system to existential questions of human existence. In this environment, Messerli Research Institute, by creating understandable and scientifically sound basis for responding to ethical and societal issues, will make a significant contribution.

1. Comparative Cognitive Research

- What cognitive abilities do animals use to find their way in their social and physical environment?
- What is the impact on the domestication and development of cognitive and emotional characteristics of animals?
- Find other cognitive and emotional dimensions, there are striking differences and similarities between humans and animals?
- To what extent and in what kind of animals is the care of people be encouraged in regard to behavior and cognition?

- What are the bases for the discrepancy between behavior and attitudes in relation to dealing with animals? How can we reduce this gap?

2. Comparative Medicine

- How do animals affect human health?
- What effect have man and his environment reversed in regard to the health of pets?
- How can the knowledge of veterinary medicine advanced through profit and vice versa?
- How can the development of drugs contribute to faster and more economically attractive treatment concept for humans and animals?

3. Ethics of human-animal relationship and animal philosophy

- What are viable moral foundations of respect for animals?
- What methods and theories are suitable to treat current ethical problem areas of the human-animal relationship practice?
- What can we expect from the newer theories of animal ethics?
- How has the relationship between science, law, economics and politics is to be determined in view of animal ethics issues?
- What is the role of scientific knowledge in ethical reasoning?

For more information about the Institute see: <http://www.vu-wien.ac.at/messerli-en/?L=2>

Cambridge E-Learning Institute

Online Animal Studies Courses

CEI was founded in the year 2000 to respond to a need in professional development in animal welfare and related sciences.

Cambridge e-Learning Institute is a private organisation based in Cambridge-UK working on the development of courses and resources in the life sciences. At CEI they feel that education should be made available to all, bringing subjects that are usually taught in Higher Education, to the public. They work with different partners to deliver online courses, face-to-face workshops, training and develop subject-based educational resources. CEI is based in the UK but their work expands internationally.

Their areas of expertise range from secondary education in science to specialist professional subjects. CEI's mission is to promote the understanding of ourselves and of our surrounding world through science and an ethical framework based on sustainability and welfare values. The Institute offers courses in **Animal Welfare, Animal Behaviour, Animal Ethics, Critical Thinking, Conservation, Transferable Skills** and **Digital Photography**.

The Institute's international online courses are open to participants of every country, with discussions in English. Courses are animated by a multicultural spirit of comradeship and friendship, many of which continue even after the course ends. Students range from a veterinary background, to biology, philosophy, law and journalism.

For more information see: <http://www.cambridge-elearning.com/index.html>

New Books: Summaries from publisher's websites

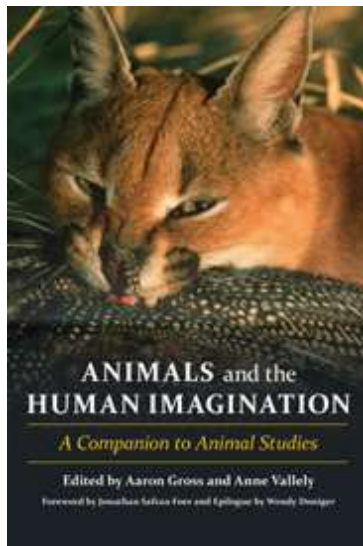
DOGS IN AUSTRALIAN ART by **Steven Miller**. Wakefield Press, 2012.



Dogs in Australian Art looks at Australian art through the lens of dog painting, showcasing over 150 masterworks that illustrate the deep bond between Australians and their best friends. Steven Miller's whimsical text argues that all the major shifts which occurred in Australia art, and which have traditionally been attributed to the environment or historical factors, really occurred because of dogs. His book is also a study of how the various dog breeds have been depicted from colonial times until the present. Features 82 breeds and 150 artworks.

Steven Miller lives in Sydney and is Head of the Art Gallery of New South Wales Research Library and Archive.

ANIMALS AND THE HUMAN IMAGINATION: A Companion to Animal Studies edited by **Aaron Gross** and **Anne Vallely**. Columbia University Press, 2012.



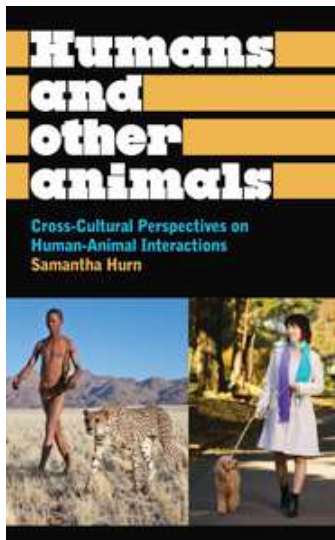
Human beings have long imagined their subjectivity, ethics, and ancestry with and through animals, yet not until the mid-twentieth century did contemporary thought reflect critically on animals' significance in human self-conception. Thinkers such as French philosopher Jacques Derrida, South African novelist J. M. Coetzee, and American theorist Donna Haraway have initiated rigorous inquiries into the question of the animal, now blossoming in a number of directions. It is no longer strange to say that if animals did not exist, we would have to invent them. This interdisciplinary and cross-cultural collection reflects the growth of animal studies as an independent field and the rise of "animality" as a critical lens through which to analyze society and culture, on a par with race and gender.

Essays consider the role of animals in the human imagination and the imagination of the human; the worldviews of indigenous peoples; animal-human mythology in early modern China; and political uses of the animal in postcolonial India. They engage with the theoretical underpinnings of the animal protection movement, representations of animals in children's literature, depictions of animals in contemporary art, and the philosophical positioning of the animal from Aristotle to Derrida. The strength of this companion lies in its timeliness and contextual diversity, which makes it essential reading for students and researchers while further developing the parameters of the discipline.

Aaron S. Gross is a professor of theology and religious studies at the University of San Diego and holds a MTS from Harvard Divinity School and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He co-chairs the American Academy of Religion's Animals and Religion Group and has played a leading role in a wide variety of national and international animal-welfare campaigns since the mid-1990s. He founded the nonprofit group Farm Forward in 2007.

Anne Vallely is a professor of religious studies at the University of Ottawa. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto, and her research focuses on the anthropology of South Asian religiosity, especially that of Jainism, and on the symbolic construction of human/non-human boundaries across cultures. She is the author of *Guardians of the Transcendent: An Ethnography of a Jain Acetic Community*.

HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Human-Animal Interactions by **Samantha Hurn**. Pluto Press, 2012.



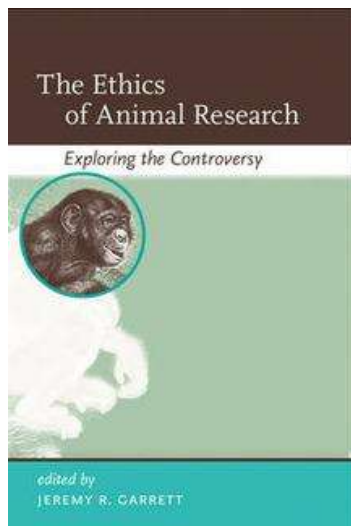
Humans and Other Animals is about the myriad and evolving ways in which humans and animals interact, the divergent cultural constructions of humanity and animality found around the world, and individual experiences of other animals.

Samantha Hurn explores the work of anthropologists and scholars from related disciplines concerned with the growing field of anthrozoology. Case studies from a wide range of cultural contexts are discussed, and readers are invited to engage with a diverse range of human-animal interactions including blood sports (such as hunting, fishing and bull fighting), pet keeping and 'petishism', eco-tourism and wildlife conservation, working animals and animals as food. The idea of animal exploitation raised by the animal rights movements is considered, as well as the anthropological implications of changing attitudes towards animal personhood, and the rise of a posthumanist philosophy in the social sciences more generally.

Key debates surrounding these issues are raised and assessed and, in the process, readers are encouraged to consider their own attitudes towards other animals and, by extension, what it means to be human.

Samantha Hurn is Lecturer in Anthropology. She has recently been appointed to the Department of Philosophy and Sociology at the University of Exeter and is now establishing an MA in Anthrozoology there. She has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Wales, Andalusia, South Africa and Swaziland.

THE ETHICS OF ANIMAL RESEARCH: Exploring the Controversy by **Jeremy R. Garrett**. MIT Press, 2012.



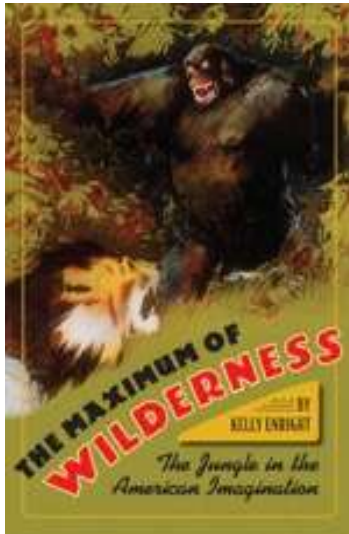
An estimated 100 million nonhuman vertebrates worldwide--including primates, dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, birds, rats, and mice--are bred, captured, or otherwise acquired every year for research purposes. Much of this research is seriously detrimental to the welfare of these animals, causing pain, distress, injury, or death. This book explores the ethical controversies that have arisen over animal research, examining closely the complex scientific, philosophical, moral, and legal issues involved.

Defenders of animal research face a twofold challenge: they must make a compelling case for the unique benefits offered by animal research; and they must provide a rationale for why these benefits justify treating animal subjects in ways that would be unacceptable for human subjects. This challenge is at the heart of the book. Some contributors argue that it can be met fairly easily; others argue that it can never be met; still others argue that it can sometimes be met, although not necessarily easily. Their essays consider how moral theory can be brought to bear on the practical

ethical questions raised by animal research, examine the new challenges raised by the emerging possibilities of biotechnology, and consider how to achieve a more productive dialogue on this polarizing subject. The book's careful blending of theoretical and practical considerations and its balanced arguments make it valuable for instructors as well as for scholars and practitioners.

Jeremy R. Garrett is a Research Associate at the Children's Mercy Bioethics Center at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

THE MAXIMUM OF WILDNESS: *The Jungle in the American Imagination* by Kelly Enright.
University of Virginia Press, 2012.

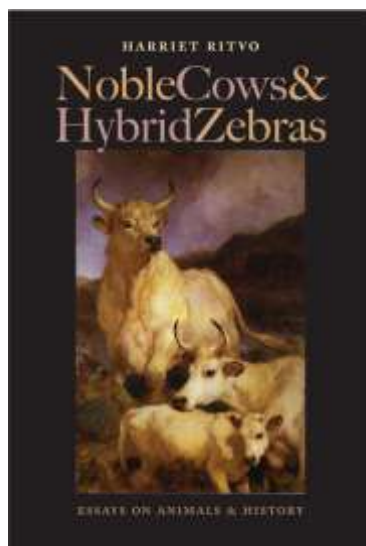


Danger in the Congo! The Unexplored Amazon! Long perceived as a place of mystery and danger, and more recently as a fragile system requiring our protection, the tropical forest captivated America for over a century. In *The Maximum of Wildness*, Kelly Enright traces the representation of tropical forests--what Americans have typically thought of as "jungles"--and their place in both our perception of "wildness" and the globalization of the environmental movement. In the early twentieth century, jungle adventure--as depicted by countless books and films, from Burroughs' Tarzan novels to *King Kong*--had enormous mass appeal. Concurrent with the proliferation of a popular image of the jungle that masked many of its truths was the work of American naturalists who sought to represent an "authentic" view of tropical nature through museums, zoological and botanical gardens, books, and film. Enright examines the relationship between popular and scientific representations of the forest through the lives and work of Martin and Osa Johnson (who with films such as *Congorilla* and *Simba* blended authenticity with adventure), as

well as renowned naturalists John Muir, William Beebe, David Fairchild, and Richard Evans Schultes. The author goes on to explore a startling shift at midcentury in the perception of the tropical forest--from the "jungle," a place that endangers human life, to the "rain forest," a place that is itself endangered.

Kelly Enright is the author of *Rhinoceros* and *Osa and Martin: For the Love of Adventure*.

NOBLE COWS AND HYBRID ZEBRAS: *Essays on Animals and History* by Harriet Ritvo.
University of Virginia Press, Dec 2010.



Over the past two decades, Harriet Ritvo has established herself as a leading scholar in animal studies and one of those most responsible for establishing this field of study as a crucial part of environmental and social history. Her two well-known books, *The Platypus and the Mermaid* and *The Animal Estate*, did much to introduce and illuminate the importance of nonhuman animals to the study of human culture. Hunting and husbandry, as well as petkeeping and zoo-going, forge powerful connections between animal lives and those of humans: in fact, animals have helped define what a human is.

They have also been one of the most reliable measures of humans' disproportionate influence on the environment. From domestication to extinction, the human impact on animal populations has been profound. In the essays collected in *Noble Cows and Hybrid Zebras*, Ritvo explores our attitudes toward animals, from cruelty to sentimentality to the indifference of pure practicality, and touches on many social and scientific issues, including genetic engineering and an animal protection movement much older than most readers would think (animal advocacy was a cause embraced by many Victorians). While Ritvo's writing represents the cutting edge in animal history, it has always been characterized by its accessibility, and these essays originally appeared not only in scholarly journals but also in *Grand Street*, *Daedalus*, and *American Scholar*. Collected for the first time in a single volume, they reveal an important dimension of human history by looking to those other creatures that have surrounded us all along.

Harriet Ritvo is Arthur J. Conner Professor of History at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the author, most recently, of *The Dawn of Green: Manchester, Thirlmere, and Modern Environmentalism*.

EVERY TWELVE SECONDS: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight by Timothy Pachirat Yale University Press, 2011.



This is an account of industrialized killing from a participant's point of view. The author, political scientist Timothy Pachirat, was employed undercover for five months in a Great Plains slaughterhouse where 2,500 cattle were killed per day—one every twelve seconds. Working in the cooler as a liver hanger, in the chutes as a cattle driver, and on the kill floor as a food-safety quality-control worker, Pachirat experienced firsthand the realities of the work of killing in modern society. He uses those experiences to explore not only the slaughter industry but also how, as a society, we facilitate violent labor and hideaway that which is too repugnant to contemplate.

Through his vivid narrative and ethnographic approach, Pachirat brings to life massive, routine killing from the perspective of those who take part in it. He shows how surveillance and sequestration operate within the slaughterhouse and in its interactions with the community at large. He also considers how society is organized to distance and hide uncomfortable realities

from view. With much to say about issues ranging from the sociology of violence and modern food production to animal rights and welfare, *Every Twelve Seconds* is an important and disturbing work.

Timothy Pachirat is assistant professor, Department of Politics, The New School. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.

BEYOND HUMAN: From Animality To Transhumanism edited by Charlie Blake, Claire Molloy and Steven Shakespeare. Continuum, 2012.



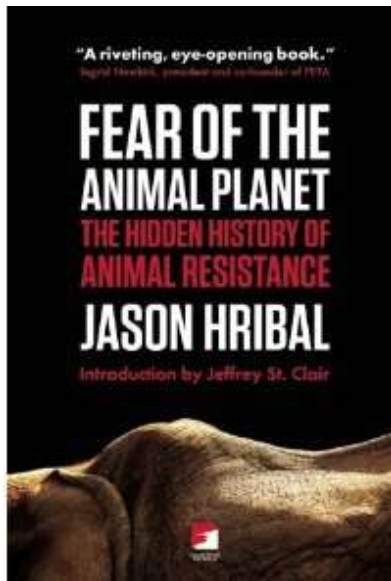
Beyond Human investigates what it means to call ourselves human beings in relation to both our distant past and our possible futures as a species, and the questions this might raise for our relationship with the myriad species with which we share the planet.

Drawing on insights from zoology, theology, cultural studies and aesthetics, an international line-up of contributors explore such topics as our origins as reflected in early cave art in the upper Palaeolithic through to our prospects at the forefront of contemporary biotechnology. In the process, the book positions "the human" in readiness for what many have characterized as our transhuman or posthuman future. For if our status as rational animals or "animals that think" has traditionally distinguished us as apparently superior to other species, this distinction has become increasingly problematic. It has come to be seen as based on skills and technologies that do not distinguish us so much as position us as transitional animals. It is the direction and consequences of this transition that is the central concern of *Beyond Human*.

The volume contains chapters by Giovanni Aloï, Ron Broglio, Bryndis Snæbjörnsdóttir and Mark Wilson, Lucile Desblache, Donald L. Turne, Gareth Jones and Maja Whitaker, and more.

Charlie Blake is Senior Lecturer in Critical and Cultural Theory at Liverpool Hope University, UK. Claire Molloy is Senior Lecturer in the School of Politics, History, Media & Communication at Liverpool Hope University, UK and a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. Steven Shakespeare is Lecturer in Philosophy at Liverpool Hope University and a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics.

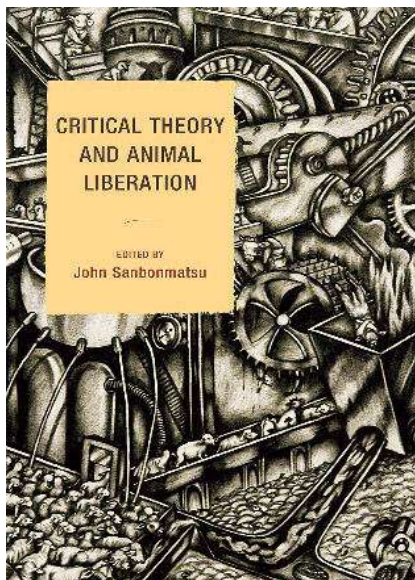
FEAR OF THE ANIMAL PLANET: The Hidden History of Animal Resistance by Jason Hribal. AK Press, 2011.



A Siberian tiger at the San Francisco Zoo leaps a 12-foot high wall and mauls three visitors who had been tormenting her, killing one. A circus elephant tramples and gores a sadistic trainer, who had repeatedly fed her lit cigarettes. A pair of orangutans at the San Diego Zoo steal a crowbar and screwdriver and break-out of their enclosure. An orca at Sea World snatches his trainer into the pool and holds her underwater until she drowns. What's going on here? Are these mere accidents? Simply cases of animals acting on instinct? That's what the zoos and animal theme parks would have you believe. But historian Jason Hribal tells a different story. In the most provocative book on animal rights since Peter Singer's *Animal Liberation*, Hribal argues persuasively that these escapes and attacks are deliberate, that the animals are acting with intent, that they are asserting their own desires for freedom. *Fear of the Animal Planet* is a harrowing, and curiously uplifting, chronicle of resistance against the captivity and torture of animals.

Jason Hribal is an historian and educator. He is the contemporary editor of John Oswald's 1791 classic, *The Cry of Nature*.

CRITICAL THEORY AND ANIMAL LIBERATION edited by John Sanbonmatsu. Rowman and Littlefield, 2011.



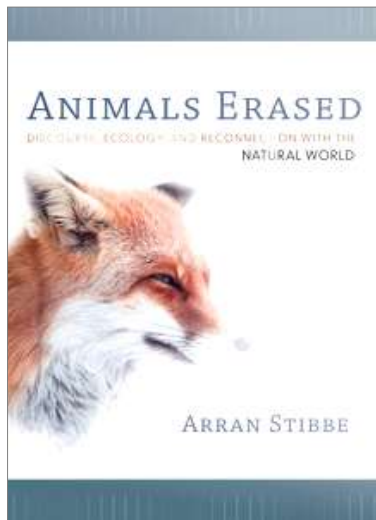
Critical Theory and Animal Liberation is the first collection to approach our relationship with other animals from the critical or "left" tradition in political and social thought. Breaking with past treatments that have framed the problem as one of "animal rights," the authors instead depict the exploitation and killing of other animals as a political question of the first order. The contributions highlight connections between our everyday treatment of animals and other forms of social power, mass violence, and domination, from capitalism and patriarchy to genocide, fascism, and ecocide.

Contributors include well-known writers in the field as well as scholars in other areas writing on animals for the first time. Among other things, the authors apply Freud's theory of repression to our relationship to the animal, debunk the "Locavore" movement, expose the sexism of the animal defense movement, and point the way toward a new transformative politics that would encompass the human and animal alike.

Contributors: Carol Adams; Aaron Bell; Ted Benton; Susan Benston; Carl Boggs; Karen Davis; Josephine Donovan; Christina Gerhardt; Victoria Johnson; Renzo Llorente; Eduardo Mendieta; John Sorenson; Dennis Soron; Vasile Stanescu and Zipporah Weisberg

John Sanbonmatsu is associate professor of philosophy at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He is the author of *The Postmodern Prince*.

ANIMALS ERASED: Discourse, Ecology, and Reconnection with the Natural World by Aaron Stibbe. Wesleyan University Press, 2012.

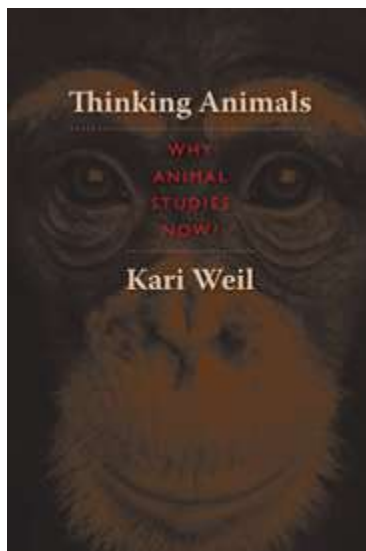


A linguist explores our relationships with animals and the natural world. Animals are disappearing, vanishing, and dying out—not just in the physical sense of becoming extinct, but in the sense of being erased from our consciousness. Increasingly, interactions with animals happen at a remove: mediated by nature programs, books, and cartoons; framed by the enclosures of zoos and aquariums; distanced by the museum cases that display lifeless bodies. In this thought-provoking book, Arran Stibbe takes us on a journey of discovery, revealing the many ways in which language affects our relationships with animals and the natural world. Animal-product industry manuals, school textbooks, ecological reports, media coverage of environmental issues, and animal-rights polemics all commonly portray animals as inanimate objects or passive victims. In his search for an alternative to these negative forms of discourse, Stibbe turns to the traditional culture of Japan. Within Zen philosophy, haiku poetry, and even contemporary children's animated films, animals appear as

active agents, leading their own lives for their own purposes, and of value in themselves.

Arran Stibbe is a reader in ecological linguistics at the University of Gloucestershire. He is the founder of the *Language and Ecology Research Forum* (www.ecoling.net).

THINKING ANIMALS: Why Animal Studies Now? By Kari Weil. Columbia University Press, 2012



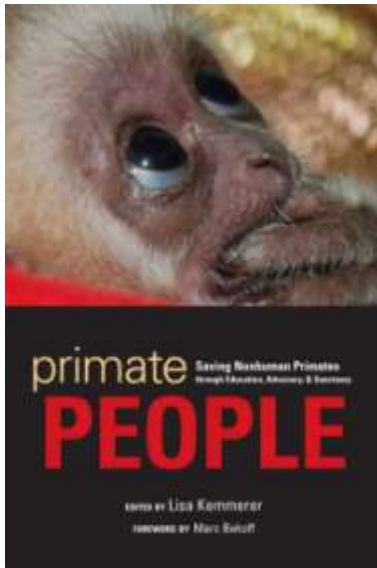
Kari Weil provides a critical introduction to the field of animal studies as well as an appreciation of its thrilling acts of destabilization. Examining real and imagined confrontations between human and nonhuman animals, she charts the presumed lines of difference between human beings and other species and the personal, ethical, and political implications of those boundaries.

Weil's considerations recast the work of such authors as Kafka, Mann, Woolf, and Coetzee, and such philosophers as Nietzsche, Heidegger, Derrida, Deleuze, Agamben, Cixous, and Hearne, while incorporating the aesthetic perspectives of such visual artists as Bill Viola, Frank Noelker, and Sam Taylor-Wood and the "visual thinking" of the autistic animal scientist Temple Grandin. She addresses theories of pet keeping and domestication; the importance of animal agency; the intersection of animal studies, disability studies, and ethics; and the role of gender, shame, love, and grief in shaping our attitudes toward

animals. Exposing humanism's conception of the human as a biased illusion, and embracing posthumanism's acceptance of human and animal entanglement, Weil unseats the comfortable assumptions of humanist thought and its species-specific distinctions.

Kari Weil is University Professor of Letters at Wesleyan University. She has published widely on feminist theory; literary representations of gender (especially in France); the riding, breeding, and eating of horses in nineteenth-century France; and, more recently, on theories and representations of animal otherness and human-animal relations. Her course, "Animal Subjects," which she first taught at the California College of the Arts, won "Best Course Award" from the United States Humane Society.

PRIMATE PEOPLE: Saving Nonhuman Primates through Education, Advocacy, And Sanctuary edited by [Lisa Kemmerer](#). University of Utah Press, 2012



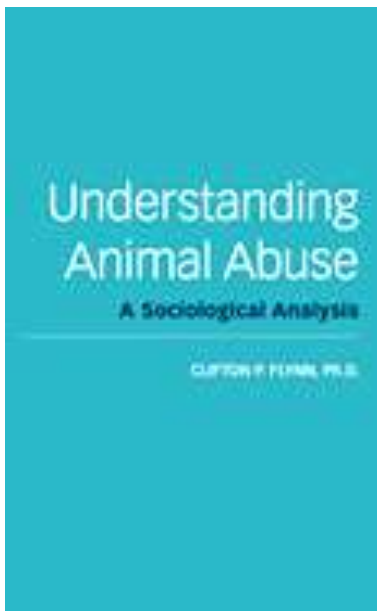
In the last 30 years the bushmeat trade has led to the slaughter of nearly 90 percent of West Africa's bonobos, perhaps our closest relatives, and has recently driven Miss Waldron's red colobus monkey to extinction. Earth was once rich with primates, but every species—except one—is now extinct or endangered because of one primate—*Homo sapiens*. How have our economic and cultural practices pushed our cousins toward destruction? Would we care more about their fate if we knew something of their individual lives and sufferings? Would we help them if we understood how our choices threaten their existence? This anthology helps to answer these questions.

Sometimes shocking and disturbing, sometimes poignant and encouraging, *Primate People* always draws the reader into the lives of nonhuman primates. Activists around the world reveal the antics and pleasures of monkeys, the tendencies and idiosyncrasies of chimpanzees, and the sufferings and fears of macaques. Charming, difficult, sensitive—these testimonies demonstrate that nonhuman primates and human beings are,

indeed, closely related. Woven into the anthology's lucid narratives are the stories of how we harm and create the conditions that endanger primates, and what we can and must do to prevent their ongoing suffering and fast-approaching extinction.

[Lisa Kemmerer](#) is an associate professor of philosophy and religions at Montana State University, Billings. She has published numerous scholarly articles and has authored or edited several books, including *Animals and World Religions* and *Sister Species: Women, Animals, and Social Justice*.

UNDERSTANDING ANIMAL ABUSE: A Sociological Study by [Clifton P. Flynn](#). Lantern Books, 2012

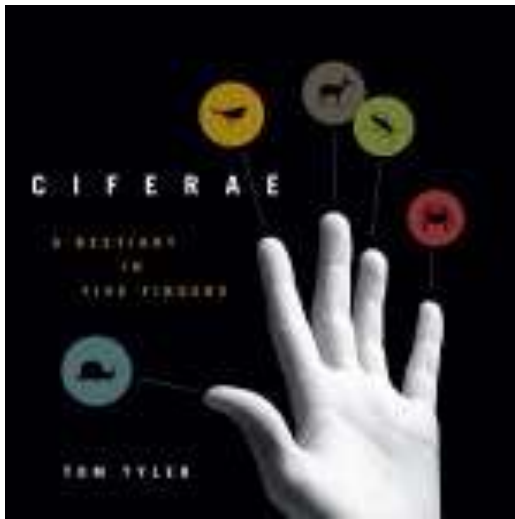


Until the last decade of the twentieth century, the abusive or cruel treatment of animals had received virtually no attention among academicians. Since then, however, empirical studies of animal abuse, and its relation to other forms of violence toward humans, have increased not only in number but in quality and stature. Sociologists, criminologists, social workers, psychologists, legal scholars, feminists, and others have recognized the myriad reasons that animal abuse is worthy of serious scholarly focus.

In his overview of contemporary sociological understanding of animal abuse, Clifton Flynn asks why studying animal abuse is important, examines the connections between animal abuse and human violence, surveys the theses surrounding the supposed link between abuse of animals and humans, and lays out some theoretical perspectives on the issue. The book offers recommendations for policy and professionals and directions for future research. Ultimately, *Understanding Animal Abuse* challenges the reader to consider animal abuse as not limited just to harmful acts committed by individuals.

[Clifton Flynn](#) is a professor of sociology at the University of South Carolina Upstate. In 2001, he was awarded the New Animals & Society Course Award by the Humane Society of the United States, and in 2008, was named a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics.

CIFERAE: A Bestiary In Five Fingers by Tom Tyler. University of Minnesota Press, Posthumanities series, 2012.



The Greek philosopher Protagoras, in the opening words of his lost book *Truth*, famously asserted, “Man is the measure of all things.” This contention—that humanity cannot know the world except by means of human aptitudes and abilities—has endured through the centuries in the work of diverse writers. In this bold and creative new investigation into the philosophical and intellectual parameters of the question of the animal, Tom Tyler explores a curious fact: in arguing or assuming that knowledge is characteristically human, thinkers have time and again employed animals as examples, metaphors, and fables. From Heidegger’s lizard and Popper’s bees to Saussure’s ox and Freud’s wolves, Tyler points out, “we find a multitude of brutes and beasts crowding into the texts to which they are supposedly unwelcome.”

Inspired by the medieval bestiaries, Tyler’s book features an assortment of “wild animals” (*ferae*)—both real and imaginary—who appear in the works of philosophy as mere *ciferae*, or ciphers; each is there deployed as a placeholder, of no importance or worth in their own right. Examining the work of such figures as Bataille, Moore, Nietzsche, Kant, Whorf, Darwin, and Derrida, among others, Tyler identifies four ways in which these animals have been used and abused: as interchangeable ciphers; as instances of generalized animality; as anthropomorphic caricatures; and as repetitive stereotypes. Looking closer, however, he finds that these unruly beasts persistently and mischievously question the humanist assumptions of their would-be employers. Tyler ultimately challenges claims of human distinctiveness and superiority, which are so often represented by the supposedly unique and perfect human hand. Contrary to these claims, he contends that the hand is, in fact, a primitive organ, and one shared by many different creatures, thereby undercutting one of the foundations of anthropocentrism and opening up the possibility of nonhuman, or more-than-human, knowledge.

Tom Tyler is senior lecturer in philosophy and culture at Oxford Brookes University.

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Book Review

EMPIRE OF DOGS: CANINES, JAPAN AND THE MAKING OF THE MODERN IMPERIAL WORLD by Aaron Herald Skabelund. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011

Review by Wendy Woodward. Professor, English Department, University of the Western Cape



Part history, part cultural analysis, *Empire of Dogs* is erudite and scholarly while being fluidly readable and entertaining. Skabelund has chosen to write a history that foregrounds the nonhuman in the form of dogs for their inextricable connection with humans and their imperial and colonising projects. While the dominant focus is on Japan because of its shift from being partly dominated by western powers to becoming an imperial power itself, Skabelund constantly connects issues surfacing in Japan to those in other imperial endeavours. The notion of “canine imperialism” is defined with reference “both to the actions of individual dogs” who travelled to the imperial world “as well as to a particular set of dog-keeping practices and specific breeds that materialised chiefly in Britain” and then spread outwards (2). Dogs are thus not just discursively defined, but are agentive in themselves and through their relationships with humans.

Quite how one can ever reach the ‘real’ historical dogs is problematic of course but Skabelund suggests that analysing pictorial evidence in film, photography and taxidermy is more conducive to representing dogs as “active coproducers” of history. Certainly, the dogs

themselves appear as strong presences in various narratives and I was beguiled by the way dogs’ bodies are made to speak over time. The myth of the loyal Hachiko who was seen to visit the station daily to meet his deceased ‘master’ was co-opted variously, by educationalists favouring the “moral edification” of the tale, by a society promoting the indigenous dog (although he had an unacceptably floppy ear which was ‘fixed’ by the taxidermist), by fascism for his apparent submission to authority. Yet on his death, rumour had it, he had kebab skewers in his stomach which pointed to a more basic reason for his routine visits to the station. For Skabelund, this denoted some resistance to his symbolic deployment, some assertion of his body in his possible attempt “to have the last word.”

The book begins with a discussion of constructions of “The Native Dog and the Colonial Dog” and how dogs are classed and raced in the imperial project with the former being seen to embody barbarism and savagery and the latter all that is civilised. Eradication campaigns against local dogs were not just about ostensible health issues but also about repressing the people they lived with, like the aboriginal Ainu. Dogs were thus a highly contentious political issue—as they have been in all colonial contexts but ironically during the Meiji period, government actively encouraged and legislatively supported the cultural capital of western breeds. The ubiquity of ideologies about dogs and their breeds is shown with reference to other imperial practices, but I was sorry that further African connections from the edited collection *Canis Africanis: A Dog History of Southern Africa* (2008) by Lance van Sittert and Sandra Swart were not included.

With the exploitation of representations of dogs within fascism, came the promotion of indigenous dogs as embodying a national character. Sinisterly, these dogs were celebrated in relation to nationalism, for their purity, fidelity and violence. Skabelund deftly shows the parallels with and differences from Nazi Germany and the latter’s glorification of the German Shepherd dog, a very new breed at the time. In the culture of militarisation dogs became masculinised as heroic, fighting dogs; the reality, ironically, was often very different especially as most of the enlisted dogs had been family pets. Skabelund conveys the subjectivities of these dogs beyond their discursive constructions for dogs can be unpredictable in military situations. The chapter on “Dogs of War” is particularly fascinating with the study of the recruitment of children’s literature into the nationalist

project and the similarity of canine practices in Britain, Germany, the US and Japan. Beneath the heroic discourses of dogs in war, realities were very different for dogs who lacked food or were transformed into food, or even into pelts for the war effort.

The final chapter on “The Commodification of Contemporary Dog Keeping” documents the shift after World War Two to the proliferation of dogs as pets, following after economic stability and North American popular culture. In contrast to dogs in war, pets tended to be feminised as consumer items. The analysis of the place of lapdogs in Japanese culture is intriguing; with dogs as child substitutes they are blamed by conservative politicians for women not contributing to raising the Japanese birth-rate. In spite of the commodification of dogs, Skabelund is certain that they are “no longer subaltern” and that “[t]heir bark has never sounded so loud and clear.” A short review cannot do justice to this rich, far-ranging text with its extraordinary range of illustrations. I recommend it without reservation to scholars in animal studies and to anyone who has ever wondered about the histories of dogs and their imbrication in human histories.

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Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture

Issue 20, March 2012. **Alternative Ornithologies**

The 20th issue of *Antennae* is a rather special one from a number of reasons. First of all it marks the first five years of *Antennae*'s activity, and what a five years this has been for animals and art! Second, this issue is a co-edited effort dedicated to art, plumage and birds. Merle Patchett has developed an international reputation based on her contribution to the subject of animal surfaces and geography. Curating the exhibition Fashioning Feathers provided the perfect platform to gather a unique army of artists and academics with a soft spot for the subject. Amanda Boetzekes, Kate Foster, Liz Gomez, Kirsteen Greer, Hayden Lorimer, Kate McGwire, Marine Pacault, Rachel Poliquin, Perdita Phillips, Andrea Roe and Maria Whiteman have with their contributions, made this issue truly special. It was also very important for *Antennae* to mark its fifth birthday with modesty, without unnecessary trumpeting and with an issue that represented the values of inclusion, diversity and commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration that has made it such a popular read with so many people around the world. Thanks to all whom have contributed to the making of each issue thus far. Thanks to the Academic and Advisory Boards, the Network of Global Contributors and those who actively promote the journal around the world. Ultimately, thanks to those who read it, find inspiration and information in it for their work, and use it in their artworks, research or teaching.

Giovanni Aloï, Editor

Download it here: www.antennae.org.uk

Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy

Volume 27. 3, 2012. **Special Issue: Animal Others**

Edited by Lori Gruen and Kari Weil

The issue includes:

- Intimate Bureaucracies: Roadkill, Policy, and Fieldwork on the Shoulder – Alexandra Koelle
- Feminists Encountering Animals – Lori Gruen, Kari Weil, Kelly Oliver, Traci Warkentin, Stephanie Jenkins, Carrie Rohman, Emily Clark and Greta Gaard
- Enthusiastic Improvement: Mary Astell and Damaris Masham on Sociability- Joanne E. Myers
- Toward a Postcolonial, Posthumanist Feminist Theory: Centralizing Race and Culture in Feminist Work on Nonhuman Animals - Maneesha Deckha
- Bitch, Bitch: Personal Criticism, Feminist Theory, and Dog-writing - Susan McHugh
- Gender-Neutral Feminism of Hannah Arendt - Kimberly Maslin
- The Role of Love in Animal Ethics - Anca Gheaus
- Thou Shall Not Harm All Living Beings: Feminism, Jainism, and Animals - Irina Aristarkhova
- Species Trouble: Judith Butler, Mourning, and the Precarious Lives of Animals - James Stanescu
- Ethical Embodiment and Moral Reasoning: A Challenge to Peter Singer - Rachel Tillman

To access go to: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/%28ISSN%291527-2001/earlyview>

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Animal Studies Journal



The new online scholarly journal of the Australian Animal Studies Group, provides a forum for current research in human-animal Studies. *ASJ* publishes international cross-disciplinary content with a particular, but not exclusive, interest in Australian, New Zealand and Asia-Pacific scholarship. The journal, which is published twice yearly, is fully refereed (double-blind peer reviewed) and open access.

ASJ publishes inquiring and critical academic work by both new and established scholars whose work focuses on animals and human relationships with other animals. The journal aims to be a leading international forum for the dissemination and discussion of animal studies research and creative work.

Please submit proposals and abstracts for forthcoming editions to editor Melissa Boyde:
boyde@uow.edu.au

For more information, including submission guidelines see: <http://ro.uow.edu.au/asj/>

The Virginia Woolf Miscellany

Special issue: Woolf and Animals

This bi-annual journal is seeking contributions for a special issue on Woolf and Animals. From the animal nicknames she shared with loved ones to the purchase of "a beautiful cat, a Persian cat" with her first earnings as a writer; from the cawing rooks in *To the Lighthouse* to the complex life

of *Flush* to the disturbing animal imagery in *Between the Acts*, animals play a key role in Woolf's life and writing. The publication invites submissions discussing animals in Woolf both fictional and actual and also welcomes articles that align Woolf with animal elements in the work and lives of others.

Deadline for submissions 1 February 2013

Please send papers of up to 2,500 words to Kristin Czarnecki kristin_czarnecki@georgetowncollege.edu and Vara Neverow neverowv1@southernct.edu

For more information see: <http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/45657> and <http://www.home.southernct.edu/~neverowv1/vwm.html>

Antennae: The Journal of Art in Visual Culture

The Acoustic Animal

An article published in *The New Yorker* by music critic Alex Ross in 2011 ("Prince of Darkness", December 2011) brought to the surface an interesting aspect of Jacques Arcadelt's madrigal of 1539 called *Il Bianco y Dolce Cigno* in which "The text presents a typical Renaissance double-entendre, comparing the cry of a dying swan to the 'joy and desire' of sexual oblivion. At the climax, the voices split into an ecstatic series of wavelike lines -- 'the first graphic simulation in music of orgasm'.

Antennae will dedicate an entire issue to the influence of animals on music and sound in general. The scope and focus of the issue will be to cast a wide historical and stylistic range: from classical to pop, experimental and non-Western music to sound installation in art, theatre and film. This issue will propose a thorough investigation of the role played by animals in music as subjects, objects and active agents. Shifting away from the historical prominence that sight has played in the forming of our understanding of the world, this issue will propose a range of new aural epistemological perspectives. Although we usually tend to focus on modern and contemporary art, this issue will represent an opportunity to cover a wider range of historical periods.

Academic essays = maximum length 8000 words; Interviews = maximum length 10000 words; Fiction = maximum length 8000 words

Deadline for submissions 1 February 2013

More info at: <http://www.antennae.org.uk/> Submission emailed to: antennaeproject@gmail.com

ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature

Special Issue: Postcolonial Ecocriticisms among Settler-Colonial Nations

Both Postcolonialism and ecocriticism are terms fraught with tensions. While they haven't followed identical trajectories through time and criticism, both critical strategies nevertheless occupy similar modes and subjects of attention in contemporary literary theory. Yet, as Helen Tiffin and Graham Huggan suggest in *Postcolonial Ecocriticism*, approaching the two fields as correctives for one another perpetuates the assumptions that postcolonialism appeals only to anthropocentric values, while ecocriticism attends solely to eco-/bio-centric views. Postcolonial-ecocritical approaches have the capacity to work in complementary ways, illustrating the constitutive relations between social and environmental concerns.

This special issue of *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature* is situated in the wake of recent critical efforts to engage the dynamic field of postcolonial ecocriticism such as Postcolonial Green, Postcolonial Ecologies, and Wilderness into Civilized Shapes. We seek articles that focus on contemporary cultural production from specific settler-colonial spaces: Aotearoa-New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and South Africa. Acknowledging the ways these regions have generally been considered together as "white settler colonies" with shared histories as Commonwealth nations,

we are assuming, after Annie E Coombes in *Rethinking Settler Colonialism*, that the similar “administrative structures and civic institutions” provide a basis from which to begin considering the heterogeneous ways in which settler colonials in “Australia,” “Canada,” “New Zealand,” and “South Africa” positioned themselves vis-à-vis Indigenous communities. In other words, the limited geographical scope of this special issue aims to both acknowledge the historical (if problematic) grouping of these nations as settler-colonial societies and encourage different strategies for thinking the connections between them.

We are particularly interested in comparative papers about contemporary/emergent writers and authors/texts/films not commonly studied either beyond their nations' respective borders or from within the merging perspectives of postcolonialism and ecocriticism. A focus on contemporary writers, in particular young/emerging writers, stems precisely from the fact of their contemporaneity, which enables them to deal with and challenge “postcolonial” and “ecocritical” issues and concepts that have themselves emerged out of decades of postcolonial and ecocritical studies.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- environmental justice
- nonhuman animals
- ecologies of war/animals at war
- eco-cosmopolitanism
- Truth & Reconciliation
- spatial organization
- resource extraction/depletion
- SF/speculative fiction
- science (western and non-western)
- poverty
- ecological/environmental diaspora
- ecological imperialism
- food systems/agribusiness
- biopolitics/biotechnologies
- water
- ecopoetry
- national parks/conservation areas
- narratives of retreat/back to the land
- human-animal relations
- homecoming/notions of belonging
- coastlines/oceans
- desertification

*Coming
up*

Deadline for submissions is 13 July

Please send 250-word proposals to guest editors Travis V Mason, Elzette Steenkamp, and Lisa Szabo-Jones at PocoEcolssue@gmail.com.

Animal Apps and Games

Heart of the Ark: Symbolic and Totemic Ways of Knowing Animals by True North Productions, 2012. Compatible with iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad

The Heart of the Ark app was designed to help you experience animals from symbolic and totemic perspectives. The app consists of an interactive digital deck of "Ark Cards," each depicting an animal and a summary of its natural history and symbolism, as well as totemically inspired suggestions for applying that animal's symbolism to your life. The cards can be used for the following: To explore ourselves and our lives by approaching animals as guides and teachers. To explore the potential meaning of animal encounters in the physical world, as well as in dreams, visions, meditation, and creativity. As an animal symbolism dictionary. As an idea generator or tool for creativity. The app also includes a "Field Journal" that you can use to record animal encounters. After you record a particular animal encounter, you can import information from the Ark Cards into your journal entry. Author/Developer, **Belinda Recio**, is the recipient of the 2004 United States Humane Society's Award for "Innovation in the Study of Animals and Society." 5% of proceeds go to the Humane Society of the United States.

Virtual Water by Raureif, 2012. English, Italian. Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad

The vast amount of water consumed and polluted in the making of products has an enormous impact on the ecological footprint of human civilization. Carry the Virtual Water digital companion anywhere and grow more conscious about how much water our everyday food and beverages really consume. The official Virtual Water app is the interactive edition of the popular Water Footprint poster by German designer Timm Kekeritz. It has been featured in various publications worldwide, including Greenpeace Magazine, SEED Magazine, La Repubblica, IdN Magazine. The Virtual Water app provides richer information on even more products than the printed edition—plus full interactivity. Picking a product from the list takes you to its individual infographic: a beautiful illustration and animated water drops. Find information on beef, sheep, pork and chicken products. Swipe to navigate and compare products. Flip to get quick facts on the current product.

Pet Pardons Facebook App founded by Chris Hoar and Ashley Owen Hill.

Pet Pardons is a facebook application that allows users to get involved in trying to save shelter dogs & cats on death row, in addition to promoting pets in no-kill shelters. The goal of Pet Pardons is to find homes for shelter pets who are scheduled for euthanasia (as well as those in no-kill shelters), by getting their faces & stories out to the public. The hope is that someone will be able to help each pet by fostering, transporting, donating, and/or adopting. In order to help a Pet Pardons dog or cat, the user can click the "Advocate" button on each pet's profile. The "Advocate" button will instantly share the pet on the user's facebook wall, allowing the user's friends to see & share the pet as well. The more users who advocate for each dog & cat, the better the chances of the pet being seen by someone who can rescue or adopt—thus granting the pet a "pardon!" To install the Pet Pardons app, follow the link & click **Install Pet Pardons**
<http://apps.facebook.com/petpardons/>

Tiny Wings by Andreas Illiger, 2011. Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iOS 3.1 or later

Simple but skillful "one button" arcade game about the dream of flying. You have always dreamed of flying - but your wings are tiny. Luckily the world is full of beautiful hills. Use the hills as jumps - slide down, flap your wings and fly! At least for a moment - until this annoying gravity brings you back down to earth. But the next hill is waiting for you already. Watch out for the night and fly as fast as you can. The world is changing every day - so it does in this game! Procedural generated graphics will make "tiny wings" look different every day you play. Upgrade your nest by fulfilling tasks. Every big jump over the ocean will bring you to new adventures on a new island. Game Center and OpenFeint enabled with 30 tricky achievements. Tiny Wings was chosen as the iPhone Game of the Year in App Store Rewind 2011 in Europe and many other countries.

Exhibitions: Current and past, calls for submission

ANIMAL/HUMAN

12 May-22 July

University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane

Open
NOW



Jack Gilbert *Dollar learns electric* 2011. linocut on BFK Rives paper, edition 7/80
43.0 x 36.5 cm. Collection of The University of Queensland, purchased 2011. Reproduced courtesy of the artist and Pormpuraaw Art and Culture Centre, Cape York Peninsula. Photo: Carl Warner

Artists today are depicting animals in their work with remarkable frequency. The exhibition *ANIMAL/HUMAN* presents a selection of works by contemporary Australian artists that explore our complex, contradictory and sometimes contentious relationship with other species. Their work variously touches on the psychological, ethical, philosophical, scientific and cultural parameters of the relationship. A number of works continue traditions whereby animals are depicted in symbolic or totemic form, are endowed with human qualities, or stand in for the self. Works range from playful to provocative, while others refuse easy categorisation.

ANIMAL/HUMAN includes works by artists such as Lisa Adams, Adam Cullen, Marian Drew, Julie Fragar, Fiona Hall, Pat Hoffie, Janet Laurence, Sam Leach, Sonia Leber and David Chesworth, Laith McGregor, Noel McKenna, Tim McMonagle, Danie Mellor, Dennis Nona, Patricia Piccinini, Ryan Presley, Alick Tipoti, Jenny Watson, and Michael Zavros.

For details of the public seminar that accompanied the opening of the exhibition see [Regional News](#) – Queensland, above.

For more information about the exhibition see:
<http://www.uq.edu.au/news/index.html?article=24695>

US AND THEM – UMWELTEN

11 May-7 June

*Open
NOW*

Project Space Spare Roo, RMIT University



Steve Baker, *Roadside XII*, 2011, Photograph, dimensions variable

Umwelten: “Where classical science saw a single world that comprised within it all living species hierarchically ordered...Uexkull instead supposes an infinite variety of perceptual worlds that...are all perfectly equal & linked together...The fly, the dragonfly, & the bee that we observe flying next to us on a sunny day do not move in the same world as the one in which we observe them, nor do they share with us – or with each other – the same time & the same space.” -Giorgio Agamben
Eight artists from the RMIT Global Ecologies Research Group respond to German ethologist Jacob von Uexkull's theory of 'umwelt', which suggests that each and every animal, including humans, lives in its own perceptual world that is separate from any other, yet perfectly equal and linked together.

Artists:

Steve Baker
Catherine Clover [Co-curator]
Yifang Lu
Rebecca Mayo
Jen Rae [Co-curator]
Fleur Summers
Debbie Symons
Jasmine Targett

Essay by Linda Williams

For more information see: <http://usandthem-umwelten.blogspot.com.au/> and <http://schoolofartgalleries.dsc.rmit.edu.au/PSSR/exhibitions/2012/umwelten.html>

STRANGE TALES

10-29 May

Despard Gallery, Castray Esplanade, Hobart

Helen Hopcroft



Helen Hopcroft. *Tiger Bride* 2012. Oil on canvas. 121.5 x 150 cm

Artist Statement

A number of contemporary artists and writers are currently exploring creative strategies to build bridges of empathy and compassion between humans and animals. While some of this contemporary literature preoccupies itself with imagining and communicating an 'animal voice', contemporary art experiments with forms of animal representation that subvert or expand conventional tropes. In both cases this re-imagining often proceeds from a desire for representations to embody the creative practitioner's political and ethical worldview, and an understanding of the potential of such representations to effect social change.

Strange Tales (an exhibition of paintings, drawings and artist's books) represents an attempt to synthesise some of the parallel issues that exist within art and literature. While the narrative vehicle used is that of the revisionist fairy tale, the animals that populate the works are often Tasmanian or are depicted within the island's haunting landscapes. Strange Tales includes a piece of short fiction written in response to a critical discussion of the animal voice.

Whalesong is a fictionalization of the collision in Antarctic waters between the New Zealand flagged protest vessel *Ady Gil* and the Japanese whaling vessel *Shonan Maru 2*, narrated in the first person by a dying Minke whale. It seeks to address the broader theme of human-animal relationships in a way that is both deeply serious yet riotously funny. The unsettling nature of the text contributes to the creation of a kind of cultural space where a reader is more willing to engage with difficult or unpopular ideas around animal sentience. Via the microcosm of writer intention/reader response, it is possible that this strategy may in turn foster a culture that enables a broader, more empathetic consideration of human-animal relationships.

For more images from the exhibition and information about the Gallery and Helen's work see: <http://www.despard-gallery.com.au/> and <http://helenhopcroft.wordpress.com/>

JANET LAURENCE: AFTER EDEN

16 March–19 May

Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Paddington Sydney



Janet Laurence. After Eden, 2012 (detail). Multimedia.

Presenting a new commission for Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation (SCAF), Janet Laurence's work explores the poetics of space through the creation of works that deal with our experiential and cultural relationship with the natural world. Her work echoes architecture while retaining organic qualities and a sense of instability and transience. It occupies the liminal zones or meeting places of art, science, imagination and memory. Profoundly aware of the interconnection of all life forms, Laurence often produces work in response to specific sites or environments using a diverse range of materials. Alchemical transformation and history are underlying themes.

In *After Eden*, Janet continues her exploration of the destruction of the environment with particular emphasis on the plight of animals, whilst simultaneously attempting to address notions of healing and caring.

A full-colour catalogue, published by Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation with the generous support of Andrew and Cathy Cameron, accompanies the exhibition and includes a preface by Gene Sherman, essays by Drusilla Modjeska and Rachel Kent, and an artist interview by Dolla S. Merrillees. The transcript of Richard Flanagan's opening speech is available for download [here](#).

Janet Laurence's exhibition *Fabled* was also on show at Breenspace, 30 March - 5 May 2012. www.breenspace.com

Image and text courtesy Janet Laurence and Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation.

For more information see: www.janetlaurence.com and www.sherman-scaf.org.au

SMALL ROOM WITH ANIMALS

6 April- 6 May

Mars Gallery, Bay St Port Melbourne



Veronica kent. *Me and Daddy* 30 x 40cm.
Image courtesy artist and Fehily Contemporary

Small Room with Animals and Humans brings together local and international visual and performing artists, architects, philosophers, writers and scientists interested in exploring questions of biodiversity, sustainability and the aesthetic and ethical engagement with animals and with each other.

The animal realm is so often opposed to the human realm. This exhibition asks the audience to rethink this opposition. It explores a range of questions. How can we bring about a new regard for all living beings and the various and diverse manifestations of life that inhabit the earth? What are the distinctions between animals and humans and what happens when those distinctions are blurred? What are the possibilities for giving new representations to animals who have been the subject of art since pre-historic times? Given the environmental challenges, how can we sustain biological diversity when the earth itself now seems to have only “small room” for living? And finally, in the wider community, who is inclusively creating hospitality in their own 'small rooms' for animals and humans, and what do these spaces look like? Throughout the duration of this exhibition and its related performances, talks and events, we will explore these questions from a variety of perspectives.

Participating artists include: Sam Burke and Domenico de Clario, Xiao Yu Bai, Erin Tappe, Grant Cowan, John Scurry, Martin King, Geoffrey Ricardo, Jessica Emily-Price, Lotte and Toots, Kerrie Poliness, David Shea and Lateral Movement, Alexis Beckett, Mark Minchinton, Georgia Anson, Veronica Kent, Gregory Burgess, Meg Williams, Lisa Roet, Janno, Lin Onus and The Donkey's Tail.

Small Room with Animals and Humans is part of The Centre for Ideas, VCA, symposia series “In Flesh and Blood: Animals in Art and Philosophy”. For more information see [Regional News](#) – Victoria, above.

<http://www.marsgallery.com.au/view-artist.php?id=126&gid=232&s=2>

ANIMALIA

29 March-17 April

Despard Gallery, Hobart



Zebra Flip (subway scene 3) 2003. 58 x 74 cm. Type C print

Review Helen Hopcroft

A heartening sign of the growth of interest in animal issues is the number of commercial art galleries scheduling animal themed exhibitions. One of these exhibitions, Animalia, was recently on show at Hobart's Despard Gallery; it featured a number of artists who foreground non-human animals in their art practice. Animalia included a broad range of media such as digital photography, painting, drawing and sculpture, but also a smaller number of decorative objects and jewellery. Similarly the work engaged with animals across a number of levels, from the purely decorative to political, bringing together art works both aesthetic and intense.

Stand out pieces included Simon Cuthbert's *Zebra Flip (subway scene 3)*. Cuthbert engages with his strange, witty photographic images of nature trapped in culture, often showing a kind of collision between the living sublime and the urban mundane. Pictured here is an image of grazing zebras plastered across a subway locker. Similarly Rodney Pople, winner of this year's Glover Prize, unsettled with his painted images of zebras and lethal sharks ghosting up in unexpected locations: churches, country towns and zebra crossings. Anne-France Fulgence is probably best known for her roughly executed portraits of pig dogs, their pugnacious faces crumpled like old boxers, warm eyes glowing amid the violent brushstrokes. In contrast to the dogs' vitality, Yvette Watt's photographic series of the exteriors of factory farms chilled with its absence of life. A trio of 'humorous' chicken sculptures gambolling outside one such farm had an entirely different impact to Pople's placement of a zebra near a road crossing.

The show included artists: Eva Schultz, Bertie Blackman, Yvette Watt, Andrew Antoniou, Anne-France Fulgence, Bill Yaxley, Bob Jenyns, Dale Richards, Helen Hopcroft, Michael Eather, Rodney Pople and Wayne Brookes

For more information see: <http://www.despard-gallery.com.au/animalia2012/1.html>

Art Work: Current work, project histories, reviews

Chris Rowe



Roo Valley 2010. Mixed Media on paper H60 x W80 cm

Artist Statement

My current work describes the feelings experienced following our recent move to regional Victoria, where we find ourselves, as if appearing from nowhere, together with creatures that have been here almost forever.

On our first night in our new habitat 30 roos, young and old, stood motionless with their ears pricked and stared at us observing them through panorama windows. We were the fish in the bowl being checked out by the local inhabitants. We have very quickly become recognised and trusted, with the roos happily graze throughout our property ignoring our comings and goings. While we are in harmony, sharing the site with its original inhabitants, there are many contradictions. Although the roos appear to be comfortable with our presence, their instincts makes them wary. Alert to the dangers, such as being prey, they stand like sentinels in the land protecting each other.

Our roos are individuals: trusting, inquisitive and knowing. They communicate and nurture through body language and vocalising. They scratch, stretch and preen, loll in the sun. They inspect, recognise and adapt to change, hopping around new structures or plants after close examination and recalibration. We are always mindful not to place objects in the path of their well-established roo runs. Several floods over the past two years have enabled the roos to breed throughout the year. There are always joeys and young roos learning the ways of the land, play fighting, chasing each other or just frolicking. To see a joey take its first steps is a joy.

My work shows the roos alert, inquisitive and solid in their presence. My people are schematic of no particular race, creed or colour, transient, insubstantial. As jigsaw pieces of the land they merge, interconnect, support and exude a quiet stillness.

For more of Chris's work see: www.artwhatson.com.au/chrisrowe

Websites, Video and Audio

What is Missing?



What is Missing? is a new multimedia project by **Maya Lin** and the What is Missing? Foundation.

The website www.whatismissing.net creates a dot-based map of the world, with each dot representing species, place, or natural phenomenon that has disappeared or significantly diminished. The website utilizes the ability of the web to incorporate sound and motion graphics, and will allow viewers to help build a global online memorial. Through the website a connective map highlighting memory, action, and hope will be constructed. But the project is not a singular static object, it is a work that exists in multiple forms and multiple sites simultaneously – temporary and permanent sites throughout the world. Installations feature one-to two minute films produced by the foundation, which focus on species and habitat loss. Over 75 films have been created to date, with plans to develop a library of 150 videos for use in schools and institutions. Formats include permanent Listening Cones, a travelling Empty Room exhibit, smaller site specific sound and media installations, physical and digital books, and the website as nexus for the entire project.

The mission of the What is Missing? Foundation is to create, through science-based art works, an awareness about the current crisis surrounding mass extinction of species that is now underway. The project will connect this loss of species to its primary causes – habitat degradation and loss. What is Missing? is both a wake-up call and a call to action, creating innovative art works that utilize sound, media and science to connect people to both the species and places that have disappeared or will most likely disappear if we do not act to protect them. The project will then highlight what environmental organizations, institutions, and scientists around the world are doing to find solutions to the extinction crisis and the overarching threat of climate change. The project will also show what individuals can do in their everyday lives to help protect species and the habitats that species depend upon for survival.

What is Missing? is a collaborative, multidisciplinary endeavor with assistance from scientific institutions (such as Californian Academy of Sciences, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Wildlife Conservation Society), artists, photographers, filmmakers, writers and concerned citizens. The website is designed by New York-based artist and architect Maya Lin. This will be her last memorial and she plans to work on it indefinitely.

For more information about the project see this article in *Art and Activism*:
<http://artlog.com/posts/426-interview-maya-lin-s-monument-to>

INTELLIGENCE SQUARED DEBATE: ANIMALS SHOULD BE OFF THE MENU

Download video at [Wheeler Centre website](#)

Intelligence Squared's 2012 series of debates kicked off with a look at the ethics of eating meat. Six speakers are divided into two teams for lively and insightful arguments for and against the proposition, 'Animals Should Be Off the Menu'. Speaking for the proposition were Peter Singer, Philip Wollen and Veronica Ridge; against it, Adrian Richardson, Fiona Chambers and Bruce McGregor. Their cases are followed by questions from the floor and finally, the audience vote. For analysis of the event – including a transcript of audience vote results. Also read the [article](#) covering the debate.

<http://wheelercentre.com/videos/video/intelligence-squared-animals-should-be-off-the-menu/>

A VIRTUAL EVENING WITH LYN WHITE

Download video of Lyn White's presentation at [Animals Australia](#)

Lyn White has investigated animal practices in 11 countries, driven an exposé of live export trade and revealed the enormity of animal suffering involved in feeding the human population. Her call to mercy to other living creatures who share our world is striking a chord, but a final shove is needed to push the live export into history where it belongs. In a public presentation earlier this year, White spoke up for the 500 million animals raised for food in Australia whose lives are marked by suffering, basic needs are denied, and who can't call out for help in the way humans can. Listen to White's full presentation:

<http://www.animalsaustralia.org/events/virtual-evening-with-lyn-white/>

WILD GOAT CHASE

Download from [ABC Radio website](#)

Of all the species introduced to Australia, you'd be hard-pressed to find one that's taken to its new home quite as effectively as the feral goat. The harsher the terrain the more they like it. So much so they've become public enemy number one in fragile arid and semiarid areas. And a warning, this story contains images that may distress some viewers.

View video and transcription on:

<http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2012/s3439762.htm>

ANIMALS, ETHICS AND LAW SYMPOSIUM

Download videos of the Symposium on the [University of Tennessee website](#)

This symposium on March 2-3 2012 featured speakers: Nick Robinson - 'The Legal Principle of Resilience: A Guiding Norm for Life in Our Anthropocene Epoch', Colin Allen – 'Ethics, Law, and the Science of Fish Welfare', Taimie Bryant – 'Animal Law and Virtue Ethics', David DeGrazia – 'The Question of Animal Suffering', David Favre – 'Respectful Use: An Ethical Construct for Lawful Interactions with Animals', Rebecca Huss – 'The Intersection of Legal Issues Involving Animals and Gerontology', Clare Palmer – 'What (If Anything) Do We Owe Wild Animals?'.

<http://philosophy.utk.edu/acl/main.html>

Links: Resource pages, blogs, organizations

- **Animal Liberation**

Animal Liberation is an animal rights charity founded in 1976 by Christine Townend, based on the philosophies of Professor Peter Singer, as set out in his worldwide best-selling book *Animal Liberation*. It works to end the suffering of exploited and confined animals through legislation, consumer advocacy, action and humane education. Animal Liberation has branches in all states of Australia.

<http://animal-lib.org.au>

- **Concern for Helping Animals in Israel**

The mission of CHAI and Hakol Chai is to prevent and relieve animal suffering in Israel and to elevate consciousness about animals through education. They strive to foster empathy, respect, and responsibility toward all living beings, and to inspire and empower people, Jewish, Muslim, and Christian, to recognize the interconnectedness of all life and to make compassionate choices for the good of all. They believe that animals do not exist to serve human needs, and are opposed to the exploitation of animals in all its forms. CHAI and Hakol Chai approach the challenge of reducing animal suffering with concurrent initiatives.

www.chai-online.org/en

- **Huffington Post Animals**

News and opinion on animals topics. Stay in touch with animal issues around the world.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/animals/>

- **Why Animal Rights?**

A website established and maintained by Pia Berrend from Luxembourg. It aims to advance understanding of environmental, political, religion, human rights, economic, scientific, social justice issues and most of all, to inform about animal rights and violations of these.

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

- **ACTAsia for Animals**

ACTAsia for Animals is a UK charity set up by experienced animal protectionists after witnessing the huge amount of animal suffering in Asia in combination with a lack of animal advocates who can speak out for them. There are people who care deeply about animals in these countries, and they work day and night for these animals. But they are lone voices speaking out against abuse. They do not have any support from their families, from the public, from the government, from the media. The lack of experience and knowledge on how to fight animal suffering, makes it even harder.

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

- **Fauna and Flora: A Photographic Approach**

Fauna and Flora – a Photographic Approach is an online space for discussion about the world of living things and photography. It has been created by João Bento and Catarina Fontoura. The website includes an interview with Giovanni Alois.

<http://faunaandflora.org/>

- **My Darling Theo**

This non-profit foundation is devoted to Animal Welfare, Advocacy, Education, Literacy and Discussion. Their purpose is to lead the Pet Foster Parents Support Network, support homeless animals and low income pet guardians, grant funds to create and maintain non-profit dog parks (US), explicate perennial problems of violence, abuse and neglect, publish educational materials which encourage a diverse voice for animal welfare.

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

- **Animal Active: The Australian Animal Rights Network**

Animal Active exposes and challenges animal neglect, exploitation and abuse. The website includes Actions and Events, the Give a Dog a Home Scheme, Cats: Control by Desexing not Killing, Urban Possum Action and Rescue Me pages.

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

- **Global Animal**

A daily news magazine, from pets to wildlife. Global Animal is an online news magazine and social community for all things animal, from the beloved pet to exotic wildlife. It's a virtual clubhouse for pet lovers and animal advocates worldwide to stay informed, be moved, be heard, and get involved. Since animals do not have citizenship or voices, only people can roar on their behalf. That's why you'll find our 'Take Action Mouse' in many stories. No more feeling hopeless at bad news, because GlobalAnimal.org connects readers with ways to change the news you're reading.

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

- **International League of Conservation Photographers**

As a project-driven organization, the goal of ILCP is to translate conservation science into compelling visual messages targeted to specific audiences. The League works with leading scientists, policy makers, government leaders and conservation groups to produce the highest-quality documentary images of both the beauty and wonder of the natural world and the challenges facing it.

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

- **Make Battery Cages History**

The last battery hen has been freed from her cage in the UK. But in Australia, our Government is refusing to act. Singer Missy Higgins has teamed up with Animals Australia to give battery hens a voice.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teMyUZUsod0&feature=youtu.be>

- **Btc4animals**

With many worthwhile animal causes to support, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless. By banding together like-minded folks with a strong, collective voice, the goal of BtC4Animals is to ignite and accelerate the change we can make as individuals at a pace that doesn't overwhelm. BtC4Animals highlights one cause per week and provides information on how readers can help.

<http://btc4animals.com/>

- **Pet Pardons**

The official mission of Pet Pardons is to end the killing & no more homeless pets by January 1, 2015. That may sound like an aggressive goal, but the organizers believe that just by having a mission they are far more likely to achieve it. Pet Pardons was started for one very simple reason: to give pets in shelters a better chance of being adopted.

<http://petpardons.com/>

- **Gorongosa Lion Project**

African lions (*Panthera leo*) in the wild have vanished from over 80% of their range and declined by 30% over the past two decades requiring urgent efforts to protect habitat and viable populations while embarking on recovery efforts where possible. In 2012, the Gorongosa Restoration Project launched *Projecto Leões da Gorongosa*, a project committed to the long-term recovery and conservation of lions through Applied Research, Education & Capacity-Building and strategic Partnerships. The goal is to restore Gorongosa to the refuge it once was for lions and the larger community of top carnivores.

http://www.gorongosa.net/en/page/donate_lion_project/gorongosa-lion-project--projecto-lees-da-gorongosa

- **Butterfly Conservation**

Butterfly Conservation was formed by a small group of dedicated naturalists in 1968 following the alarming decline of many beautiful butterflies. Most British butterflies remain a cause for concern, with three quarters of native species in decline. Four butterflies and over 60 moths became extinct last century. Butterfly Conservation aims to halt and reverse these declines. Their vision is of a world rich in butterflies for future generations to enjoy.

<http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/>

- **Viral Pandas**

An open exploration of animals and the internet. Katherine M Waters and Natalie Gilbert, a sculptor and a photographer, have joined together with a mutual fascination for Online and the human-animal bond. They are interested to know what goes viral and why. Not only this, but what attachments or responsibilities we all might feel for the animals that are recorded or portrayed.

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

- **Animal Voices**

Animal Voices is your animal liberation radio show broadcasting worldwide every Tuesday at 11 am-noon Canada EST. Volunteer-run, Animal Voices covers local, national, global, and politically diverse campaigns, struggles and victories of the animal liberation movement. Tune in for interviews with a broad spectrum of activists and academics working toward the liberation of animals, social justice, and environmental health.

www.ciut.fm

Profiles: Animal practitioners, activists and animal studies scholars

Dr John Baguley

When I was 5 years old my next door neighbour found a stray, mixed breed dog that she gave to our family. He was 17 years old when he died. We had another dog and two cats in the family over that time so they all influenced my decision to become a veterinarian but I think this first long-standing friendship was the key.

After graduating from the University of Sydney I worked just over 10 years in private companion animal practice, mostly in Sydney but with a brief visit to the UK. It has been a wonderful career choice with many opportunities and intangible rewards. After a veterinary degree, further study in veterinary pharmacology and 10 years of practice, I was introduced to the writings of Peter Singer as a business student studying philosophy. We had very little animal welfare and ethics, and no philosophy when I studied veterinary science and I enjoyed contemplating the deeper issues related to human-animal interactions.

We were not taught about business management either. I remember feeling quite guilty as a new graduate veterinarian asking people for money and worrying if my services were worth much. I fondly remember one vet in the UK suggesting 'what a wonderful job this would be if we could just take the money bit out of it'. There were also times when I felt frustrated by the low pay compared to friends who chose other careers. These thoughts were clearly linked. The low levels of remuneration in my profession became even more apparent when I started my MBA; less so when I started my PhD. Business, animal welfare, ethics and philosophy were topics so important for veterinarians and I thought someone should teach these at vet school. That someone turned out to be me when I was offered a position at the University of Sydney in 2003.

I've been very lucky to be able to combine my interests in teaching, research and veterinary science. Two recent highlights for me at the University of Sydney were firstly, the opportunity to be part of a small group of people with backgrounds in arts and science who formed the Human Animal Research Network (HARN) in 2011, and secondly, an invitation from former students to become a member of Sentient.

As a teacher I liked to ask veterinary students whether they thought of themselves as future healers of animals, friends for their clients, economic managers for their clients, or business managers. Just about all of them would say they wanted to be healers. I would have said that too. On any given day a veterinarian can play all these roles but the one constant is that they must always be the advocate for animals. This can be hard when you have to consider both individual animals and populations of animals, or animals whose owners have limited resources. Animal welfare, ethics, philosophy and even business studies can all help to improve the

decisions veterinarians make every day. I believe knowledge in these areas can help individual veterinarians and the animals they treat enormously.



My two daughters are growing up with animals too. We lost a great friend last year; he only made it to 11 years. This was a very difficult time for the whole family but my girls have learnt the value of true friendship, that we are not so different from other animals, and the intrinsic value of animal life. I have been reminded that veterinarians play a very important role in nurturing the human animal bond and promoting animal welfare.

Christopher Neff



Studying sharks has been an interest of mine for more than 30 years. I should thank my sister, actually, for giving me chicken pox at age 6 and the “Flipper” marathon that followed. Sharks are recurring characters on Flipper and I was hooked.

During my Masters degree, I was fortunate to be encouraged by my supervisor (Dr. Betsi Beem) to utilize my love of sharks and began the work that has led to my current doctoral research at the University of Sydney studying the “politics of shark attacks.”

I am in the Department of Government and International Relations comparing different public policy responses following shark bite incidents in Australia, South Africa and the United States. In this, I am studying what shark bites ‘mean’ in all three countries and the factors that lead responses when bites occur.

For my field work, I spent six weeks in Cape Town in 2011 (see photo) and six weeks in Florida in 2012 while being based in Sydney. This study has been incredibly inter-disciplinary and included spotting breaching white sharks in False Bay, presenting research at the International Congress for Conservation Biology and co-presenting a ‘Dangerous Animals of Australia’ seminar with Peter Hobbins, that was chaired by Nancy Cushing.

Given the number of tragic shark bite incidents in recent years, my research has also been used to directly inform policy decisions. My findings have been published in *Coastal Management* as well as *New Scientist*. In all, the issue remains to bring light to the human-shark relationship and at Sydney University this goal is made easier by the Human Animal Relations Network (HARN). HARN has helped me keep all of these perspectives in focus and I hope to continue my human-shark research after I submit my PhD at the end of 2012.

Rheya Linden



Born in Cyprus I was plucked from the time-honoured familiarity of village life in the 1950's and transported to Australia, blinking with culture shock. During a gruelling four-week sea voyage most of which I spent delirious in the ship's hospital, my family and I grieved the loss of the support and security of an extended family that included not only our entire village but neighbouring villages and towns.

Soon after disembarking in Melbourne I again found myself in hospital. Admitted for a tonsillectomy my experience was worsened by a total lack of English that precluded communication and compounded my newfound loneliness. Paradoxically this bleak experience also became instrumental in demonstrating to me the political power of direct action.

My parents arrived to visit me immediately after the operation only to be told that they must return during visiting hours. They heard, or thought they heard, me sobbing as they stood baffled in the corridors of the small hospital. With their characteristically peasant-style pragmatism they circumnavigated both the rules and the hospital until, finding an open window, they climbed inside and made their way to my bedside. Eventually my parents were discovered but not, to my relief, ejected.

Direct action based on the unassailable ethic of care has become the central motif of my life. It is the one important lesson I have imparted to my three, now adult, daughters.

Throughout my schooling and tertiary education social movements identified by direct action became my means of developing political consciousness: the anti-Vietnam War movement, People for Nuclear Disarmament, Feminism, Greenpeace and finally Animal Liberation. From 1995 to 2001 I served as campaign director for Animal Liberation Victoria until founding Animal Active: The Australian Animal Rights Network Inc. in 2001.

These days I balance practice with theory by researching in the Political Science Department at Melbourne University and Swinburne University where I also teach in social movement politics including the animal liberation movement. Not surprisingly my research focus is the identification of an emerging feminist ethic of care within the Australian animal liberation movement through field research involving qualitative interview, oral histories and surveys of activists currently working for animals in Australia.

Email: rlinden@unimelb.edu.au

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Dr Carol Freeman
Editor, *Australian Animal Studies Group News Bulletin*
Honorary Associate
School of English, Journalism and European Languages
University of Tasmania

T: +61 6224 0219
M: +61 438 633102

carolfreeman00@gmail.com

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