

Animail: August 2016

Dear AASA Members,

Welcome to the August edition of *Animail*.

Last month we held 'Animaladies' at USYD and this month, the video of Lori Gruen's keynote lecture "Just say no to Lobotomy" is now available for viewing. So, if you missed out on attending, you can catch up here: <https://vimeo.com/178592092>. And for those who also missed out on attending the incredible Art Exhibition, curated by Yvette Watt, Maddi Boyd and Melissa Boyde, you can buy a set of postcards - each set of postcards includes 10 reproductions of original artworks by artists featured in the [Animaladies exhibition](#). More details on that here: <http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=e96f8275f773867f6df11217e&id=b799cdf4cf>

Animaladies was such a fantastic event that I have decided to host *Animaladies II* in December 2018 - at the University of Wollongong. Lori Gruen will also be involved and we hope to be able to bring over more US based scholars for the event. More details on that to follow.

Siobhan O'Sullivan's Knowing Animals podcast series has 3 new interviews from her recent trip to the UK - [Episode 24: Labour Rights for Animals with Alasdair Cochrane](#); [Episode 25: Marilyn Monroe and Animal Protection with Robert McKay](#) and Episode 26 with Dan Lyons. We're really pleased to be able to support Siobhan's series - have a listen and keep up with all the work being done in Animal studies, both here and overseas. AND if you want to meet up with Siobhan in person to let her know how fab Knowing Animals is, then you'll find her in Sydney tomorrow night (Tuesday August 30th), at the Town Hall Hotel at 7.30pm. She is there for the inaugural 'Animal Rights in Sydney' group - convened by Siobhan with Dinesh Wadiwel and John Hadley. For more details see the 'member news' section of *Animail*.

The Member Profiles section this month features 2 PhD candidates from the University of Melbourne - **Elizabeth Dale** and **Desmond Bellamy**. Thanks to Rick for putting these together, and to Annie for her brilliant lists of new publications in the field, starting on page 5.

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

- **Blog:** Nik Taylor and Christine Townend, [christownend@bigpond.com] and nik.taylor@flinders.edu.au
- **Conference Calls** -<fionapr@uow.edu.au
- **Membership News** -<R.DeVos@curtin.edu.au>
- **New Book releases** -Annie Potts <annie.potts@canterbury.ac.nz> -
- **Other news/AASA exec news** -Fiona Probyn-Rapsey (fionapr@uow.edu.au).

Cheers, Fiona

Professor Fiona Probyn-Rapsey, School of Humanities and Social Inquiry, University of Wollongong ** NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: fionapr@uow.edu.au **

AASA Blog

Edited by Christine Townend and Nik Taylor.

“Ruminations of a Retiring Veterinarian” – Michael W. Fox

<http://animalstudies.org.au/archives/5509>

Member Profiles

Elizabeth Dale

In a new, and characteristically brilliant, book on hope, the literary critic Terry Eagleton argues for the possibility of “hope without optimism”. This phrase accurately captures my present stance on animal issues. To be optimistic would seem merely foolish in the face of overwhelming evidence. Everywhere we look industrial, technocratic capitalism is in the ascendancy. With that comes yet more factory farms, animal experimentation, habitat destruction ... the list is long! Hope, however, is something that we must maintain



because vulnerable, suffering non-human animals need human advocates. Turning away in despair is simply not an option.

Like many AASA members, my affinity with animals was cultivated by childhood experience. I spent long periods on my grandparents' sheep and cattle property in northern NSW, and formed close friendships with dogs, chooks, cats, lambs, and the occasional orphaned kangaroo. I also saw the violence

which underpins much rural life: the shooting of kangaroos and rabbits, and of sheep and cattle for meat consumption. I heard about, but thankfully did not witness, considerable neglect and cruelty. Eating animal flesh was always difficult for me – I eventually gave up trying around the age of 13!

After finishing high school I was initially interested in a career in biological science. However, I gradually became cognisant of the fact that much scientific research is built on experiments with non-human animals. A third-year parasitology unit in which we students were required to inject mice with parasites was the end for me! Although the topic of animal experimentation was handled sensitively by our lecturer (he acknowledged that we might have moral objections to the experiment), it still disgusted me that mice could be treated in such a cavalier fashion. That the life of a mouse could be considered so value-less that it could be endangered by a worthless student experiment was shocking to me. It still shocks and angers me!

Since then I've worked in many different jobs and completed a few university degrees in varying disciplines, but a deep passion for the welfare of non-human animals has been a constant. My current research interests are primarily theological in nature. I am part-way through an interrupted PhD thesis entitled "A Theology of Animal Beauty", and I am a student in the Master of Divinity course-work programme at the University of Divinity in Melbourne.

People sometimes wonder why a person who is interested in animals would bother to study theology. Hasn't the Christian religion generally been a negative for non-human animals? This is certainly true of the institutional church. Sadly it is also true of much dogmatic theology. Both have tended to advocate a strongly dualistic conception of the human and the non-human. However, Christianity is a highly heterogeneous phenomenon, and there are strands within it that have seen the non-human world in a radically different way. Here I am referring, for example, to mystics who have understood each living creature to be an expression of the divine *Logos*. These kinds of thinkers (who are often not very well known) constitute a wonderful resource for contemporary animal theologians.

Away from scholarly work, my partner and I own a small organic farm in the north-west of Tasmania. It is our desire, if we are able, to make a living from the farm in the future (no easy thing! – as any farmer can attest), to establish a *goshala* (cow shelter) for neglected and unloved cows. We presently share our home with a beautiful, elderly border collie named Jessica.

For an example of my writing see: Elizabeth Dale "Ecological Asceticism: Saint Basil the Great in Conversation with John Zizioulas", *Tjurunga: an Australasian Benedictine Review* 84 Easter 2014, pp. 42-53.

Desmond Bellamy



I am the Special Projects Coordinator for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) Australia and a PhD candidate in the School of Culture and Communications at the University of Melbourne.

I have been involved in animal rights since I formed a school group in the early 1960s to oppose the boiling of live lobsters. Shortly after that, my father bought a half share in a dairy farm in Camden (now all paved over and a suburb of Sydney). Although I was a city slicker during the week, on weekends I would don jodhpurs and a silly hat and go and help round up cows for milking. My favourite part was feeding the calves with (watered down, reject) milk after their mothers had been milked. But as I grew older, I started to ask questions: why were such tiny creatures, who just wanted to suck on my fingers, not with their mothers? Why were some of the mother cows bellowing and crying all night? Where were those calves when we came back to the farm on the following weekend? Eventually, (there was no Google in those days, nor computers, nor PETA) I worked out what was happening: the "bobby calves" were being

taken from their distraught mothers and sent off for slaughter so we could sell their milk. I was appalled in 1965, and remain so today.

I am currently researching a PhD dissertation at Melbourne University on cannibalism, which aims to question the normative human/animal dualism that privileges humans over other animals and thereby sanctions the confinement, exploitation and killing of animals for food and other purposes. The objectification of non-humans, which is routinely used as rationalisation in such maltreatments, when applied to other humans, relegates them to the status of “others” or “animals” and permits all sorts of exploitation and abuse that, in its most extreme form, is exemplified in the act of (human) cannibalism. My critical thesis plans to assess the cultural impact of the presentation of this profound taboo and its effect in breaking down the status of humans as ontologically non-animal. The critical thesis is accompanied by a creative writing component, which will involve a film script about an alternative present where overpopulation and its environmental effects are combated by eating children who fail their "human" tests.

I am awaiting publication of a new Springer textbook on farmed animal law in which I have a chapter on baby animals (case studies are bobby calves and cockerels). I am also writing a chapter for a book on Hannibal Lecter, who of course is a key figure in my thesis - a Nietzschean philosopher who believes that, if eating animals is acceptable and unremarkable, why not add one more species to the menu?

I am available most of the time (yes, bit obsessive) at dbellamy@student.unimelb.edu.au. I particularly love talking about cannibalism and its challenge to anthropocentrism.

Recent Publication

Teya Brooks Pribac, 2016. 'Grieving at a Distance', in *Mourning Animals*, Margo DeMello (Ed), MSU Press. <https://www.amazon.com/Mourning-Animals-Rituals-Practices-Surrounding/dp/1611862124>

Member News

Animal Issues, a journal with a focus on investigating philosophical and ethical issues related to human/animal interactions, was published in 8 issues between 1997 and 2000 under the general editorship of **Denise Russell**. The journal published scholarly articles from a number of influential animal studies scholars including Val Plumwood, Lynda Birke and Alfonso Lingis, as well as Denise Russell herself. All issues have now been made available online at <http://ro.uow.edu.au/ai/>.

An article on aspects of **Alexandra McEwan**'s PhD research, entitled 'The Greyhound, Animal Protection Law and Policy: Alexandra McEwan' was published on the ANU College of Law website on August 17:

<https://law.anu.edu.au/news-and-events/news/case-greyhound-and-animal-protection-law-and-policy-alexandra-mcewan>

Karina Heikkila's Animal Law PhD Candidature at Victoria University has been confirmed. Her research will address the research question: "Could s 17 of the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Qld)* represent a Derridean ethics-based approach to animal protection?" The research project will interrogate Queensland's animal protection regime through the lens of Derrida's later work examining the human-animal relationship. Specifically, it will review s 17 of the Act, which imposes a duty of care on animal carers. New knowledge will result in suggesting how s 17 could represent greater scope for protection if it were to be posited as an opening toward Derridean ethics particular to human responsibility to animals.

Animal Rights in Sydney (ARiS) Convenors: [Siobhan O'Sullivan](#), [John Hadley](#), [Dinesh Wadiwel](#)

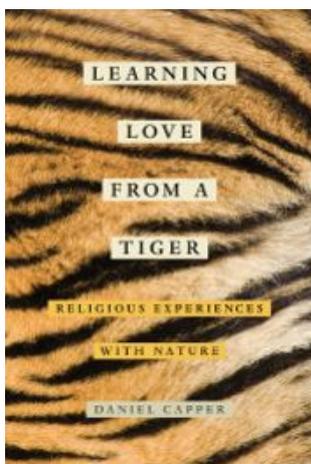


Animal Rights in Sydney (ARiS) aims to bring together scholars, practitioners and activists to engage with animal rights theory and explore new directions for pro animal change. ARiS is creating a regular space to engage with both classic animal rights theory and new emerging perspectives. ARiS will host national and international visitors and will initiate discussion and reading groups that allow participants to engage with key debates and develop connections between scholars, practitioners and activists. Keep an eye out for future events - we are hoping this will become a regular fixture.

NEW BOOK RELEASES

Compiled by Annie Potts

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

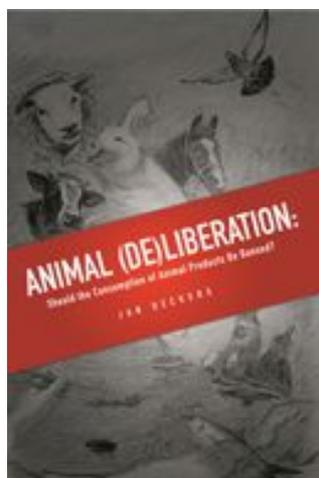


Learning Love from a Tiger: Religious Experiences with Nature by Daniel Capper. Published by University of California Press.

Learning Love from a Tiger explores the vibrancy and variety of humans' sacred encounters with the natural world, gathering a range of stories culled from Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Mayan, Himalayan, Buddhist, and Chinese shamanic traditions. Readers will delight in tales of house cats who teach monks how to meditate, shamans who shape-shift into jaguars, crickets who perform Catholic mass, rivers that grant salvation, and many others. In addition to being a collection of wonderful stories, this book introduces important concepts and approaches that underlie much recent work in environmental ethics, religion, and ecology. Daniel Capper's light touch prompts readers to engage

their own views of humanity's place in the natural world and question longstanding assumptions of human superiority.

<http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520290426>



Animal (De) liberation by Jan Deckers. Published by Ubiquity Press.

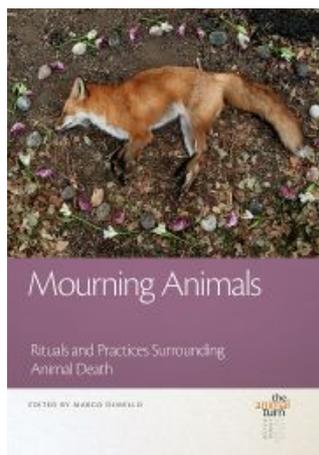
In this book, Jan Deckers addresses the most crucial question that people must deliberate in relation to how we should treat other animals: whether we should eat animal products.

Many people object to the consumption of animal products from the conviction that it inflicts pain, suffering, and death upon animals. This book argues that a convincing ethical theory cannot be based on these important concerns: rather, it must focus on our interest in human health. Tending to this interest demands not only that we extend speciesism—the attribution of special significance to members of our own species merely because they belong to the same species as us—towards nonhuman animals, but also that we safeguard the integrity of nature. In this light, projects that aim to engineer the genetic material of animals to reduce their capacities to feel pain and to suffer are morally suspect. The same applies to projects that aim to develop in-vitro flesh, even if the production of such flesh should be welcomed on other grounds.

The theory proposed in this book is accompanied by a political goal, the ‘vegan project’, which strives for a qualified ban on the consumption of animal products. Deckers also provides empirical evidence that some support for this goal exists already, and his analysis of the views of others—including those of slaughterhouse workers—reveals that the vegan project stands firm in spite of public opposition.

Many charges have been pressed against vegan diets, including: that they alienate human beings from nature; that they increase human food security concerns; and that they are unsustainable. Deckers argues that these charges are legitimate in some cases, but that, in many situations, vegan diets are actually superior. For those who remain doubtful, the book also contains an appendix that considers whether vegan diets might actually be nutritionally adequate.

<http://www.ubiquitypress.com/site/books/detail/22/animal-deliberation/>

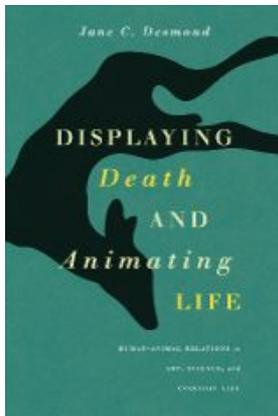


Mourning Animals: Rituals and Practices Surrounding Animal Death, edited by Margo DeMello. Published by Michigan State University Press.

We live more intimately with nonhuman animals than ever before in history. The change in the way we cohabitate with animals can be seen in

the way we treat them when they die. There is an almost infinite variety of ways to help us cope with the loss of our nonhuman friends—from burial, cremation, and taxidermy; to wearing or displaying the remains (ashes, fur, or other parts) of our deceased animals in jewellery, tattoos, or other artwork; to counsellors who specialize in helping people mourn pets; to classes for veterinarians; to tips to help the surviving animals who are grieving their animal friends; to pet psychics and memorial websites. But the reality is that these practices, and related beliefs about animal souls or animal afterlife, generally only extend, with very few exceptions, to certain kinds of animals—pets. Most animals, in most cultures, are not mourned, and the question of an animal afterlife is not contemplated at all. *Mourning Animals* investigates how we mourn animal deaths, which animals are grievable, and what the implications are for all animals.

<http://msupress.org/books/book/?id=50-1D0-34E1#.V7-ECPL9600>



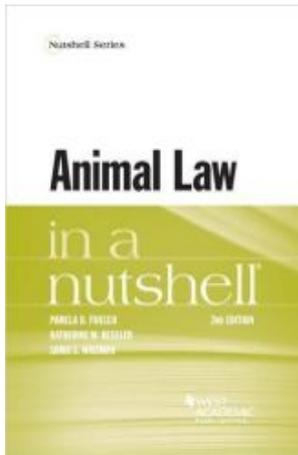
Displaying Death and Animating Life, by Jane Desmond.

Published by University of Chicago Press.

The number of ways in which humans interact with animals is almost incalculable. From beloved household pets to the steak on our dinner tables, the fur in our closets to the Babar books on our shelves, taxidermy exhibits to local zoos, humans have complex, deep, and dependent relationships with the animals in our ecosystems. In *Displaying Death and Animating Life*, Jane C. Desmond puts those human-animal relationships under a multidisciplinary lens, focusing on the less obvious, and revealing the individualities and subjectivities of the real animals in our everyday lives.

Desmond, a pioneer in the field of animal studies, builds the book on a number of case studies. She conducts research on-site at major museums, taxidermy conventions, pet cemeteries, and even at a professional conference for writers of obituaries. She goes behind the scenes at zoos, wildlife clinics, and meetings of pet cemetery professionals. We journey with her as she meets Kanzi, the bonobo artist, and a host of other animal-artists—all of whom are preparing their artwork for auction. Throughout, Desmond moves from a consideration of the visual display of unindividuated animals, to mourning for known animals, and finally to the marketing of artwork by individual animals. The first book in the new Animal Lives series, *Displaying Death and Animating Life* is a landmark study, bridging disciplines and reaching across divisions from the humanities and social sciences to chart new territories of investigation.

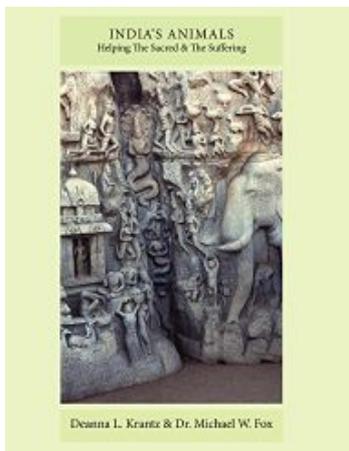
<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/D/bo5186364.html>



Animal Law in a Nutshell 2nd Edition, by Pamela Frasch, Katherine Hessler and Sonia Waisman. Published by West Academic Publishing.

Topics include animal anti-cruelty laws, industrial and agricultural uses of animals, torts and other claims for harm done to animals, as well as federal, state and local regulation of animal ownership and use, animal rights activism, hunting, fishing and other recreational uses of animals, animals in entertainment, issues arising when animals are the subject of a contract or the intended beneficiary of a will or trust, remedies for harm done to animals, and anticipated future legal developments in the field.

<https://www.amazon.com/Animal-Law-Nutshell-Pamela-Frasch/dp/163460279X>

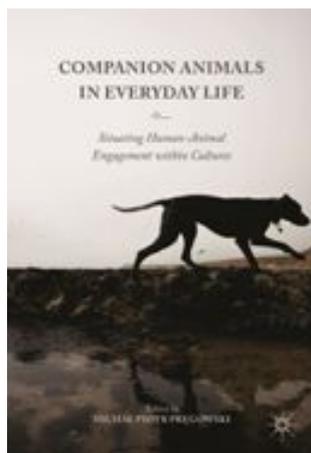


India's Animals: Helping the Sacred and the Suffering by Deanna L. Krantz and Michael W. Fox. Published by Mozart & Reason Wolfe.

This richly illustrated book details the trials and tribulations of setting up an animal shelter and free veterinary services in the heart of a unique wildlife region in S. India, the UNESCO designated Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve. Deanna Krantz founded and directed India Project for Animals & Nature (IPAN) to indirectly help the indigenous village and tribal peoples by improving the health and well-being of their farmed animals and of the dogs and cats in these communities. Against local and national opposition, disinformation and death-threats, the long-distance “death march” of cattle to slaughter, wildlife poaching, land encroachment and the tragic plight of elephants wild and captive were investigated and documented.

Putting compassion into action and seeking justice for all, she became the voice for animals’ rights and for the indigenous peoples who cared but were silenced by the authorities. This book shatters the myth that animals regarded as “sacred”, especially cows and elephants, are treated humanely, and paves the way for greater transparency and progress in addressing the tragic plight of the animals and all who depend upon them, and the fate of the last of the wild.

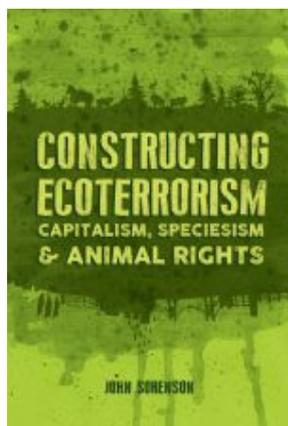
<https://www.amazon.com/Indias-Animals-Helping-Sacred-Suffering/dp/0911385673>



Companion Animals in Everyday Life: Situating Human-Animal Engagement within Cultures, edited by Michał Piotr Prełowski. Published by Palgrave Macmillan.

This book is an interdisciplinary collection shedding light on human-animal relationships and interactions around the world. The book offers a predominantly empirical look at social and cultural practices related to companion animals in Mexico, Poland, the Netherlands, Japan, China and Taiwan, Vietnam, USA, and Turkey among others. It focuses on how dogs, cats, rabbits and members of other species are perceived and treated in various cultures, highlighting commonalities and differences between them.

<http://www.palgrave.com/la/book/9781137595713>



Constructing Terrorism: Capitalism, Speciesism and Animal Rights by John Sorenson. Published by Fernwood.

Animal rights is an important social justice movement, and the animal rights movement presents ethical and political challenges to deeply rooted structures of violence and exploitation, challenging ideologies of capitalism and speciesism. Corporate interests that form the animal industrial complex understand the animal rights movement as a threat to their profits and have mobilized to undermine it.

Informed by both critical animal studies and critical terrorism studies, John Sorenson analyzes ecoterrorism as a social construction. He examines how corporations that profit from animal exploitation fund and produce propaganda to portray the compassionate goals and nonviolent practices of animal activists as outlandish, anti-human campaigns that operate by violent means not only to destroy Western civilization but also to create actual genocide. The idea of concern for others is itself a dangerous one, and capitalism works by keeping people focused on individual interests and discouraging compassion and commitment to others.

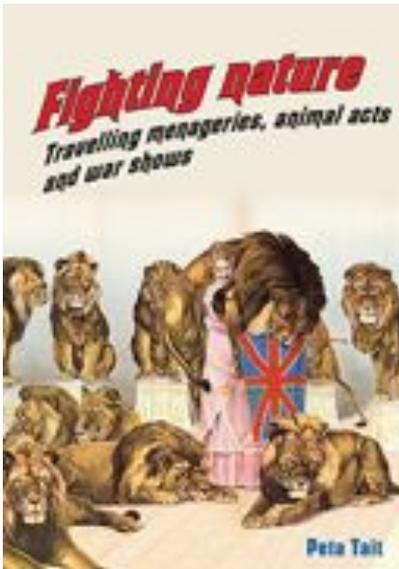
Driven by powerful and wealthy industries founded upon the exploitation of nonhuman animals and the extraction of natural resources, the discourse of ecoterrorism is a useful mechanism to repress criticism of the institutionalized violence and cruelty of these industries as well as their destructive impact on the environment, their major contribution to global warming and ecological disaster, and their negative impacts on human health. Further, by deliberately constructing an image of activists as dangerous and violent terrorists, these corporations and their representatives in government have created a widespread climate of fear that is very useful in legitimizing calls for more policing and more repressive legislation, such as Bill C-51 in Canada.

“John Sorenson brilliantly exposes the primary discursive and legal strategies employed to manage social dissent, as well as the outright lies, deceptions, hypocrisies, and dirty tactics employed to protect

the corporate and political interests of the animal and environmental exploitation industries. This book is a worthwhile addition to the literature on the war on terror, social movements, animal rights activism, securitisation, and US history.”

— *Richard Jackson, University of Otago, New Zealand*

Fighting Nature: Travelling menageries, animal acts and war shows



Peta Tait

Sydney University Press [Animal Publics Series]

ISBN: 9781743324301

Throughout the 19th century animals were integrated into staged scenarios of confrontation, ranging from lion acts in small cages to large-scale re-enactments of war. Initially presenting a handful of exotic animals, travelling menageries grew to contain multiple species in their thousands. These 19th-century menageries entrenched beliefs about the human right to exploit nature through war-like practices against other animal species. Animal shows became a stimulus for antisocial behaviour as locals taunted animals, caused fights, and even turned into violent mobs. Human societal problems were difficult to separate from issues of cruelty to animals.

Apart from reflecting human capacity for fighting and aggression, and the belief in human dominance over nature, these animal performances also echoed cultural fascination with conflict, war and colonial expansion, as the grand spectacles of imperial power reinforced state authority and enhanced public displays of nationhood and nationalistic evocations of colonial empires. *Fighting Nature* is an insightful analysis of the historical legacy of 19th-century colonialism, war, animal acquisition and transportation. This legacy of entrenched beliefs about the human right to exploit other animal species is yet to be defeated.

“When does fighting end and theatre begin? In this fascinating study, Peta Tait – one of the most prominent authors in the Performance/Animal Studies intersection – explores animal acts with a particular focus on confrontation. The sites of the human–animal encounter range from theatres, circus, and war re-enactments investigating how the development of certain human fighting practices run in parallel with certain types of public exhibits of wild animals.

Tait’s account is ... primarily preoccupied with understanding what kinds of animal representation and understandings of nature were being created through these spectacles, and given their great popularity, how influential they were in contributing to key developments in contemporary conceptualizations of nature and animals.

However, the book also contains an important consideration around the concepts of fact and fiction. Through its investigation of animal presence in real battles and re-enacted ones, and its examination of animal acts including wild animals in which the real and the performed are regularly blurred, Tait also challenges established divisions between historical accounts and artistic depictions of animals, actuality and representation.

— **Dr Lourdes Orozco**, lecturer in Theatre Studies, University of Leeds

"*Fighting Nature* is an important contribution to the growing field of research on nineteenth century show business.

Peta Tait brings to the book an impressive scholarly command of the documentary material, from which she draws a range of vivid examples and revealing analyses of human-animal confrontation in popular entertainments. She addresses the cultural and performative dimensions of these in ways that throw light on changing ideas of species hierarchy in a period of colonial ideology. The book is written with verve and clarity, and will be of interest to a wide readership in performance studies and cultural history."

— **Professor Jane Goodall**, Writing and Society Research Centre, Western Sydney University

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Writing About Animals: Literature's evolving relationship with the animal kingdom

13 September, 2016.

New Law Building Seminar Room 028, 12 noon - 2pm.

As a society, we have a curious relationship with animals. Some animals we welcome into our homes and our lives. Others we bar from our lawns and legal systems to keep animals in their place and us in ours. This seminar examines the role that literature and language plays in reimagining our relationship with animals. We will discuss how animal-themed literature has evolved and where it is headed. And we will focus on language and how it shapes our relationships with different species (and our sense of their relations with one another). Combined with readings from new works of fiction, this seminar will offer insights into the ways in which twenty-first century animal literature can enlighten as well as entertain.

Featuring

Midge Raymond (*My Last Continent*)

Sascha Morrell (*Among Animals 2: The Lives of Animals and Humans in Contemporary Short Fiction*)

John Yunker (*The Tourist Trail*)

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Peter Chen: peter.chen@sydney.edu.au.

Website: <http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/harn/seminars/index.shtml>

2016 4th Annual Institute for Critical Animal Studies Africa Conference for Critical Animal Studies
<http://www.criticalanimalstudies.org/africa>

University of Cape Town, Leslie Building

South Africa

September 10 and 11, 2016

Registration – free

2016 Animal Cruelty Conference

September 14 @ 8:00 am – September 16 @ 5:00 pm

In partnership with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' goal is to provide prosecutors and law enforcement with the requisite skills to strengthen links between the criminal justice system and the community by protecting our most vulnerable victims and to enhance prosecutors' ability to successfully identify and prosecute animal cruelty and animal fighting cases. This year's conference focuses not only on the basics of animal abuse prosecution, but also tackles new and emerging issues facing criminal justice stakeholders today.

The Conference will be held in Austin, Texas on the dates of September 14-16th, 2016.

<http://www.animalsandsociety.org/event/2016-animal-cruelty-conference/>

[Human-Animal Boundary Symposium III](#)

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

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

Contact email: nandita.batra@upr.edu

Deadline for submissions: Monday, May 1, 2017

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

anthropocentric focus of philosophy and literature by combining the question "what is human?" with the question "what is animal?"

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

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

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

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

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