

Animail: February 2017

Dear AASA Members,

Welcome to the 1st edition of *Animail* for 2017. I hope that you have all had a lovely summer. Our Vice Chair and Acting Treasurer Lynn Mowson has been in Los Angeles recently, attending the Animal Museum where her work has been exhibited (along with Yvette Watt) as part of the SPOM – Sexual Politics of Meat – Exhibition: <http://theanimalmuseum.com/exhibits/the-sexual-politics-of-meat/>, curated by artists Kathryn Eddy, Janell O'Rourke, L.A. Watson. It's been great following her photographs and reports via Facebook and here's hoping she'll write up a report for us for the March edition of *Animail* (no pressure Lynn!).

This edition includes advertisements for PhD fellowships/positions at the University of Oslo, University of Ghent and also Harvard. These positions are a good indication that Animal studies continues to grow, continues to attract funding and that future animal studies scholars are getting the institutional support that the field needs. I have been working on getting an Animal Studies minor up at the University of Wollongong and I know others are working on trying to establish animal studies at a curriculum level at other Universities too. I'm hoping that there will be opportunities to discuss Animal studies and curriculum at the next AASA conference in July this year. <http://aasa2017.com.au>. Submissions for the conference are now closed, but remember that we also have a scheme to support AASA Postgraduate members and also AASA members who are precariously/casually/under employed. We'll be providing 4 **travel scholarships** (2 for students, 2 for casuals) which will include registration costs and also a contribution towards travel costs. <http://animalstudies.org.au/scholarships> Applications close March 31st. The AASA will make the following amounts available to successful applicants:

- * Up to \$1000 + registration costs for 1 International HDR student
- * Up to \$500 + registration costs for 1 HDR student from Australian or New Zealand.

Rick De Vos has included profiles of the co-convenors of Animal Intersections – Janette Young and Susan Hazel. If you haven't already met Janette and Susan, you'll get to meet them in July – as Susan says, "I am so excited this year to be involved in hosting the AASA conference in Adelaide from July 3-7, aptly titled - Animal Intersections. We have a wonderful committee helping to organise the meeting, and are delighted by the number of abstracts we've received. I look forward to meeting many of the readers of *Animail* at the conference, and to listen and learn more about animals and how our lives intersect."

A reminder about our Facebook page where you can keep up to date with activities in the field <https://www.facebook.com/AASA-Australasian-Animal-Studies-Association-480316142116752/> and also a reminder about our website with its up to date stream of information (thanks largely to the amazing Lynn Mowson: <http://animalstudies.org.au/archives/category/news/call-for-papers>).

Cheers, fiona

Member Profiles

Janette Young



Hello!

I'm Janette Young. I'm currently the Program Director for the Bachelor of Health Sciences at the University of South Australia.

I am also co-chairing the 2017 Animal Intersections Conference Organising Committee with Susan Hazel from the School of Animal and Veterinary Science at the University of Adelaide. The conference will be held in Adelaide 3rd-5th July 2017, and we are eagerly looking forward to it. Information on the conference can be found here: <http://aasa2017.com.au/>

(Left) Janette, Sookie-lala, and Jack (aka Thunder-paws)

My particular interest is in pets/companion animals and the intersection of human and non-human lives in this space. Pets are the animals that most people will have close personal contact with in modern western societies, be that the horse that is ridden on a weekend for human and animal pleasure, the dog that snuggles up on the sofa watching TV with their human, or the cat we mourn when one day we come home and find her curled up lifeless in the sun. These non-human beings provide a very personalised point of reference that those in more distant relationships (wild animals and those consumed by humans) do not generally have. This notion of closeness to another sentient being, and the impact of this on human wellbeing has been my core research interest. But there is a need to encompass animal wellbeing within this framework. My recent research focus has been on older people, and for many pet-guardians concern for their non-human companion is crucial. People make life decisions based around the wellbeing of pets including (human) care seeking and accommodation change. Pets are powerful within people's lives. Pets are presenting as a factor in suicide protection and prevention for older persons in our research. Ignoring the intersectionality of human-nonhuman lives can be damaging for both in these cross-species relationships.

This is where I'm at now, but my interest and sense of connection with animals has been lifelong. I have had animals that I had a relationship with since I was very young, not large numbers but the family cat and dog, and sometimes birds or reptiles. As I became an adult the desire to share my life with non-human creatures has continued, and life would not be as rich and complete without such connections. In my past life I was a social worker working in community aged care, and then worked for the state government on issues such as domestic violence, homelessness, prisoner health, primary health care, education pathways, community capacity, and whatever else came my way. This breadth of experiences shapes my interests in health as a complex outcome of individual and

societal factors; and it was very early on in my social work career that I learnt that caring about people might mean caring about the animals that they lived their lives with.

I am interested in the relationship between pets and people's health (especially mental health) with my aim being to identify how/if we can better integrate pets into Australian society. This has positive cross species implications. For example making housing policy and legislation more animal friendly and putting the onus on landlords to argue for banning pets will reduce the numbers of pets who end up in animal rescue (or euthanised) because their relocating guardians are unable to take them with them. It will also reduce the grief associated with animal loss on the part of some humans, particularly pertinent with regard to older persons who may be faced with pet loss at the same time as they are experiencing multiple other losses.

I have been writing and presenting in the field of animals, leisure and critical thinking (do/should animals such as those in captivity have leisure?) and often I use history and historical changes to reflect on this intersection. Who could believe nowadays that animal welfare trumped child welfare in the not so distant past? And what might this reality offer in terms of predicting and maybe even guiding future changes, in particular regarding the position of animals in human societies. It is an exciting space to be exploring at this time both academically but also practically, as the way we think of animals seems to be shifting yet again. With my colleague Neil Carr at Otago University in NZ we have two book contracts focussing on wild, and domestic, animals and leisure that we aim to have submitted for publication mid-2017.

My most recent forays have been to start to work with a colleague on recording and exploring the multiple transformations that she and her pet, now trained and registered assistance dog have been encountering in the context of increasing human sensory loss. This is a really interesting project and one that almost tips into the field I do not want to be in, i.e. "therapy animals". This is because my interest in pets is an uncoerced, ("natural", though this is a contested word) unstructured human behaviour. People have pets, and have done so for millennia; somehow cross species relationships work for us humans. The question is, how? How does it work and how might we recognise and respond, thereby progressing both human and animal wellness?

I would be delighted to make contact with other members who are interested in the human-animal interface, especially regarding pets. Please feel free to email me on Janette.young@unisa.edu.au

Susan Hazel

I work as a Senior Lecturer in the School of Animal & Veterinary Science at the University of Adelaide Roseworthy Campus. I'm a traditional academic, with lots of teaching but also lots of interesting research going on. Which of course means there is never enough time.



I teach 1st year BSc (Animal Science) and BSc (Veterinary Bioscience) students a foundation course called 'Principles in Animal Behaviour, Welfare & Ethics'. It's great to be able to teach about animal sentience and cognition, and for them to learn about animal behaviour and animal welfare at the beginning of their programs. Students are enrolled in a science degree and often resent the lack of black and white answers relating to our use of animals. They come in with a great diversity of views on animal use, and while I don't necessarily aim to change their views (although this happens) I do want them to recognise the reasons why other people may not agree with them and be sensitive to any differences in values.

Left: *Susan and Fergus*

I've always lived with pets, and my first dog kept me company and protected me

on a fruit farm outside Mildura, Victoria. After training as a veterinarian at the University of Sydney I first worked in private practice, completed a PhD in medical research, then as a scientist in various roles in Australia and Sweden, before taking up my current job in 2006. I feel very lucky to be able to teach and work in an area I love: animals and how we interact with them. My last Labrador Cilla and I volunteered with Delta to visit people with disabilities as a Therapy team, and our current Labrador Fergus volunteers to come with me to work to participate in student practical classes. Students love him and he *loves* the students.

My research includes trying to measure how animals feel through physiological and behavioural measures. There is so much we still don't know about animal emotions; studying how animals feel is a valid scientific endeavour now and the research has exploded in recent years. I also study the interactions when animals and humans meet, the positive ones through the deep attachment and love that people feel for their pets, but also the less positive ones, such as dog attacks.

One of the areas I've worked on with the students most intensively is in how animals learn and how people train them. There are so many examples of bad training techniques, the dominance myth in dogs has led to many abuses of power and dogs being physically punished during training for not getting it right. Teaching students learning theory and breaking down the steps in how animals learn provides the knowledge, and a practical class in which student's clicker train chickens allows them to understand. I never expected the dramatic positive changes in attitudes of students to chickens after they participated in this class, and the work has generated more interest than anything else I've done (see <http://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/5/3/0386>).

Member News

Rowena Lennox won the creative stream of the 2016 Australasian Association of Writing Programs Postgraduate Writing Prize for her essay 'Coolooloi', drawn from interviews with dingo researcher and photographer Jennifer Parkhurst. The judges noted the essay's "fascinating combination of interview, personal experience and reflection on inter-species interaction on Fraser Island" and its "fresh and excitingly critical approach to the interview as a collaborative form". 'Coolooloi' will appear in the forthcoming AAWP 2016 conference proceedings.

Rowena was also awarded a Griffith Review Queensland Writing Fellowship for a proposed essay about her experiences as a tourist on K'gari (Fraser Island) and the life of dingo she met there.

Recent Publications

Marcus Baynes-Rock, 2017, 'Human Perceptual and Phobic Biases for Snakes: A Review of the Experimental Evidence', *Anthrozoös* 30 (1): 5-18.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08927936.2017.1270584>

Desmond Bellamy, 2017, 'Treatment of Unwanted Baby Animals in Australia', in *International Farm Animal, Wildlife and Food Safety Law*, eds. G. Steier and K. Patel. New York: Springer, 151-182.

<http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-3-319-18002-1>

Linda Evans, 2016, 'Beasts and Beliefs at Beni Hassan: A Preliminary Report', *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 52, 219-229. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5913/jarce.52.2016.a013>

Lesley Instone, 2016, 'Lucky and Jasper go missing: or a meditation on more-than-human entanglements', *Kudzu House Quarterly* 6 (3/4). <http://www.kudzuhouse.org>

Steven White, 2016, 'Standards and Standard-Setting in Companion Animal Protection', *Sydney Law Review* 38 (4): 463-490. http://sydney.edu.au/law/slr/slr_38/slr38_4.shtml

Report on the Australian Anthropological Society (AAS) conference - Multispecies Ethnography and the Anthropology of Life in the Age of the Anthropocene - University of Sydney, 12-15 December 2016

The conference attracted 32 invited panels that focused on contemporary topics relating to the conference theme, "Anthropocene Transitions". Papers were presented on topics such as climate change, the Capitalocene, migration, governance, global health, tourism, the changing interaction between people and the environment, and more. The conference gathered together academics, early career researchers, postgraduate students, applied anthropologists, and people from other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, inviting speakers to engage with concepts surrounding the theme of the Anthropocene: its processes, transformations, and exploitations; its effects on earth's ecosystems; and its importance in contemporary anthropology.

Although all the panels were well attended and initiated discussion on their given theme, the panel on more-than-human sociality was considered by many to be particularly successful in terms of revisiting anthropological approaches in the current age of the Anthropocene. Convened by Natasha Fijn and Muhammad Kavesh, this panel on multispecies ethnography included seven 30-minute presentations with a final joint discussion bringing all presenters together to discuss the methodological challenges of studying the interaction of people in relation to non-humans. The panel was oriented toward finding an explanation to the question, “does anthropology possess the requisite methodological tools to understand interspecies social relations?”

In her presentation on more-than-human sociality and ongoing stewardship, **Natasha Fijn** from the Australian National University (ANU) explored philosophies of custodianship and stewardship, and the lives of two different individuals dedicated to conserving multispecies communities into the future. She began her paper by highlighting the concepts of ‘hybrid communities’ and the ‘Anthropology of Life’, including Anna Tsing’s approach of ‘multispecies storytelling’ and ‘more-than-human sociality’. She explored the idea of a multispecies landscape and how visual anthropology can effectively convey these concepts of stewardship towards the land. By presenting two case studies from different contexts in Australia—a visual narrative of the hopping mouse from northeast Arnhem Land and the storytelling of eco-philosopher Val Plumwood—Fijn described how there are ongoing philosophies of custodianship in the protection of multi-species communities.

In his study of wild elephants in India’s Rani Garbhanga forest, **Paul Keil** from Macquarie University pointed out the ethnographic limitations in relation to the inclusion of non-humans. He raised his concerns about the inadequacy of both ethnographic and zoological tools, which are spatially bounded and tend to bracket human understanding towards their non-human subjects. To better understand interspecies encounters, Keil argued for productive collaboration between disciplines, particularly in the form of complimentary research from scientists and zoologists.

Muhammad Kavesh from the ANU spoke about the emotional and experiential aspects of Pakistani pigeon flyers who cultivate their self around their cherished birds and fly pigeons despite community castigation. The study of local enthusiasms towards an activity, particularly the concept of *shauq*, he argued, can be an important anthropological praxis that helps the ethnographer to develop a relationship of trust and intimacy with interlocutors, who in return educate the ethnographer about the intricacies, specialties, and technicalities of their enthusiasm and their sociality. These presentations cohered together well, in that all three researchers were explicitly engaging in their presentations with their role as ethnographers when immersed in hybrid multispecies communities.

Catie Gressier, from the University of Melbourne, spoke about how ecologically motivated hunters and gatherers in Victoria engage in animal moralities to justify their practice. She described how urban foragers engage with their local environment according to two ideologies: sustainable living and respectful killing/consuming. For these people, hunting and foraging are vital food security strategies, which lead to informants stating that they had noticeably improved mental and physical wellbeing as a result. Gressier suggested that hunting and foraging allows people to learn from their local environment in order to determine their own values, while striving to live a practical and ethical life, which in turn gives rise to a strong sense of community.

British hedgehogs have dramatically decreased in numbers. Threats from a range of factors affect their population every day. Speaking about hedgehog conservation, **Laura McLauchlan** from the

University of New South Wales suggested that there is a need for understanding the claims of carers with regard to knowing hedgehogs, both individually and as a species.

Xavier Leenders from the Western Australian Museum spoke about a project engaging with consultant zoologists while surveying endangered northern quolls in the Western Australian Pilbara. By examining how zoologists make knowledge *with* rather than *of* the natural world, Leenders suggested that the natural sciences could benefit from the inclusion of ethnographic methods in order to understand the social position of nonhumans in their research.

Speaking about the biased methodology of comparative cognition tests between human children and adult non-human apes, primatologist *Rebecca Hendershott* from the ANU suggested that such experiments often lead to conclusions that disadvantage non-human primates in comparison to the human subjects. In cognitive tests, she identified a clear advantage to human children (who are with their parent, humanely treated, voluntary participants, and provided with a friendly environment), while disadvantaging non-human primates (who are kept in captivity, most of them having received a traumatic upbringing, participated involuntarily, and drugged during testing). She concluded that there is a need for the testing of similar abilities with tests designed to keep in mind comparable environment factors, such as testing primates in a non-captive scenario, while striving towards equal facilities in the testing of subjects.

At the end of these individual paper presentations, speakers and attendees were invited to discuss their thoughts about the complex ethical and methodological questions surrounding the increasing prevalence of anthropological research involving more-than-human sociality. Everyone who participated in the discussion agreed that, with regard to the study of more-than-humans, other disciplines could benefit from anthropological methods, such as the underlying field method of participant observation, while anthropology should be open to adopting methods from other disciplines for more effective practice in relation to multispecies research. Overall, the panel was a success, particularly in terms of the range of interesting and provocative presentations, including the active engagement of all presenters and the audience in initiating stimulating discussion on this rapidly expanding area of focus within anthropology.

Muhammad Amjad Kavesh & Natasha Fijn

The Australian National University

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



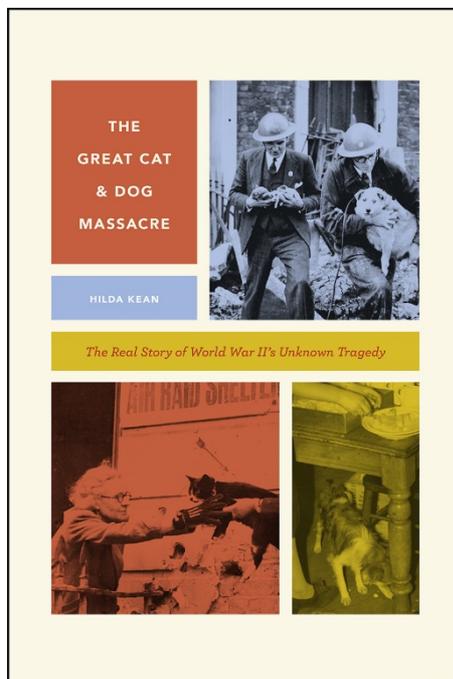
creating a regular space to engage with both classic animal rights theory and new emerging perspectives. ARiS will host national and international visitors and will initiate discussion and reading groups that allow participants to engage with key debates and develop connections between scholars,

practitioners and activists. Keep an eye out for future events - we are hoping this will become a regular fixture.

NEW BOOK RELEASES

February 2017

Hi everyone, please remember to email me info about any new book releases, especially new titles by AASA members. Thanks! Annie
(annie.potts@canterbury.ac.nz)



The Great Cat and Dog Massacre: The Real Story of World War Two's Unknown Tragedy,

by Hilda Kean, published by University of Chicago Press, 2017

The tragedies of World War II are well known. But at least one has been forgotten: in September 1939, *four hundred thousand* cats and dogs were massacred in Britain. The government, vets, and animal charities all advised against this killing. So why would thousands of British citizens line up to voluntarily euthanize household pets?

In *The Great Cat and Dog Massacre*, Hilda Kean unearths the history, piecing together the compelling story of the life—and death—of Britain's wartime animal companions. She explains that fear of imminent

Nazi bombing and the desire to *do* something to prepare for war led Britons to sew blackout curtains, dig up flower beds for vegetable patches, send their children away to the countryside—and kill the family pet, in theory sparing them the suffering of a bombing raid. Kean's narrative is gripping, unfolding through stories of shared experiences of bombing, food restrictions, sheltering, and mutual support. Soon pets became key to the war effort, providing emotional assistance and helping people to survive—a contribution for which the animals gained government recognition.

Drawing extensively on new research from animal charities, state archives, diaries, and family stories, Kean does more than tell a virtually forgotten story. She complicates our understanding of World War II as a "good war" fought by a nation of "good" people. Accessibly written and generously illustrated, Kean's account of this forgotten aspect of British history moves animals to center stage—forcing us to rethink our assumptions about

ourselves and the animals with whom we share our homes.

- REVIEW QUOTES

Jerry White, author of London in the Twentieth Century: A City and Its People

“This is a brilliant telling of an important but neglected story of Britain’s ‘People’s War.’ Kean’s reconstruction of the unnecessary slaughter of hundreds of thousands of pet animals at the outbreak of war will live long in the reader’s memory. But it is matched by her meticulous recovery of the changing aspect of animal-human relations throughout the remaining six years of conflict.”

Carol J. Adams, author The Sexual Politics of Meat

“This is a profoundly important book. Like a piece of paper folded into origami, it reveals new dimensions to a tragic subject. It reshapes our historical understanding by giving us a remarkable model of cross-species inclusivity. I want to start reading it all over again to see just how Kean pulled this off.”

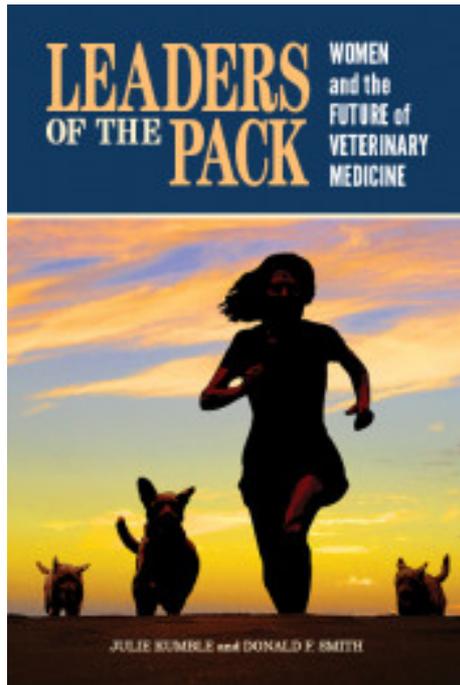
Harriet Ritvo, author most recently of Noble Cows and Hybrid Zebras: Essays on Animals and History

“Beginning with the mass slaughter of household pets immediately after Britain’s declaration of war on Germany in 1939, Kean’s compelling account explores the varied ways in which domesticated animals experienced the Home Front. With the exception of what contemporaries criticized as ‘the holocaust of pets,’ most of these experiences were shared by human and non-human animals. By retrieving evidence of the lives of individual companion animals, as well as by documenting the increasing official acknowledgment of their value and standing, Kean offers a fresh perspective on what has often been called the ‘People’s War.’”

Richard Overy, author of The Bombing War: Europe 1939–1945

“For those who think everything has been said about Britain’s war, here is a book that will change our perspective on the popular image of the British people calmly coping with the challenges of the home front. Kean not only brings animals into the wartime narrative in their own right, but challenges the way historians have treated the wartime experience. This is a remarkably rich and detailed history, not only reconstructing the unknown story of the animal massacre, but in the process offering a profound view of the way animals and humans interact.”

Website: <http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/G/bo22091014.html>



Leaders of the Pack: Women and the Future of Veterinary Medicine (ePDF and paperback), by Julie Kumble and Donald F. Smith, published by Purdue University Press, 2017

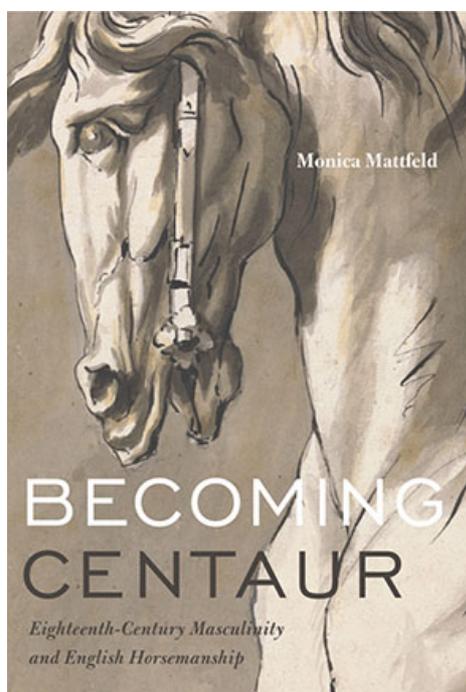
Series: [New Directions in the Human-Animal Bond](#)

Veterinary medicine has undergone sweeping changes in the last few decades. Women now account for 55 percent of the active veterinarians in the field, and nearly 80 percent of veterinary students are women. However, average salaries have dropped as this shift has occurred, and even with women in the vast majority, only 25 percent of leadership roles are held by women.

These trends point to gender-based inequality that veterinary medicine, a profession that tilts so heavily toward women, is struggling to address. How will the profession respond? What will this mean for our students and schools? What will it mean for our pets entrusted to veterinarian care? Who has succeeded in these situations? Who is taking action to lead change? What can we learn from them to lead the pack in our lives?

Leaders of the Pack, by Julie Kumble and Dr. Donald Smith, explores key themes in leadership and highlights women in veterinary medicine whose stories embody those themes. In it, Kumble and Smith cull over three years of interviews to profile a wide variety of women as they share triumphs and challenges, lucky as well as tough breaks, and the sound advice and words that inspired them to take their careers in unanticipated directions. By sharing unique stories that illuminate different paths to leadership and reflecting on best practices through commentary and research, Leaders of the Pack will allow more female leaders to create wider pathways to the top of their profession.

Website: <http://www.thepress.purdue.edu/titles/format/9781612494869>



Becoming Centaur: Eighteenth-Century Masculinity and English Horsemanship, by Monica Mattfeld, published by Penn State Uni Press, 2017

In this study of the relationship between men and their horses in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century England, Monica Mattfeld explores the experience of horsemanship and how it defined one's gendered and political positions within society.

Men of the period used horses to transform themselves, via the image of the centaur, into something other—something powerful, awe-inspiring, and mythical. Focusing on the manuals, memoirs, satires, images, and ephemera produced by some of the period's most influential equestrians, Mattfeld examines how the concepts and practices of horse husbandry evolved in relation to social, cultural, and political life. She looks closely at the role of horses in the world of Thomas Hobbes and William Cavendish; the changes in human social behavior and horse handling ushered in by elite riding houses such as Angelo's Academy and Mr. Carter's; and the public perception of equestrian endeavors, from performances at places such as Astley's Amphitheatre to the satire of Henry William Bunbury. Throughout, Mattfeld shows how horses aided the performance of idealized masculinity among communities of riders, in turn influencing how men were perceived in regard to status, reputation, and gender.

Drawing on human-animal studies, gender studies, and historical studies, *Becoming Centaur* offers a new account of masculinity that reaches beyond anthropocentrism to consider the role of animals in shaping man.

"Monica Mattfeld explores eighteenth-century English masculinity and gentlemanly honor from a scintillating new perspective—the horse's back. Richly archival and theoretically alert, this splendid book illuminates the equestrian worlds of William Cavendish, London riding houses, the hunting field, Philip Astley's celebrity circuses, and Henry Bunbury's savage satires, revealing a hidden history of horses as secret sharers and historical agents in Englishmen's self-imagining. A must for historians as well as animal studies scholars." — Donna Landry, author of *Noble Brutes: How Eastern Horses Transformed English Culture*

Amazon link: <https://www.amazon.com/Becoming-Centaur-Eighteenth-Century-Masculinity-Horsemanship/dp/0271075775>

***Other Animals in Twenty-First Century Literature*, by Catherine Parry, published by Palgrave, 2017**

This book is about ordinary animals and how they are imagined in twenty-first century fiction. Examining contemporary animal representations and the fraught and potent distinctions humans fashion between themselves and all other animals, it asks how a range of novels make, re-make or un-make traditional conceptions of the creatures we love, admire, eat, vilify and abuse. *Other Animals'* detailed readings of horses, an animalised human, a donkey, ants, chickens and chimpanzees develop new critical practices in Literary Animal Studies. They explore the connections between fictional animal representation, narrative form, ethics, and the lives and warm bodies of the real-world creatures that precede and exceed our imagination. Human-animal relationships are conditioned by our imaginative shapings of other animals, and by our sense of distinction from them, and *Other Animals* opens out how fictional animal forms and tropes respond to, participate in, or challenge the ways animals' lives are lived out in consequence of human imaginings of them.

Website: <http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319559315>

***Lives of Humans and Animals: Animal Agency in the Global North*, by Tuomas Rasanen & Taina Syrjmaa, published by Taylor and Francis, 10/05/2017**

Animals are conscious beings that form their own perspective regarding the life-worlds in which they exist, and according to which they act in relation to their species and other animals. In recent decades a thorough transformation in societal research has taken place, as many groups that were previously perceived as being passive or subjugated objects have become active subjects. This fundamental reassessment, first promoted by feminist and radical studies, has subsequently been followed by spatial, material and animal turns that have brought non-human agency to the fore. In human-animal relations, despite a power imbalance, animals are not mere objects but act as agents. They shape our material world and our encounters with them influence the way we think about the world and ourselves.

This book focuses on animal agency and interactions between humans and animals. It explores the reciprocity of human–animal relations and the capacity of animals to act and shape human societies. The chapters draw on examples from the Global North to explore how human life in modernity have been and are shaped by the sentience, autonomy, and physicality of various animals, particularly in landscapes where communities and wild animals exist in close proximity. It offers a timely contribution to animal studies, environmental geography, environmental history, and social science and humanities studies of the environment more broadly.

PhD /Postdoctoral Fellowships

University of Oslo

A Doctoral Research Fellowship in “The Biopolitics of Disability, Illness, and Animality in Literary and Cultural Texts” is available in the Department of Literature, Area Studies, and European Languages, University of Oslo. The successful applicant’s dissertation project will explore representations and discourses of disability, illness, and animality in American literature and culture. Proposals that include comparative studies between American and other Anglophone cultures, including Norway and other Nordic countries, would be welcome but are not required. The project should engage with the interdisciplinary theoretical field of biopolitics and intersectional approaches to gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, disability, and animality, situated in particular historical and cultural contexts. The historical period is open, but the original language of the primary texts to be studied must be in English. The dissertation must also be written in English.

<http://uio.easycruit.com/vacancy/1793755/62046?iso=gb>

Ghent University – Department of Literary Studies

Job description We invite applications for two PhD positions within the ERC Starting Grant Project “Narrating the Mesh.” The envisioned start date for these positions is 1 October 2017, and the maximum duration 4 years. The positions include full social security coverage and a net salary of approximately 1,900€ per month.

<http://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/AXM630/phd-positions-x2-narrating-the-mesh-ecology-and-the-non-human-in-contemporary-fiction-and-oral-storytelling/>

Farmed Animal Law & Policy Fellowship, Harvard Law School
Harvard Law School's Animal Law & Policy Program is inviting applications for Fellowships in Farmed Animal Law & Policy for the 2017–2018 academic year.

The Fellowships provide opportunities for outstanding scholars and legal practitioners to undertake research, writing, and scholarly engagement on Farmed Animal Law & Policy that furthers the Program's mission. We particularly are interested in applicants whose work focuses on the interrelations among animal welfare, human health, food safety, workers' rights, human rights, as well as climate change and the environment.

<http://animal.law.harvard.edu/fellowship/info-applications/>

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

1st June 2017, King's College London

Deadline for submissions 31st March 2017

'Co-operation and Conflict'

Keynote speaker: Harriet Ritvo (Arthur J. Conner Professor of History, MIT)

This one-day workshop will conclude the 2016–17 programme of events organised by the Animal History Group, the London-based network for postgraduates, academics, museum workers and other professionals whose work engages with animals in history. We are honoured to welcome Harriet Ritvo, who needs no introduction to anyone interested in this field, to deliver the keynote address; she will be speaking on her current research in a paper entitled *A Whiff of Danger: Hybridity, Breed, and Wildness*.

The workshop will address the broad themes of 'Co-operation and Conflict' within animal history. We welcome papers from across the the field, exploring any aspect of human-animal relationships, whether concerning companion animals, livestock, wild animals, animal health and disease, animal afterlives as museum specimens or artefacts, or abstracted animals in literature and theory. Papers from graduate students are encouraged. Speakers will be convened into panels of related papers by the workshop organisers. Please aim for a 15-minute presentation and a shared session for questions at the end of each panel. The day will conclude with a drinks reception and dinner.

Paper proposals should be submitted to animalhistorygroup@gmail.com. Please include a title, an abstract (250 words) and a speaker biography (up to 100 words). There is no registration fee for speakers at this workshop, which is generously funded by the Wellcome Trust. We will reimburse costs up to £150 (to be claimed after the workshop, with original receipts) for travel and one night's accommodation for UK based speakers, and will make an equivalent contribution to the travel and accommodation costs of speakers coming from further afield.

The deadline for submissions is 31st March 2017.

<http://environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/2017/02/cfp-animal-history-group-london-summer-workshop/>

BARBARA CREED - March 14th -

<http://whatson.sydney.edu.au/events/published/power-institute-barbara-creed>

The Power Institute is pleased to invite you to a book launch and a talk by Barbara Creed, *Stray: Human–Animal Ethics in the Anthropocene*.

Barbara Creed's timely polemic *Stray* explores the relationship between human and animal in the context of the stray. To celebrate the launch this new Power Polemics title, Creed will be presenting a lecture exploring the concept of the stray through the visual arts, film and literature, introducing the concept of the anthropogenic stray and exploring the contradictions it embodies.

Call for Papers: Special Edition of the Animal Studies Journal
'Animal Sanctuaries'

Guest Editor: Elan Abrell

We seek articles that consider animal sanctuaries as unique sites of human-animal interaction that both influence and are influenced by the way animals are treated and understood in larger contexts. How do animal sanctuaries contribute to the broader animal protection movement, what limits and challenges do they face, and what sorts of new models for living with and caring for captive animals might they provide?

Papers might consider:

What constitutes a sanctuary?

What do concepts like care, rescue, captivity, agency, freedom, and flourishing mean in the sanctuary context, and how might these concepts vary across different kinds of sanctuaries? How might sanctuaries differ in their approach to animal care, both philosophically and in relation to the specific kinds of animals they cater to?

How do sanctuaries balance the physical and psychological needs of animals against the material and spatial constraints of captivity?

How do sanctuaries differ from (or what do they have in common with) other forms of animal captivity, such as zoos, aquariums, farms, and circuses?

What are the goals of sanctuaries beyond the immediate care of animals? And how are these goals affected by animal needs? For example, how might the positioning of animals as ambassadors for animal advocacy affect their care?

How effective are sanctuaries at animal advocacy?

What unique ethical dilemmas might sanctuaries face, and what kinds of different approaches to animal ethics inform their missions?

How do sanctuaries foster or restrict animal autonomy? For example, how do they address issues related to animal reproduction or spatial segregation of animals that may be at risk of harm or pose a danger to others?

What new knowledge about animal care, consciousness, and behavior might arise in the sanctuary context? For example, what contributions to veterinary science might sanctuaries provide?

How do sanctuaries respond to issues related to animal death, including euthanasia, external predators, and the feeding of sanctuary carnivores?

What possible visions for animal futures might sanctuaries provide?

Submissions due by 31st March 2017. Please see guidelines and submit online at:

<http://ro.uow.edu.au/asj/>

Themed Issue of Image & Text:

Image & Text no. 30 December 2017

Issue Editors: Dr Benita de Robillard and Dr Ruth Lipschitz

Article submission: 30 April 2017

Publication: 30 December 2017 – January 2018

Length: 5000-7000 words

All submissions and general enquiries should be sent directly to both of the issue editors:

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Themed Issue: "Visual Cultures of Race and Animality"
