



# ***Animail: December 2018***

## **Introduction**

Kia ora koutou katoa! Hello again everyone!

As I write this, and perhaps still when you read it, we are in the midst of a very busy week in Human-Animal Studies in our part of the world. The week begins with the 'New Directions in Animal Advocacy' Conference at Sydney University, and ends with 'Animaladies II' at the University of Wollongong. Hopefully many of you made it to one or both of these conferences, and are even now enjoying the company and intellectual energy of colleagues in HAS. Please take lots of notes, and be sure to send us a report of your experience for our next *Animail*.

As you know, our own AASA Annual General Meeting will take place on the second day of the 'Animaladies II' conference in Wollongong. If you're there, please do join the other delegates. The meeting will be led by our magnificently competent Vice-Chair, Lynn Mowson, so it's bound to be dynamic, efficient, and inspiring. Moreover we have a couple of really important tasks to achieve at the AGM: to pass the proposed constitutional changes, and to elect 2019's Executive Committee.

We're coming now to the end of a really busy twelve months for AASA and its members: every two months, when Rick has sent me the copy for the *Animail*, I have been astonished afresh at the energy, wisdom, determination, genius, and compassion of all those who belong to the organization. It's been a privilege to be able to report on – not to mention to learn from! – all this extraordinary work. I don't like the word 'productive', so I'm going to say 2018 has been one of those most **creative** years so far for HAS scholars, students, artists, and activists in our part of the world.

If you need further evidence, just look at the contents of this, our final *Animail* for the year. To begin, there are two inspiring member profiles from Katherine FitzHywel and Sharri Lembryk. Those are followed by a characteristically exhilarating report by Siobhan O'Sullivan – AASA's answer to both Louis Theroux and Ruby Wax – that documents her travels on sabbatical and the various networks of HAS scholars she met along the way. Our 'Member News' and 'Recent Publications' sections offer an impressive list of achievements, while the 'Recent Books' roundup includes even more AASA names.

In signing off for 2018, then, I'd like to thank you for being part of AASA, and to wish you a restorative, safe, and fun holiday season.

And don't forget ... Look for the next issue of *Animail* in two months' time!

Until then, noho ora mai, stay well.

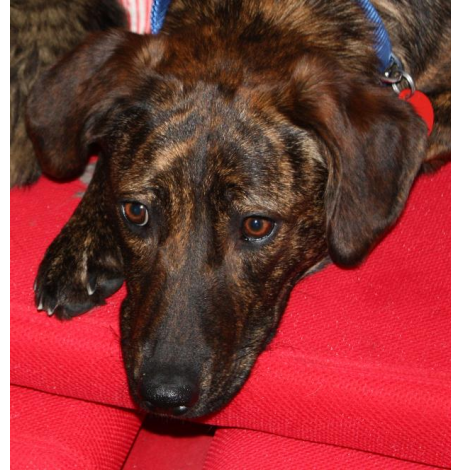
Philip Armstrong, AASA Chair

## Lola's Lament

I worry.  
 I have to because nobody else does.  
 Some strange car comes up the driveway —  
 They go right on talking. They trust,  
 I don't. Threat crosses my nose  
 Twenty times a day.  
 No wonder I bark and menace,  
 Who knows who it could be at the door  
 'Specially in these times.

Walk in the woods with them  
 You'd never know they're passing  
 Under two tremendous owls perched way up,  
 Or stepping on fresh coyote piss  
 Or a hair of an elderly rat on a blade of grass  
 Or the spunk of a rutting deer last night,  
 Or the rubbing of a bear, God forbid,  
 On a bent birch beside the path.

So I worry.  
 Sleep with my ears up, not soundly.  
 When I'm not watching I'm greeting.  
 People are not grateful enough  
 For visitors. I am. I worry  
 About them not being grateful enough.  
 So I make up for it by howling  
 Till they get up off the couch  
 To shake hands. Between the dangers  
 And the greetings I am simply exhausted.



- Arthur Miller, from *Unleashed: Poems by Writers' Dogs*,  
 ed. Amy Hempel, Jim Shepherd (1995)

## Member Profiles

### Katherine FitzHywel

After it rains and the footpaths are covered with snails it takes me a long time to walk anywhere. I have to stop to move them off the path. My partner once mentioned that putting them back the way they came from, even if it was on the safety of grass, defeated their efforts to get wherever they were headed. So now I need to take the time to move them to safety in their direction of travel. I think about the animals in our lives all the time. Even in the city they're present in so many ways. My father once showed me some field mice who had become drunk on fermented pumpkin in the courtyard of his inner city flat. They let him hold them in the palm of his hand. I wish we could make more space for animals in our lives and preserve their habitats. While we push animals out of their homes, and into extinction, they try to adapt to man-made environments and live where they can.

I feel that the way we treat animals is bound up in the ways we talk about them, the language we use to draw them close to us, or distance them. I want to find ways we can change our conversations about animals to recognise the ways they are similar to us and distinct from us, without anthropomorphising or othering them. I think we need to broaden our ideas of community to include nonhuman animals and work to decentre human concerns that define animals as pests, pets and livestock according to their 'use'. I'm in my second year of a Creative Writing PhD at the University of Melbourne and I'm exploring how nonhuman animals are represented or misrepresented through the language employed in contemporary Australian poetry, and how poetic language might contribute to the perception and treatment of nonhuman animals.

I can't remember a time I haven't been concerned with trying to understand animals. It's a well-worn family anecdote that at the age of three I faced off a large, loudly barking dog on the footpath. With my hands on my hips I looked into his angry face and asked, 'My goodness doggy whatever is the matter with you?' The dog stopped barking and tilted his head to look at me. Then he just turned and left. I was the sort of child who regularly brought home stray animals and once rescued mice from a science class at school. I must confess that in more recent years I also ~~stole~~ liberated a snail from a bar. This snail was a competitor in a snail race and had the number 17 painted in yellow on their back. After the race, when nobody was looking, I scooped the snail up and hid them in my hat. I left the others behind. I don't know what happened to them, but number 17 was released into my garden. I wish I had saved all of them, I probably would have as a child, but becoming an adult can make us ~~sensible~~ timid in many ways that we need to resist.



*Puppy-sitting*

*Kroshka**Bushwalking*

I'm currently typing with one hand because my dear cat friend Kroshka has been leaning on the keyboard and making rows of 99999s and ++++s with her head, so now she's leaning on my hand instead. Fortunately I'm now quite fast at typing one-handed and I'm also accomplished at taking one-handed photographs with my phone. I like to sketch and paint animals as well, but I need two hands for that. Sometimes I think it's easier to depict animals through visual art, rather than words. Language can be a barrier between us; words can change animals into reflections of us, or diminish them into shadows of themselves. And yet, language can also help us try to understand animals. I'm still trying to figure out how to avoid making poems that are just ciphers for my own human concerns, how to leave space for animals in and between the words. Human language and thought may not ever be able to truly express animal being but I think it's worth trying to reach towards the animals in our lives, in our environment, in our world.

Contact: [fitzhywelk@student.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:fitzhywelk@student.unimelb.edu.au)

## **Sharri Lembryk**

My academic interest in non-human animals is a relatively recent pursuit; however my engagement with animal ethics more broadly is one which stems from childhood. As a small human I felt a deep sense of injustice at the way that society treated animals, and at the age of 15 it was brought to my attention that converting to vegetarianism was not the one-way route to malnourishment that my parents had convinced me it was. I was brought up fishing and catching crabs and yabbies, and my mum and dad used to hunt kangaroos before the gun laws were tightened in the 90s. While the latter was never something that I was directly exposed to, it nevertheless evidences the sort of paradigms that my family then held. When I decided to stop eating animals, I had to defend this position. Every day I was met with new arguments against vegetarianism, and later veganism, that required consideration.

After taking a few years off after high school to pursue full-time training in karate, competing in national and international tournaments (hurray for plant-based protein!) I decided that I wanted to return to university and study to become a journalist. In doing so, I also happened to fall in love with philosophy, which lead to me taking up a double degree in journalism and arts, culminating in Honours. My project

for honours was on anthropomorphic bias in animal ethics, where I looked to a small extent at the ethical and epistemic ramifications of evaluating of animals on a human-centric scale.



I am now eight months in to a PhD in philosophy at the University of New South Wales, where I am again looking at the intersections of ethics and epistemology, and non-human animals. I am particularly interested in the ways in which injustices are committed in attempts understand animals, due to their devaluation stemming from human prejudice. I am essentially looking at the ethics around knowing animals, and contextualising this through the study of ignorance. Feminist and post-colonial philosophy, and the critiques of knowledge and power provided therein, are largely being drawn upon to shape and inform this project.

I continue to practice martial arts (in particular MMA, with attention to Brazilian jiu jitsu and kickboxing) and yoga asanas in order maintain a reasonable level of health, and adore cooking up low-waste vegan feasts with the help of my little mister, a rescue bunny by the name of Mr Darcy. We reside in the seaside town of Wollongong where there are amazing communities around veganism, plastic use (single use plastics are in the process of being banned from public events by Wollongong Council!), food waste, and general environmental concerns. It is a place and a space to take heart with, much like the animal studies community.

## Report: A Big Wide World of Animal Studies

*by Siobhan O'Sullivan, UNSW*

In the second half of 2018 I was lucky enough to have a sabbatical. During my sabbatical I was based at the University of Sheffield, UK, but I travelled extensively around the UK, Europe as well as visiting North America. Along the way I met countless smart, capable, enthusiastic and committed Animal Studies scholars. Some of them are working alone, but many are working as part of a research network or Animal Studies hub. In this brief article I share what I learnt about Animal Studies scholarship in the places I visited. I hope this will help strengthen connections and make others aware of the opportunities to visit with, speak to, and collaborate with talented Animal Studies scholars around the world.

### **ShARK - Sheffield Animal Studies Research Centre, University of Sheffield, UK**

<http://sheffieldanimals.group.shef.ac.uk>

ShARK were my hosts, with Dr. Alasdair Cochrane securing my place at the University of Sheffield. Alasdair Cochrane is a political theorist and co-convenor of ShARK, along with Dr. Robert McKay and Dr. John Miller, both of whom are English literature scholars. I also met AASA member Sarah Bezan, who is a postdoctoral fellow at ShARK, examining how emerging paleoartists are responding to ecological crises. In November, ShARK hosted the most wonderful two-day postgraduate conference called ShARK Tails.



*Photo 1: Taken at the ShARK Tails event where we recorded a live episode of the Knowing Animals podcast.*

With an emphasis on English and Literature, ShARK is one of the most active and impressive Animal Studies hubs in the UK. It is also complemented by the Biosec team: <https://biosecproject.org> led by Prof. Rosaleen Duffy.

### **Kent Animal Humanities Network, University of Kent, UK**

<https://research.kent.ac.uk/kentanimalhumanitiesnetwork>

The Kent Animal Humanities Network is another thriving Animal Studies centre in the UK. It has a strong focus on English and literature, but my visit was a collaboration with the Social Sciences, and suggests that expanding their scope to incorporate psychology, is a real possibility for the group. In particular, Dr. Kristof Dhont is undertaking research into speciesism and veganism and was there to respond to my presentation.

## University of Leicester, UK

The University of Leicester does not have a formerly organised Animal Studies group, but nonetheless is a 'must see' stop on any Animal Studies tour of the UK. Prof. Robert Garner will be well known to many. He is now joined in the politics department by Dr. Steve Cooke, with Dr. Joe Wills just down the corridor in Law. The three colleagues share research interests in political theory, environmental politics and animal rights.



*Photo 2: At dinner with the Leicester team*

Before leaving the UK I should give a shout out to a few more Animal Studies scholars who helped welcome me to the country: Dr. Anat Pick (Queens University London), Dr. Josh Milburn (York University), Dr. Alex Lockwood (University of Sunderland), and Dr. Tom Tyler (Leeds University). They are



all helping to strengthen Animal Studies in their part of the world and all met up with me at various times to share ideas and a laugh or two.

*Photo 3: Anat, Tom and I gather to watch Robert McKay (Bob) perform as part of a free Sheffield University event. Bob's reading was animal focused of course. The UK is really cold. Take a jacket!*

## Spain and Portugal

I spent 10 days in Spain and Portugal and was blown away by the scope and range of Animal Studies activity. My first stop was the Rethinking Animality conference at the University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, which was organised by a cohort of passionate postgraduate students working under the leadership of philosopher Dr. Oscar Horta. Following that, and thanks to Oscar Horta's strong Animal Studies contacts throughout the region, I presented my research at the University of Minho, Braga, Portugal, which features the Centre for Ethics, Politics and Society: <http://cehum.ilch.uminho.pt>. The Centre is not exclusively animals focused, but Dr. Catia Faria and Dr. Eze Paez, two of the Centre's postdocs, are Animal Studies scholars who are help bring a strong animal focus to the Centre and the University.

Following that I gave a free lecture to students at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and a class on animals and philosophy to undergraduate students at Saint Louis University, Madrid. My final stop in Spain was Universitat Pompeu Fabra, in Barcelona. There I was hosted by Dr. Núria Almiron who is co-director of the Centre for Animal Ethics: <https://www.upf.edu/cae>. Following my talk at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, I was lucky enough to be invited to attend a book launch by one of the Centre's postdoctoral students. The launch was held at La Raposa, which is a vegan bar, café and feminist bookshop.



Photo 4: Some of the Rethinking Animality participants.



Photo 5: A full house at Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

## The Netherlands

Dr. Bernice Bovenkerk, Dr. Eva Meijer and Dr. Henneke Nijland invited me to speak on a panel titled 'Animal Advocacy and the Politics of Sight'. The event was held at Wageningen University and Research, the Netherlands. Philosopher Bernice Bovenkerk recently won a large Animal Studies grant and Eva Meijer and Henneke Nijland have joined her as postdocs. Together they are creating a vibrant Animal Studies community. The panel also featured Alex Lockwood, a vet and a Dutch animal rights activist. The event attracted a large audience including a journalist and a representative from the Dutch Party for the Animals.



Photo 6: Women Animal Studies experts share their views in the Netherlands.

## NYU Environmental and Animal Studies

New York University was my final stop. It is home to the NYU Environmental and Animal Studies Program: <https://as.nyu.edu/animalstudies.html>. My host was Dr. Jeff Sebo and I shared an update on my latest research (co-authored with Prof. Probyn-Rapsey and Dr. Yvette Watt), 'Who are Animal Studies scholars?', with the NYU team.

Overall, I spoke on 14 occasions, in various capacities, and recorded 28 episodes of my podcast *Knowing Animals*: <http://knowinganimals.libsyn.com>. Everywhere I went I sang the praises of AASA and Animal Studies scholarship in Australia and New Zealand. My hope is that we can continue to share Animal Studies ideas around the world as the discipline of Animal Studies continues to expand and take shape.

## Member News

**Steven White** has recently edited a special issue of the *Alternative Law Journal* addressing animal law matters, due to be published as vol. 43 (4), December 2018, with the following articles currently available via Sage Online First (<https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/aljb/0/0>):

- Marcelo B. Rodriguez Ferrere, 'Codes vs Regulations: How Best to Enforce Animal Welfare in New Zealand?'
- Michelle Gunawan, 'Navigating Human and Non-human Animal Relations: Okja, Foucault and Animal Welfare Laws'.
- Christine Parker, Gyorgy Scrinis, Rachel Carey & Laura Boehm, 'A Public Appetite for Poultry Welfare Regulation Reform: Why Higher Welfare Labelling Is Not Enough'
- Katie Woolaston, 'A Voice for Wild Animals: Collaborative Governance and Human–Wildlife Conflict'
- **Steven White**, 'Farm Animal Protection Policymaking and the Law: The Impetus for Change'

## Recent Publications

**Paul Allatson** and **Andrea Connor**, 2018. 'Friday Essay: The Rise of the "Bin Chicken", a Totem for Modern Australia.' *The Conversation*, September 6: [https://theconversation.com/friday-essay-the-rise-of-the-bin-chicken-a-totem-for-modern-australia-100673#comment\\_171460](https://theconversation.com/friday-essay-the-rise-of-the-bin-chicken-a-totem-for-modern-australia-100673#comment_171460)

**Natasha Fijn**, 2018. 'Dog Ears and Tails: Different Relational Ways of Being with Canines in Aboriginal Australia and Mongolia.' *Domestication Gone Wild: Politics and Practices of Multispecies Relations*, eds. Heather Anne Swanson, Marianne Elisabeth Lien, and Gro B. Ween, Duke University Press, 72-93.

**Heather Fraser** and **Nik Taylor**, 2018. 'Women, Anxiety and Companion Animals: Toward a Feminist Animal Studies of Interspecies Care and Solidarity.' *Animaladies: Gender, Animals, and Madness*, eds. Lori Gruen and Fiona Probyn-Rapsey, Bloomsbury.

- Laura McKay**, 2018. 'A "very important chimp": The Species Binary in Benjamin Hale's *The Evolution of Bruno Littlemore*.' *Antithesis*, vol. 28: 'Binary'.  
[https://www.academia.edu/37731211/A\\_very\\_important\\_chimp\\_The\\_Species\\_Binary\\_in\\_Benjamin\\_Hale\\_s\\_The\\_Evolution\\_of\\_Bruno\\_Littlemore](https://www.academia.edu/37731211/A_very_important_chimp_The_Species_Binary_in_Benjamin_Hale_s_The_Evolution_of_Bruno_Littlemore)
- Jennifer McDonell**, 2018. 'Dickens and Animal Studies.' *Oxford Handbook of Charles Dickens*, eds. Robert L. Patten, John O. Jordan and Catherine Waters, Oxford UP, 550-65.
- Jennifer McDonell**, 2018. 'Representing Animals in the Literature of Victorian Britain.' *Routledge Companion to Animal-Human History*, eds. Hilda Kean and Philip Howell. Routledge, 337- 427.
- lynn mowson**, 2018. 'Making and Unmaking Mammalian Bodies: Sculptural Practice as Traumatic Testimony.' *Animaladies: Gender, Animals, and Madness*, eds. Lori Gruen and Fiona Probyn-Rapsey, Bloomsbury.
- Annie Potts and Philip Armstrong**, 2018. 'Vegan.' *Critical Terms for Animal Studies*, ed. Lori Gruen, University of Chicago Press.
- Fiona Probyn-Rapsey**, 2018. 'Anthropocentrism.' *Critical Terms for Animal Studies*, ed. Lori Gruen, University of Chicago Press.
- Fiona Probyn-Rapsey**, 2018. The 'Crazy Cat Lady'. *Animaladies: Gender, Animals, and Madness*, eds. Lori Gruen and Fiona Probyn-Rapsey, Bloomsbury.
- Guy Scotton**, 2018. 'Maladies and Metaphors: Against Psychologising Speciesism.' *Animaladies: Gender, Animals, and Madness*, eds. Lori Gruen and Fiona Probyn-Rapsey, Bloomsbury.
- Hayley Singer**, 2018. 'Erupt the Silence.' *Animaladies: Gender, Animals, and Madness*, eds. Lori Gruen and Fiona Probyn-Rapsey, Bloomsbury.
- Thom van Dooren**, 2018. 'Extinction.' *Critical Terms for Animal Studies*, ed. Lori Gruen, University of Chicago Press.
- Eben Kirksey, Paul Munro, **Thom van Dooren**, Dan Emery, Anne Maree Kreller, Jeffrey Kwok, Ken Lau, Madeleine Miller, Kaleesha Morris, Stephanie Newson, Erin Olejniczak, Amy Ow, Kate Tuckson, Sarah Sannen, and John Martin, 2018. 'Feeding the flock: Wild cockatoos and their Facebook friends.' *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*.  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2514848618799294>
- Dinesh Joseph Wadiwel**, 2018. 'Biopolitics.' *Critical Terms for Animal Studies*, ed. Lori Gruen, University of Chicago Press.
- Yvette Watt**, 2018. 'Duck Lake Project: Art Meets Activism in an Anti-hide, Anti-bloke, Antidote to Duck Shooting.' *Animaladies: Gender, Animals, and Madness*, eds. Lori Gruen and Fiona Probyn-Rapsey, Bloomsbury.

## New Books

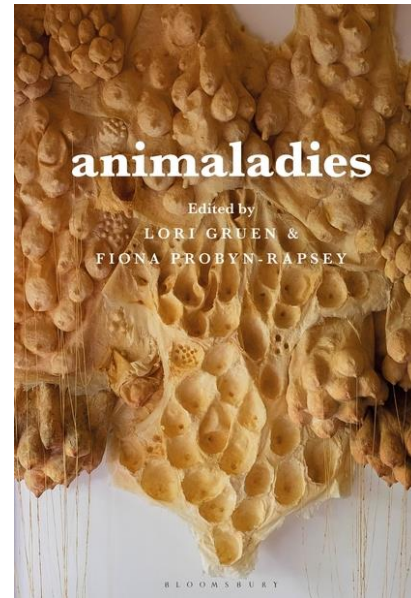
Compiled by Nik Taylor and Rick De Vos

### ***Animaladies: Gender, Animals, and Madness***

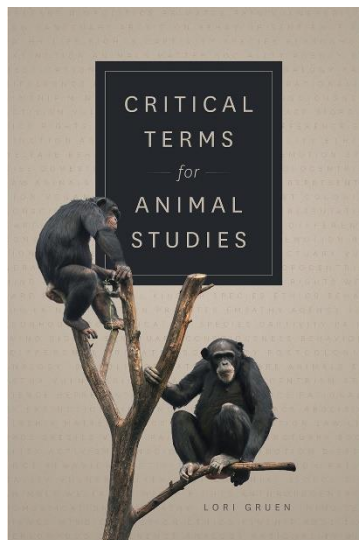
Edited by Lori Gruen and Fiona Probyn-Rapsey  
Bloomsbury, 2018.

Do depictions of crazy cat ladies obscure more sinister structural violence against animals hoarded in factory farms?

Highlighting the frequent pathologization of animal lovers and animal rights activists, this book examines how the “madness” of our relationships with animals intersects with the “madness” of taking animals seriously. The essays collected in this volume argue that “animaladies” are expressive of political and psychological discontent, and the characterization of animal advocacy as mad or “crazy” distracts attention from broader social unease regarding human exploitation of animal life.



While allusions to madness are both subtle and overt, they are also very often gendered, thought to be overly sentimental with an added sense that emotions are being directed at the wrong species. Animaladies are obstacles for the political uptake of interest in animal issues - as the intersections between this volume and established feminist scholarship show, the fear of being labeled unreasonable or mad still has political currency.



### ***Critical Terms for Animal Studies***

Edited by Lori Gruen  
University of Chicago Press, 2018

Bringing together the work of a group of internationally distinguished scholars, the contribution in *Critical Terms for Animal Studies* offers distinct voices and diverse perspectives, exploring significant concepts and asking important questions. How do we take non-human animals seriously, not simply as metaphors for human endeavors, but as subjects themselves? What do we mean by *anthropocentrism*, *captivity*, *empathy*, *sanctuary*, and *vulnerability*, and what work do these and other critical terms do in Animal Studies?

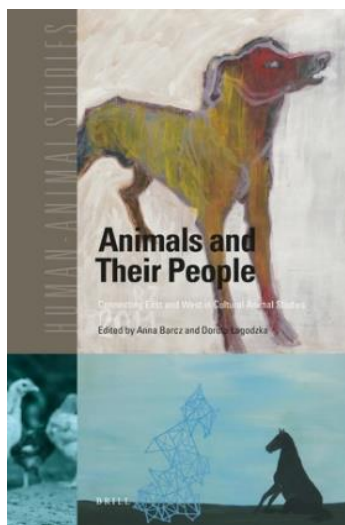
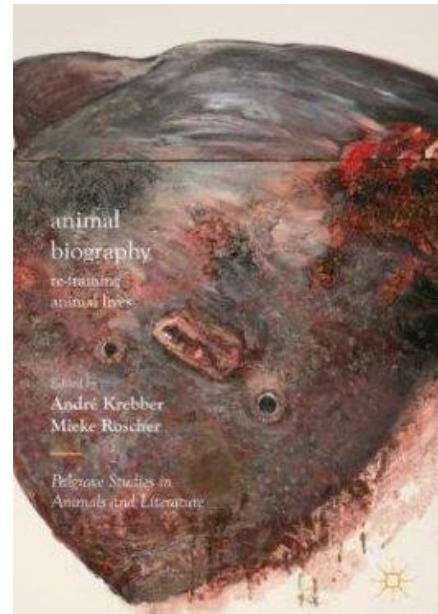
Sure to become an indispensable reference for the field, *Critical Terms for Animal Studies* not only provides a framework for thinking about animals as subjects of their own experiences, but also serves as a touchstone to help us think differently about our conceptions of what it means to be human, and the impact human activities have on the more than human world.

### ***Animal Biography: Re-framing Animal Lives***

Edited by André Krebber and Mieke Roscher  
Palgrave Macmillan, 2018

While historiography is dominated by attempts that try to standardize and de-individualize the behavior of animals, history proves to be littered with records of the exceptional lives of unusual animals. This book introduces animal biography as an approach to the re-framing of animals as both objects of knowledge as well as subjects of individual lives. Taking an interdisciplinary perspective and bringing together scholars from, among others, literary, historical and cultural studies, the texts collected in this volume seek to refine animal biography as a research method and framework to studying, capturing, representing and acknowledging animal others as individuals.

From Heini Hediger's biting monitor, Hachikō and Murr to celluloid ape Caesar and the mourning of Topsy's gruesome death, the authors discuss how animal biographies are discovered and explored through connections with humans that can be traced in archives, ethological fieldwork and novels, and probe the means of constructing animal biographies from taxidermy to film, literature and social media. Thus, they invite deeper conversations with socio-political and cultural contexts that allow animal biographies to provide narratives that reach beyond individual life stories, while experimenting with particular forms of animal biographies that might trigger animal activism and concerns for animal well-being, spur historical interest and enrich the literary imagination.



### ***Animals and Their People: Connecting East and West in Cultural Animal Studies***

Edited by Anna Barcz and Dorota Łagodzka  
Brill, 2018

*Animals and Their People: Connecting East and West in Cultural Animal Studies* provides a zoocentric insight into philosophical, artistic, and literary problems in Western, Anglo-American, and Central-Eastern European context. The contributors go beyond treating humans as the sole object of research and comprehension, and focus primarily on non-human animals. This book results from intellectual exchange between Polish and foreign researchers and highlights cultural perspective as an exciting language of animal representation. *Animals and Their People* aims to bridge the gap between Anglo-American and Central European human-animal studies.

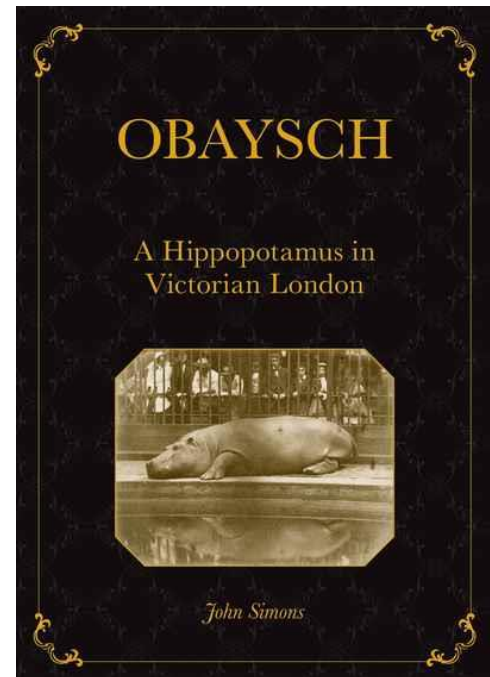
### ***Obaysch: A Hippopotamus in Victorian London***

John Simons

Sydney University Press, 2018

*Obaysch: A Hippopotamus in Victorian London* is the story of Obaysch the hippopotamus, the first 'star' animal to be exhibited in the London Zoo. In 1850, a baby hippopotamus arrived on English shores, allegedly the first in Europe since the Roman Empire, and almost certainly the first in Europe since prehistoric times. Captured near an island from which he took his name, Obaysch was donated by the viceroy of Egypt in exchange for greyhounds and deerhounds. His arrival was greeted with a wave of 'Hippomania', doubling the number of visitors to the zoo.

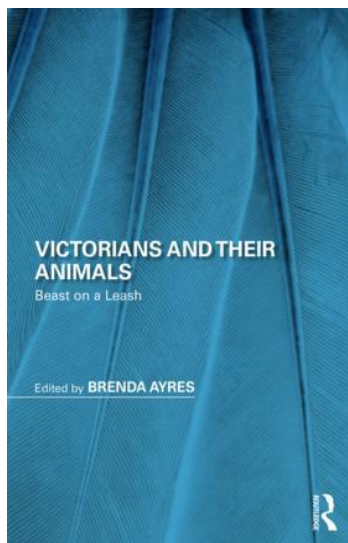
Uncovering the circumstances of Obaysch's capture and exhibition, John Simons investigates the notion of a 'star' animal, as well as the cultural value that Obaysch, and the other hippos who joined him over the following few years, accumulated. This book also delves into the historical context of Obaysch and his audience, considering the relationship between Victorian attitudes to hippopotami and the expansion of the British Empire into sub-Saharan Africa.



### ***Victorians and Their Animals: Beast on a Leash***

Edited by Brenda Ayres

Routledge, 2018



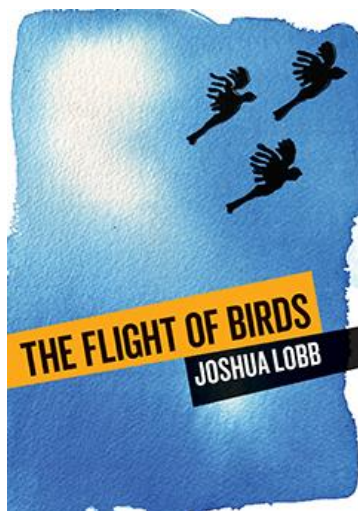
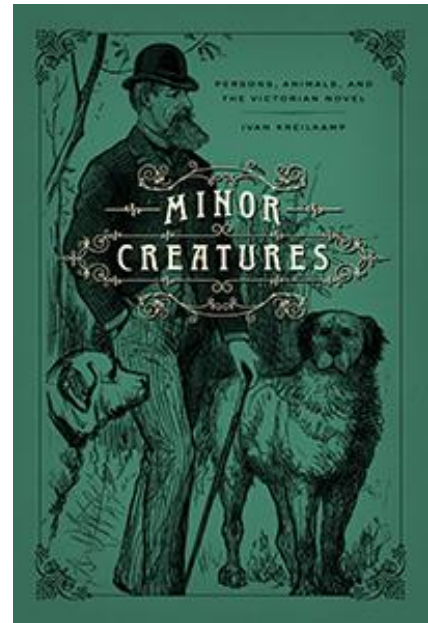
*Victorians and Their Animals: Beast on a Leash* investigates the notion that British Victorians did see themselves as a naturally dominant species over other humans and over animals. They conscientiously, hegemonically were determined to rule those beneath them and the animal within themselves, albeit with varying degrees of success and failure. The articles in this collection apply posthuman and other theories, including queer, postcolonialism, deconstruction, and Marxism, in their exploration of Victorian attitudes toward animals. They study the biopolitical relationships between human and nonhuman animals in several key Victorian literary works. Some of this book's chapters deal with animal ethics and moral aesthetics. Also being studied is the representation of animals in several Victorian novels as narrative devices to signify class status and gender dynamics, either to iterate socially acceptable mores, to satirize hypocrisy or breach of behavior or to voice social protest. All of the chapters analyze the interdependence of people and animals during the nineteenth century.

### ***Minor Creatures: Persons, Animals and the Victorian Novel***

Ivan Kreilkamp

University of Chicago Press, 2018

In the nineteenth century, richly-drawn social fiction became one of England's major cultural exports. At the same time, a surprising companion came to stand alongside the novel as a key embodiment of British identity: the domesticated pet. In works by authors from the Brontës to Eliot, from Dickens to Hardy, animals appeared as markers of domestic coziness and familial kindness. Yet for all their supposed significance, the animals in nineteenth-century fiction were never granted the same fullness of character or consciousness as their human masters: they remain secondary figures. *Minor Creatures* re-examines a slew of literary classics to show how Victorian notions of domesticity, sympathy, and individuality were shaped in response to the burgeoning pet class. The presence of beloved animals in the home led to a number of welfare-minded political movements, inspired in part by the Darwinian thought that began to sprout at the time. Nineteenth-century animals may not have been the heroes of their own lives but, as Kreilkamp shows, the history of domestic pets deeply influenced the history of the English novel.



### ***The Flight of Birds***

Joshua Lobb

Sydney University Press

January 2019

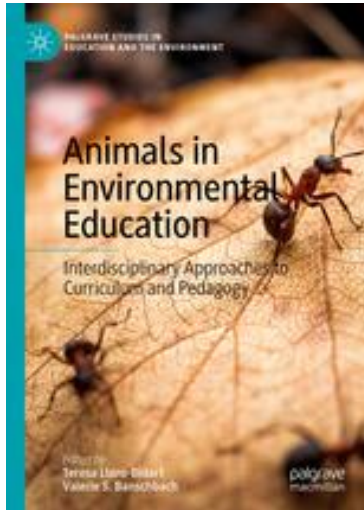
*The Flight of Birds* is a novel in twelve stories, each of them compelled by an encounter between the human and animal worlds. The birds in these stories inhabit the same space as humans, but they are also apart, gliding above us. *The Flight of Birds* explores what happens when the two worlds meet.

Joshua Lobb's stories are at once intimate and expansive, grounded in an exquisite sense of place. The birds in these stories are variously free and wild, native and exotic, friendly and hostile. Humans see some of them as pets, some of them as pests, and some of them as food. Through a series of encounters between birds and humans, the book unfolds as a meditation on grief and loss, isolation and depression, and the momentary connections that sustain us through them. Underpinning these interactions is an awareness of climate change, of the violence we do to the living beings around us, and of the possibility of transformation.

*The Flight of Birds* will change how you think about the planet and humanity's place in it.

### ***Animals in Environmental Education: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Curriculum and Pedagogy***

Edited by Teresa Lloro-Bidart and Valerie Banschbach  
Palgrave Macmillan, 2018



This book explores interdisciplinary approaches to animal-focused curriculum and pedagogy in environmental education, with an emphasis on integrating methods from the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences. Each chapter, whether addressing curriculum, pedagogy, or both, engages with the extant literature in environmental education and other relevant fields to consider how interdisciplinary curricular and pedagogical practices shed new light on our understandings of and ethical/moral obligations to animals. Embracing theories like intersectionality, posthumanism, Indigenous cosmologies, and significant life experiences, and considering topics such as equine training, meat consumption and production, urban human-animal relationships, and zoos and aquariums, the chapters collectively contribute to the field by foregrounding the lives of animals. The volume purposefully steps forward from the historical marginalization of animals in educational research and practice.

### ***Domestication Gone Wild: Politics and Practices of Multispecies Relations***

Edited by Heather Anne Swanson, Marianne Elisabeth Lien, and Gro B. Ween  
Duke University Press, 2018

The domestication of plants and animals is central to the familiar and now outdated story of civilization's emergence. Intertwined with colonialism and imperial expansion, the domestication narrative has informed and justified dominant and often destructive practices. Contending that domestication retains considerable value as an analytical tool, the contributors to *Domestication Gone Wild* reengage the concept by highlighting sites and forms of domestication occurring in unexpected and marginal sites, from Norwegian fjords and Philippine villages to British falconry cages and South African colonial townships. Challenging idioms of animal husbandry as human mastery and progress, the contributors push beyond the boundaries of farms, fences, and cages to explore how situated relations with animals and plants are linked to the politics of human difference—and, conversely, how politics are intertwined with plant and animal life. Ultimately, this volume promotes a novel, decolonizing concept of domestication that radically revises its Euro- and anthropocentric narrative.

