

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. In the foreground, a large, textured brain coral (Diploria labyrinthiformis) is visible, showing its characteristic rounded, interconnected polyps. The background shows more coral structures and the blue water of the reef environment.

Animail

Bulletin of the Australasian Animal Studies Association

January / February 2021

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AASA News

Chair's Report

Dear Members,

Happy New Year to you – I hope 2021 is a year of recovery, consolidation and passionate intellectual exploration. I am really pleased to share with you another fantastic edition of *Animail*. My sincere thanks to Peter Chen, Esther Alloun and Emily Major all for their work in compiling this edition.



Changes to this Edition of *Animail*

In addition to our usual member news, profiles and publication updates, you will notice some changes to this publication which we hope you will appreciate. Firstly, our snazzy new cover, this edition displaying the mystery and beauty of coral. Secondly, we have included a copy of the most recent AASA blog post in this bulletin. The AASA blog, which is posted on our website (see: <http://animalstudies.org.au/archives/category/blog>) is edited by AASA members Teya Brooks Pribac and Sue Pyke. The blog posts feature articles, interviews and updates and a great source of contemporary commentary from members and experts in our field. We realise that not everyone checks in our website, so we hope you enjoy seeing this content reproduced here.

AASA Tools for Animal Studies Research February 10th

As reported in the November / December *Animail*, AASA has been organising a series of “masterclasses” targeting early career scholars and those new to the field of animal studies. You will see below in this bulletin more details on these events which we hope will help members navigate research and scholarship, with a particular focus on publishing (both traditional and also creative “non-traditional” outputs) and exposure to relevant contemporary debates in animal studies. We are very excited to be working with Artsfront (<https://artsfront.com/>) to host these events, using their online platform which is currently under development. Remember our online workshops are free for AASA members – do register (<https://artsfront.com/event/73457-tools-for-animal-studies-research-workshop#!tab>).

AASA Online

You may have noticed a few changes over the last few months with our online platforms and engagement. Firstly, we have a fabulous new look website: <http://animalstudies.org.au/>. Many thanks to AASA Vice Chair, Lynn Mowson for all the work involved in refreshing the website. If you haven't visited the AASA website for a while, please do check it out. Secondly, AASA now has a Twitter account. Please follow us on @AASA_Animals

AASA Survey

Over summer, you would have received a request to respond to our survey. We have had a great response from the membership and I extend thanks to everyone who took the time to give us their views. The survey has now closed and we are doing some analysis of the results, which will assist the AASA Committee in its planning. Stay tuned for a summary of the results in the next edition of *Animail*!

AASA Conference

Last edition I let you know that AASA is currently planning an online conference for this year. We called for expressions of interest from folk who are interested in helping out with the AASA Conference for 2021 – thank you to everyone who responded. We will be starting work on this soon, and I hope to share a date for our event that you can put in your calendars in the next edition.

I very much hope you enjoy this edition of *Animail*. And on behalf of the Association, I extend to you all the best for 2021, we look forward to working with you.

Warm regards

Dinesh Wadiwel
AASA Chair

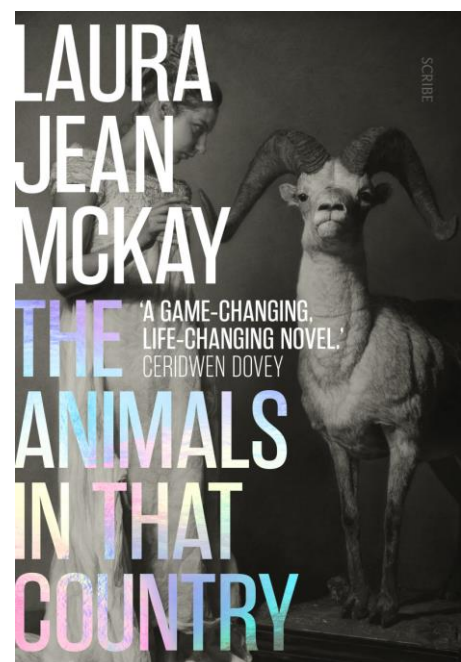
Member News

Dr Laura Jean McKay wins the Victorian Prize for Literature

AASA member Laura Jean McKay has won the Victorian Prize for Literature, Australia's highest value literary prize, for her first novel *The Animals in That Country*.

Published in April 2020, *The Animals in That Country* describes a pandemic sweeping the country: its chief symptom is that its victims begin to understand the language of animals — first mammals, then birds and insects, too. The novel asks what would happen, for better or worse, if we finally understood what animals were saying.

The judges observed: "McKay's novel is daring, original and ambitious, with a highly inventive use of language — the dialogue of the animals reads like a strange kind of stop-start poetry. A story about a pandemic is incredibly prescient in 2020 but the novel's focus is largely on the ethics of human-animal interactions, raising pertinent questions in a non-didactic way. The



reader is taken on a breakneck journey that becomes more disorientating as Jean becomes almost a wild animal herself.”

Laura lectures in Creative writing at Massey University, hosts the Anigram book show (<https://iroarpod.com/iroar-member/anigram/>), and is also a Committee member of AASA. Congratulations Laura!

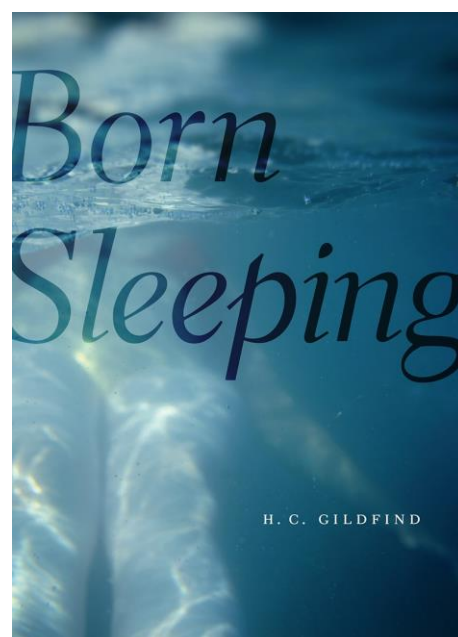
Read more about Laura’s success: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-01/laura-jean-mckay-pandemic-fiction-the-animals-in-that-country/13108262>

Dr Helen Gildfind wins the 2020 Miami University Press Novella Prize

AASA member Helen Gildfind has won the 2020 prize for her Novella *Born Sleeping*.

By recounting one woman's real-time witnessing of a couple's experience of stillbirth, *Born Sleeping* explores the ambivalence that lies at the heart of human relationships, the difficulty of comprehending others' realities, the voyeurism of being on the outside of trauma and the disturbingly cool, detached eye of the writer.

Helen publishes fiction, articles and book reviews in Australia, overseas and online. She won an Australia Council Grant to complete a collection of short stories, *The Worry Front*, which was published in 2018 by Margaret River Press. Gildfind also received an Australian Postgraduate Award to complete a PhD at the University of Melbourne, which enacted a creative reading of the relationship between Australian literature and history.



Professor Danielle Celermajer appointed as Deputy Director of the Sydney Environment Institute

Professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Sydney, Professor Celermajer is a social and political theorist who has published extensively on human rights, torture, institutional transformation, and issues of conservation, animal rights, and multispecies justice.

The new position of Deputy Director – Academic is designed to provide the University of Sydney Environment Institute with leadership in the development, implementation, and management of new and innovative multidisciplinary research projects. Professor Celermajer will work with the Director and Deputy



Director – Operations to ensure the integration and alignment of researchers and projects across the core focus areas of the Institute.

<https://sei.sydney.edu.au/>

Dr Yamini Narayanan appointed Special Issues Editor of Urban Geography

Yamini Narayanan has taken over as the Special Issues Editor of Urban Geography journal, and warmly welcomes any exciting proposal for a special collection on the animal/urban nexus.

Over four decades Urban Geography has been at the forefront of urban scholarship. It is an international, peer reviewed journal, publishing high-quality, innovative and original empirical, methodological and theoretical research. Foregrounded in the geographical tradition but with a track record of publishing work from across the social sciences, the Editors of the journal encourage authors to think of the journal for their contributions to understanding the current and future global urban condition.



Please contact her at: y.narayanan@deakin.edu.au

Urban Geography: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rurb20>

Knowing Animals Reading Group: Next meeting

Monday 22nd February 2021, 5.30-6.30pm AEDT

We restart the year with a continuation of our theme of Animals in the City. The paper is *Where species don't meet: Invisibilized animals, urban nature and city limits* by Paula Arcari, Fiona Probyn-Rapsey and Hayley Singer, *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*. July 2020 (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2514848620939870>).

Professor Fiona Probyn-Rapsey will join us for the conversation.

Zoom: <https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/5143621145?pwd=WG9KZGR5TWJBa0pjQ1NYOU40T2dydz09>

Password: 684818

lynn mowson, co-ordinator: hrae-info@unimelb.edu.au

News is posted regularly on our Facebook page – follow us here:

<https://www.facebook.com/AASA-Australasian-Animal-Studies-Association-480316142116752/>, on Twitter at @AASA_Animals, and our website:
<http://animalstudies.org.au/archives/category/news>

Member Publications

Appleby, Roslyn (2020). Human-animal relationships in literacy education: Reading the Australian magpie. *Literacy and Numeracy Studies Journal*, 28(1), 6-16. <http://10.5130/lns.v28i1.6958>

Archer-Lean, Clare (2021). Animal representative presence: Problems and potential in recent Australian fiction in J. Gildersleeve (ed.) *The Routledge Companion to Australian Literature* (First Edition. London. Routledge.

Celermajer, Danielle (2021). *Summertime: Reflections on a Vanishing Future*. Penguin Books. [see New Books]

Fijn, Natasha (2020). Human-horse sensory engagement through horse archery. *The Australian Journal of Anthropology*, online first <http://doi.org/10.1111/taja.12376>

Fijn, Natasha (2020). 'Bloodletting in Mongolia: Three visual narratives' In Kohle, N. & Kuriyama, S. (eds) *Fluid Matter(s): Flow and Transformation In The History Of The Body*. Asian Studies Monograph Series 14, ANU Press, Canberra. <https://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/n7034/html/05-bloodletting-in-mongolia/index.html>

Fijn, Natasha and Kavesh, Muhummed (2020). A sensory approach for multispecies anthropology. *The Australian Journal of Anthropology*, online first <http://doi.org/10.1111/taja.12379>

Fijn, Natasha and Maratsu, Ran (2020). Mongolian medicine, multispecies storytelling and multimodal anthropology. *More-than-Human* Vol. 2: <http://ekrits.jp/en/2020/08/3729/>

Sharma-Brymer, Vinathe and Brymer, E. (2020). The Elephant in the room: An autoethnographic approach. In E. Laws., N. Scott., X. Font, & J. Koldowski (eds) *The Elephant Tourism Business – International Problems and Progress*. Oxford, UK. CABI.

Sharma-Brymer, Vinathe, Dashper, K., and Brymer, E. (2020). Nature, and pets. In W.W. IsHak (ed.). *The Handbook of wellness medicine*. Cambridge, UK. Cambridge University Press.

Watt, Yvette (2020). *Eating the Problem* in Jack Faber and Anna Shraer (eds) *Eco Noir: A Companion for Precarious Times*. Academy of Fine Arts. University of Helsinki. https://helda.helsinki.fi/bitstream/handle/10138/322352/eco_noir_2021.pdf

White, Thomas and **Fijn, Natasha** (eds) (2020). Multi-species co-existence in Inner Asia. *Inner Asia* 22(2): 162-182.

White, Thomas and **Fijn, Natasha** (2020). Introduction: Resituating domestication in Inner Asia. *Inner Asia*, 162-182.

Send new member publications and member news to: peter.chen@sydney.edu.au

AASA Masterclass: Tools for Animal Studies Research

10 February 2021, Online

Are you new to animal studies research? Do you grapple with current theoretical debates – such as intersectionality and decolonial approaches? Do you wonder how and where to publish?

If you would like to understand the basics of the publication process, from pitching an article idea to responding to peer review and get advice on what is possible when working with non-traditional outputs – such as visual art and creative writing – join us at the master class: *Tools for Animal Studies Research*.



This interactive online event, presented by the Australasian Animal Studies Association (AASA), is aimed at higher degree and early career researchers interested in animal studies. You will have an opportunity to hear from scholars doing innovative work in the field and ask questions.

This is a free event for AASA members, register here: <https://artsfront.com/event/73457-tools-for-animal-studies-research-workshop>

Workshop itinerary

Seminar 1: Theorising in Settler Colonial Spaces

Time: Wednesday 10th February 2021, 12-1.20pm AEDT.

Early career researchers Esther Alloun (University of Wollongong) and Kirsty Dunn (University of Canterbury) will be in conversation with AASA Chair Dinesh Wadiwel (University of Sydney) on their PhD research, and the reflections in their work on intersectionality, race, colonialism and animal studies.

Seminar 2: Publishing Your Work in a Peer Reviewed Journal

Time: Wednesday 10th February 2021, 1.30-2.50pm AEDT.

Chief Editor of Animal Studies Journal, Melissa Boyde (University of Wollongong) and Agata Mrva-Montoya (University of Sydney; Sydney University Press) will explore the ins and outs of getting your work published in a peer-reviewed journal, and speak about some of the publishing challenges facing animal studies academics.

Seminar 3: “Non-Traditional Outputs”: Visual Art, Video and Creative Writing

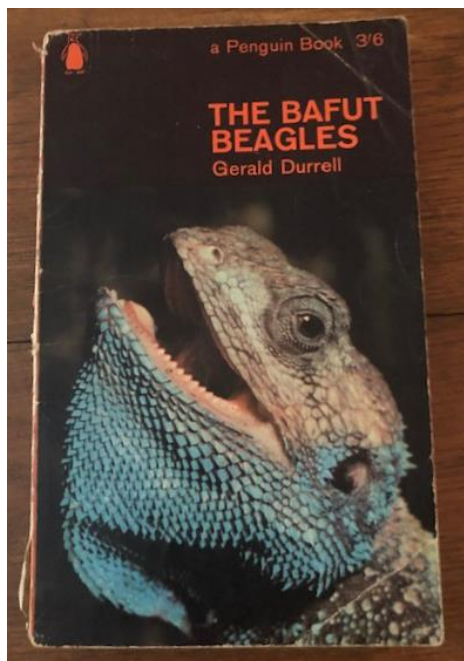
Time: Wednesday 10th February 2021, 3-4.30pm AEDT.

In this seminar, Yvette Watt (University of Tasmania), Natasha Fijn (Australian National University) and Laura Jean McKay (Massey University) will be in conversation with Clare Archer Lean (University of the Sunshine Coast) on creative “non-traditional” research outputs in animal studies.

Member profiles

Paul Allatson

When I was a child my favourite author was Gerald Durrell. I discovered Durrell quite by accident around the age of 10 at my primary school's annual fete, when I bought for 20 cents a battered paperback Penguin copy of his *The Bafut Beagles*, simply because the front cover featured a lizard (I guessed an agama given its striking blue cheeks) and my favourite dog breed was the beagle. It turned out that the book was not about lizards or beagles at all. Rather it focused on animal-



Cover of Bafut Beagles, by Gerald Durrell

human relations that involved colonial-era British animal-collection excursions into what is now independent Cameroon. I had no language then to unpack such complex relations.

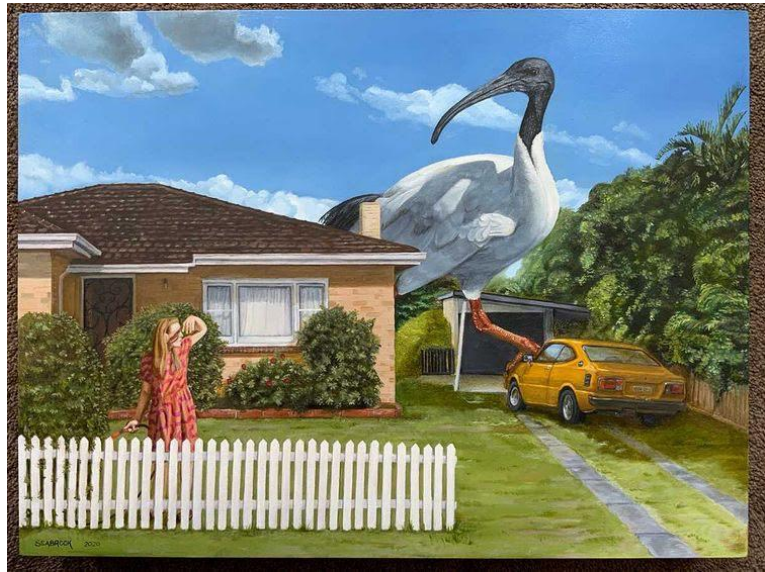
When I was 13 I wrote to Gerald Durrell to say I had read all his books, and that one day I wanted to work in a zoo dedicated to saving threatened species, just like the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust (now the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust) that Durrell established in 1963. I was already a junior member of the Trust, using my pocket money to pay the fees. I was so chuffed on getting a reply that I took the letter to school to show my English teacher; she asked me to read it out. The letter was then passed around my classmates, until it reached the hands of fellow student D.I. "Gerald Durrell did not sign this letter," he yelled out. "The signature is a stamp. I bet he never wrote it and some woman secretary did it for him."

I have not really laid to rest that scenario, given its confronting messages about surface readings, sexism, and (unsaid so far) D.I.'s role at high school dragooning boys into beating me up regularly for being, well, not masculine enough. Yet I still keep and value that letter "signed" Gerald Durrell.

I begin with these anecdotes because the vagaries of adulthood and academic life aside, which led me into degrees in history, visual art and cultural studies, languages and literary studies, there is I think a message of curiosity and critique to be had in them. Those disciplines underwrite and help explain my current interest in the transcultural processes by which some animals—individual, species, even genera—enter or come to fashion cultural headlines. I am interested, too, in the implications of such processes as much for the non-human animals concerned as for the human-animals who create, elaborate on and consume cultural headlines. More simply: how might we begin to comprehend transcultural human-animal interactions and transactions? Durrell himself seemed to be grappling with this when he wrote *My Family and Other Animals*, about a childhood spent on Corfu before the outbreak of World War II, and the one book out of dozens he wrote that he is most celebrated for.

These questions animate my collaborations with Dr Andrea Connor (Western Sydney University) on the transcultural juggernaut centered on the Australian White Ibis. The collaboration has been fruitful and challenging. We are conjoining our cultural studies and cultural geography backgrounds by applying a transcultural lens to ibis-human relations. Transculturation is an

anthropological discourse with post-colonial origins in Cuba in the 1940s, after which it evolved across and away from Latin America and into numerous disciplines. Yet it has not been applied to understanding human and non-human interactions in contact zones. For Mary Louise Pratt, who coined the term, contact zones are post-colonial “social spaces where disparate cultures meet, clash and grapple with each other.” These are precisely the spaces of ibis-human interactions that animate our work on the “bin chicken” and the literal flood of cultural artefacts that those interactions are generating.



“Bin Chickens (Suburbs)” by Melbourne artist Mark Seabrook 2020

Julie Weekes

I cannot remember a time in my life when animals did not play an important part. One of my earliest memories is of our Persian cat, Libby, who gave birth to three kittens in the neighbour’s cupboard. I was only 5 and this was 1975 so cats were not then sterilised regularly. I still vividly remember being besotted by those little kittens. Learning that their eyes didn’t open for 10-14 days and Libby’s fierce protectiveness instilled in me a sense of awe and wonder for nature and her beasts.

I first thought I’d become an entomologist at around 10 years old. My family lived on a large property outside of Brisbane and with no screens or computers, I spent hours outside exploring. The insect life was prolific and each year monarch butterflies would lay their eggs on our oleander trees which turned into chrysalises in a myriad of colours, followed by bright orange and yellow caterpillars. By 12 however, I’d changed my focus to furry friends and decided that becoming a vet was my calling. We had three adopted cats whom I adored. I was lucky enough to have animal-loving parents so that over the years we had cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, birds and fish. My first dog came along when I was 15 and, I’d never quite experienced the devotion which a dog provided.

Life has a funny way of turning out. For various reasons I did not pursue my dream to become a vet straight out of school and had decided to study law, believing that a highly paid job was the most important focus. My family had moved to Perth and to get into law school, we had to do a year of another degree first. I chose to do my year in Arts and discovered a second great passion, ancient history. When I graduated from law school I got a job but realised very quickly that I was in the completely wrong field. Utterly miserable, I returned to finish my Arts degree, thinking I would go into academia.

Two years into my Arts degree majoring in Classics and Ancient History, I had an epiphany of sorts. I remember having a life-changing discussion with my boyfriend, now my husband, about how I’d

always wanted to be a vet and wished I had listened to that instinct. With his encouragement, I looked at my options and was able to make that dream come true. On graduation, I worked in small animal practice full-time for 4 years before having my first child and then continued part-time until my second child was born 4 years later.

I love being a small-animal vet but it was very difficult to combine working with motherhood. It is a very demanding job to do well and the emotional toll is high when dealing with people and their beloved pets. While my children were young, I combined part-time vet work with part-time study to finish my BA in Classics and Ancient History.

At the end of my BA, I went on to complete Honours and applied for a scholarship to do a PhD. I spoke to one of my tutors for advice on what to research. His question was: “what do you love?” and the answer immediately was “animals!” A fellow Honours student had looked at Alexander the Great and his horse, Bucephalas, which gave me the idea to look at other topics on animals in the ancient world. My timing was perfect – the area had just started to take off in the modern scholarship. One of my main interests in veterinary work was the human-animal bond. I am fascinated by the way in which humans interact with their companion animals and the way that bond is reciprocated. I began reading about the Ancient Greeks and their relationships with animals and quickly noticed that lots of scholars were writing that the Ancient Greeks had pets but that no one was really addressing how we knew this.

I am very lucky to have had a wonderful Honours supervisor who agreed to take me on as PhD student and who supported my research on animals. I decided to narrow my focus to the human-canine bond in Classical and Hellenistic Greece. I am now starting my third year and it has been a fascinating journey. My research includes literary sources such as poetry and philosophy along with material evidence such as Greek vases and gravestones. In the past 6 months, I have been able to engage with an incredible range of scholars through the Zoa Facebook page which is dedicated to animals in the ancient world (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1413150575533628>).



With Lucy, our rescue dog!

I continue to share my life with humans and non-humans. My husband, who has never been a big animal lover, has learned to appreciate them over the years through my influence. My children both love animals, particularly my son. We live with a rescue dog, Lucy, two rescue rainbow lorikeets, Chilli and Pepper and two rescue British Giant rabbits, Mr Nibbles and Cassandra (named by my kids!) Life is busy and stimulating and the constant presence of creatures reassures me of nature’s incredible gift to us all.

At the end of my PhD I am hoping to combine part-time tutoring at university with a return to veterinary work. That would be my ultimate dream. I hope to continue my path of researching animals in the Classical World along with helping some who are here with us now. I feel very lucky that my path has brought me to where I am at. Anyone who is interested in contacting me can reach me at julie.weekes@research.uwa.edu.au

AASA's Blog

Extinction is Personal by Lori Marino

In 2018 I had a deeply personal experience with a member of a whale community that brought home to me what extinction means on the individual level. Scarlet was a plucky orca calf who was a member of the southern resident killer whale (SRKW) community in Puget Sound, Washington. But just as she approached her fourth birthday, Scarlet became sick and continued to lose weight over the course of the year. Our team from the Whale Sanctuary Project was part of a group of scientists and others that tried, over several months, unsuccessfully, to save her. We witnessed her monumental effort to live as she tried to keep up with her family during their travels. In the end, she slipped away after a valiant struggle.

In the wake of this emotionally wrenching situation coming during a spate of SRKW deaths, Ken Balcomb, director of the Center for Whale Research on San Juan Island, who has studied the SRKWs longer than anyone, was asked for his comments on Scarlet's demise, Ken said: "This is what extinction looks like."

We are in a mass extinction. That means that for the sixth time on earth the rate of extinction of species is 100 to 1,000 times higher than natural background extinction rates. The previous five mass extinctions wiped out 70 – 95% of all species on the planet each time. These past events were all caused by catastrophic changes in the environment too large for most of the earth's inhabitants to absorb.

Although mass extinctions have been occurring for the past 440 million years, we are, understandably, most familiar with the last one – the KT Event (Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction) 66 million years ago. This event caused the loss of over 76% of all species on earth, including the nonavian dinosaurs. The asteroid impact that precipitated the "dying" caused a cascade of climatic and geological events that made the earth largely uninhabitable for most plants and animals.

And while we wonder about what it was like during the KT event and, especially, what would have happened had the dinosaurs not gone extinct, we are removed from this ancient event in terms of both time and scope. It is simply too long ago and too big an event to fully grasp. And, thus, our relationship to it is rather impersonal.

Just like those before, the current mass extinction involves an ongoing devastation of biodiversity spanning numerous plant, animal, and microbiotic taxa. Nearly a third of the total number of vertebrate species on earth – are being lost. Normally it would take 10,000 years for those extinctions to occur. Put on a different timeframe, we are losing three species per hour. What is going on all around us is nothing short of an extermination.

The present mass extinction event, like all the others, is largely caused by dramatic global climate change. But the current situation is also different from all the others. There is no asteroid this time – only the unrelenting rampant destruction of the planet in the name of human progress.

Climate change is simply one among many inter-related insults our species heaps on the planet. In addition to greenhouse gas emissions, our species is using up more resources than the earth can

replenish and taking vast swaths of land for deforestation and animal agriculture. We are poaching and trading in wildlife globally, over-fishing, and trashing the planet with pollutants and plastics.

Officially the current geological period is the Holocene but many have proposed that the name be changed to the Anthropocene because of the tremendous human impact on the planet and its inhabitants. The proposal is both an acknowledgement of the status of our species as the main destructive force on earth and an expression of our species' self-importance and hubris.

One might be forgiven for not feeling the personal tragedy of past mass extinctions. But what is our current excuse? We seem to view extinction as a cold numbers game – a calculus of quantitative metrics such as population size, reproductive capacity and genetic diversity. But underlying these metrics are the “close to the bone” life and death struggles of the sentient animals who are living (and dying) through this process. Extinction is more than an abstract concept. It is very personal.

The quantitative scientific data that inform a traditional conservation approach are indispensable but inadequate. It is also essential to ask how extinction impacts the lived experiences of the individual sentient beings who make up endangered communities, populations, species, and cultures. This second question represents a newer approach – compassionate conservation – championed by Marc Bekoff. Compassionate conservation recognizes that the welfare of individuals is a vital component of how we think about and enact conservation methods. Approaches that address sheer numbers but disregard animal welfare and even rights are not sufficient. The bedrock of compassionate conservation is the recognition that extinction plays out in the lives of individuals and only does so in populations and species in aggregate. Extinction is a term about numbers, but it is felt by individuals.



Scarlet with her family in mid-August 2018.
Photo by Katy Foster/Whale Sanctuary Project under NOAA permit 18786.

The southern resident killer whales (SRKW) of Puget Sound, Washington, introduced in the opening paragraph, are a community of orcas (*Orcinus orca*) who are highly endangered. They live in closely-knit pods – known as J, K, and L – and are matriarchal in their family structure. Their numbers have plummeted to a precarious 74 individuals; they’ve never fully recovered from the plundering of their population by the marine park industry in the 1970’s. Now, still not recovered,

they find it difficult to face down other threats, i.e., pollution, harassment, and lack of prey. And while it is most certainly the case that they are listed as endangered because they have low population numbers, there is another layer to their conservation status that is felt at the individual level.

Ken's comment about Scarlet's death left me wondering whether, at some level, this little orca and her family, understood the extinction threat they are under. And while they probably do not know or care about the scientific status of their community as "highly endangered" one wonders if they have a sense of their whole community as being under siege. They certainly care very much about what happens to each individual in their community and feel the losses that accompany frequent deaths. What is the cumulative effect on the lived experience of each individual whale?

In yet another example that same year, Tahlequah, a mother in the J pod, made headlines globally as she carried her dead baby (who lived only thirty minutes) for 17 days in what was described as a "tour of grief". The unbearable sight of the grieving mother carrying the decomposing body of her infant was a message that extinction is the life and death struggle of a mother to come to grips with the loss of her child. Tahlequah did not experience a downward trajectory of genetic diversity or the decreasing loss of reproductive potential in her community. She simply bore the onslaught of frequent deaths in and around her family at a very personal level and maybe the understanding that her way of life was under threat.

And it is at this foundational personal level that compassionate conservation seeks to and must work. These examples above make it clear that extinction – whether it is recognized as such by individuals – is always a painful process that involves immense suffering on the part of individuals – little by little, piece by piece. And that is why any conservation measures must not harm individuals any more than they are already experiencing harm. Measures such as relocation, culling, taking into captivity, and other practices that trade off individual well-being for the good of the group are not in keeping with compassionate conservation and, I would argue, a generally ethical stance towards other animals. Clearly these are complex issues that are not easily addressed. But compassionate conservation, at the very least, is an attempt to recognize that anything we do to protect and conserve a community or species must respect the rights of the individuals and recognize that extinction is indeed personal.

Published at: <http://animalstudies.org.au/archives/category/blog>, 30 January 2021

About the author

Lori Marino, PhD, is a neuroscientist who has studied animal behaviour and intelligence for thirty years and was on the faculty of Emory University.

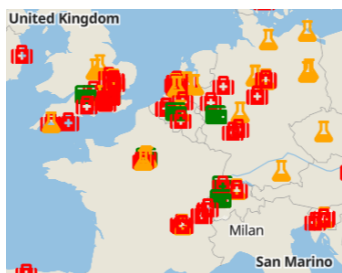
Read her full bio here: <http://animalstudies.org.au/archives/8153#bio>

Cow horned in: “The fact that you, human, think you have a more beautiful form than us is no proof that you are lords over us or that we are your slaves. Our males and females are as pleasant in each other’s eyes as yours are to each other, and they are attracted to each other just as yours are. So you cannot glorify yourself over us as being more beautiful in form. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.”

As soon as she finished speaking, Ox added: “The gifts of the Creator are many and precious. Once cannot find them all in any one creature. Rather they are spread among all living creatures. Some may appear to have more advantages, some less, but none is perfect. The only complete and perfectly whole being is the Creator. So, in truth, we all are divinely made but, although you humans are given very honourable gifts as your portion, you are not content and must exalt yourselves over other living creatures, diminishing us and exploiting us whenever you can. What does this say about you?”

- *The Animals’ Lawsuit Against Humanity*,
Laytner and Bridge (trans.), c10th C

Animal Studies News



Map of Animal Use in COVID-19 Research

Provided by the European Animal Research Association, this interactive map shows where these primates (and other species) are currently being used in research in countries that include Thailand, India, USA and Norway, and others.

Access the map: <https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/1698667/>



Call for Animals and Society Institute Board Members

Do you want to help create a more compassionate world? Would you like to see evidence-based research used to strengthen human-animal relationships? If you do, you may be a match for ASI's open board member positions. Whether you have experience working with a hands-on board or are thinking about joining a board for the first time, this may be the right opportunity for you.

Full details: www.animalsandsociety.org/news/call-for-animals-and-society-institute-board-members



Kimmela Center Launches Scholar Advocacy Webinar Series

The Kimmela Center has launched a webinar series on scholar advocacy, an empowered professional path that combines scholarship in various fields with advocacy. The main reason for this series is that students, especially those in the natural sciences, are often led to believe that academic scientists should not engage in animal advocacy. They are often told that they can either be a scientist or they can be an advocate, but that they cannot (or should not) do

both. Similarly, working scientists who advocate for the animals they study are often criticized for their advocacy work.

Full details: <https://www.kimmela.org/2020/07/30/kimmela-center-launches-scholar-advocacy-webinar-series/>



Harvard University Canada Program Seminar Series: Animals, Capital, and the Law

The purpose of this Webinar series is to highlight new and creative research in the growing field of animal studies. This series will emphasize how Canadian scholars, jurists, and writers have played a disproportionately influential role in the development of this interdisciplinary subject. Ranging from Sue Donaldson's and Will

Kymlicka's *Zoopolis* and Nicole Shukin's *Animal Capital* through to Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*, Canadians have broadened how we should think about our fraught relationship to other species. Moreover, the Canadian legal system has had to rule on contentious cases related to

animal ethics, such as *R. v. Krajnc* (2017), and will soon have to evaluate Ontario's new 'ag-gag' laws. This series will host a monthly online lecture during the spring term. Each 40-minute talk will be followed by a ten-minute critique by an invited discussant, to be followed by a Q+A with the audience.

Details and registration:

https://programs.wcfia.harvard.edu/canada_program/Animals_Capital_Law



COVID-19 Research: *With or Without Animals?* Recorded seminar series

Animals, climate change and global health are a nexus of high, contemporary relevance in the context of the coronavirus crisis since most infectious diseases are zoonotic, meaning they move from animals to humans and threaten to cause epi- and pandemics. Habitat loss, industrial animal agriculture, and a collapsing climate all threaten to increase zoonotic disease outbreaks in incidence, number, and severity. This crisis is not a one-time outlier and cannot be studied in isolation. Instead, it forces us to consider the bigger picture, including our relations to nature, our treatment of non-human animals, and the fact that the world, as we have come to know it, is not infinite.

For this webinar series, invited experts from a range of disciplines share their knowledge during six interactive sessions.

View here: <https://animalsclimatehealth.com/>



Call for Participants: Farmed Animal Welfare Regulation Research - Melbourne Law School

Leo Bromberg (PhD Candidate), Professor Christine Parker and Dr Tess Hardy from the Melbourne Law School are looking for people to interview (via video conference) to get a wide range of views on Australian farmed animal welfare regulation.

The focus of the interviews will be on Australian farmed animal welfare standards and the process of converting the National Model Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Livestock (MCOPs) into nationally consistent standards and guidelines.

Anyone with an interest in animal welfare regulation is welcome (you don't have to be an expert). If you would like to participate, please contact Leo on bromberg1@student.unimelb.edu.au for more details.

Calls for Papers and Conferences

Call for Papers: Equine History Collective Conference

Equine History Collective, online, 25-26 March 2021

Due date: 15 January 2021

The theme of the conference is "Equine Ecologies and Economies," inviting papers that explore the ties entwining equids with natural and cultural landscapes. Submissions may investigate any equine in the past, including donkeys, mules, zebras and onagers. For instance: What are ways we could define equine ecology and/or equine economy? How do communities impact local equine ecologies or in turn become shaped by them? What factors mediate equine ecologies and local economies, whether through domestication, agriculture, sport, or conservation? Topics may include: agriculture, sport, economics, agroecology, sustainability, conservation, anthrozoology, the animal-industrial complex, affective or emotional ecologies, interspecies interdependence or intimacy, land use, labour, and animal rights. Papers addressing equine history in any time period are welcome.



Please submit all materials and direct any questions to admin@equinehistory.org

Full details: <https://equinehistory.wpcomstaging.com/conferences/ehc-2021/>

Call for Papers: Human-Animal Relations:

Opportunities and Challenges in Changing Realities

The Community for Human-Animal Studies, Israel, 1-3 June

Due date: 1 March



**The Community
for Human-Animal
Studies Israel (HASI)**

The world around us is in constant flux – everchanging politically, socially, technologically, economically, and environmentally. Such unsettled realities lead to many practical, theoretical and ethical contemplations, such are especially prominent in the field of human-animal studies. Altering experiences can bring about, in this way, significant challenges for human-animal-relations, but new opportunities as well. Perhaps the most relevant is the embedded role of animals in the COVID-19 outburst.

These continuous fluctuations prompt the questions: What challenges and opportunities are afforded through our understanding of contemporary transspecies entanglements? Can human actions towards nonhuman animals, now more than ever, cause sufficient changes to our world, and how? And what role do animals' agencies play in these alterations? What is the unique position and contribution of human-animal studies to understanding (and altering) the changing reality?

Contact: hasiconference2021@gmail.com

Call for Submissions: The Effects of Animal-Visitor Interactions in Zoos

Animal Behavior and Cognition

Due date: 30 March 2021



Over the past few decades, there has been an increase in research examining animal-visitor interactions within zoos. The aim of this special issue is to consolidate current zoo research focused on animal-visitor interactions and their effects on both zoo animals and zoo visitors. Manuscripts that examine any aspect of how zoo animals affect zoo visitors, how zoo visitors affect zoo animals, and/or any broader impact of such interactions are welcomed for consideration in this special issue.

<http://animalbehaviorandcognition.org/>

Call for Submissions: Special Issue “Real-time Modelling of Broiler Activity”

Animals

Due date: 30 April 2021



animals

Automatic monitoring of activity levels in broiler chicken flocks may allow early detection of irregular activity patterns, indicating potential problems in the flock. Dynamic control of broiler activity during the growing period may improve the muscular-skeletal development thereby reducing leg disorders and improving the welfare of the animals. From these methods it is possible to develop automatic monitoring systems, which can notify the producer when the activity in the broiler flock deviates from an expected level at a given age. Such monitoring systems have the potential to improve the welfare and production efficiency of commercial broiler chickens. Original manuscripts that address any aspects of real-time monitoring and modelling of broiler activity are invited for this Special Issue. In particular, aspects such as monitoring technologies, data analysis techniques and issues regarding practical implementation in commercial farms are welcome.

Full details: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/animals/special_issues/rmoba

Call for Speakers: Animal Rights Forum 2021

In the midst of a pandemic, which originated from animal exploitation, now more than ever, we need to broadcast the global issue of animal rights far and wide. Our new name reflects our clear focus, the rights of all animals.

We are now calling out for speakers, to provide presentations or workshops, across a range of topics delivering education and inspiration to our delegates who will be both physically present and online.



The Forum is scheduled to be held during September 2021.
Contact the Forum at: info@activistsforum.com

Call for Submissions: Student Journal for Vegan Sociology

Due date: 19 February 2021

Student Journal for Vegan Sociology is inviting papers to be featured in our first edition of the new student-centred journal.

Housed in the International Association for Vegan Sociologists, we are calling for new ways of human and nonhuman animal interactions, encounters and ways of being. We would like to compile a collection of sociological papers that explore the question of nonhuman animal suffering and injustice through a variety of perspectives, which include: Coexistence, rewilding, ethics, entertainment, sport, food and more. We would particularly like to see a global presence of papers and voices that are underrepresented in the community.



We especially welcome novel student research and compelling new perspectives in vegan sociology. We recognise that student work can often be compelling, innovative, and of interest to the field, but often goes unrecognised. The aim of this journal is to spotlight student contributions to the scholarly pursuit of veganism and animal liberation.

<http://www.vegansociology.com/journal/>

For current listings see: <http://animalstudies.org.au/archives/category/news/call-for-papers>

Employment and Grants



Assistant Professor in Environmental Philosophy

The Department of Philosophy at Durham University seeks to appoint an outstanding philosopher to the role of Assistant Professor. We welcome applications from those with research and teaching interests within any area of Environmental Philosophy, including environmental ethics, environmental politics, philosophy of environmental science (e.g., ecology, climate science), or any other relevant areas of philosophical scholarship. This post offers an exciting opportunity to make a major contribution to the development of internationally excellent research and teaching while allowing you unrivalled opportunities to progress and embed your career in an exciting and progressive institution.

Full details:

https://durham.taleo.net/careersection/du_ext/jobdetail.ftl?job=20000934&tz=GMT%2B00%3A00&tzname=Europe%2FLondon



Addressing Evidence-Based Health Benefits of Human-Animal Interaction

HABRI is calling for research proposals to investigate the health outcomes of pet ownership and/or animal-assisted activity or therapy, both for the people and the animals involved. Proposals should have a strong theoretical framework and focus on innovative approaches to studying the health effects of companion animals on humans within the following broad categories:

- Child Health and Development
- Healthy Aging
- Mental & Physical Health and Wellness

Proposals are due February 11, 2021.

Full details: <https://habri.org/grants/funding-opportunities/>



SaffronAid

Environmental/Wildlife Protection Officer

SaffronAid is looking for an early career animal studies scholar. The candidate should be committed to compassionate conservation, wildlife protection, conservation biology and or biodiversity conservation.

SaffronAid is an Australian-based NGO that is working in communities throughout the Indo-Pacific Region from Pakistan to the eastern Pacific. A core component of our work is the development of the Indo-Pacific Plastic Recycling Revolution. We will build and operate over 40 land-based plastics recycling plants, as well as ocean-going vessels, to turn plastic waste into commercial recycled products, thereby decreasing plastics pollution across the region. In development of the plants, it is our commitment to help and empower local low socioeconomic communities build economic and education resilience while helping clear the environment of all types of plastic waste.

It is also a core objective to help build environmental and animal resilience across the region through programmes that will protect rivers and oceans, regenerate mangroves and rainforests, eliminate extinctions, protect individual animals, and develop animal law and education initiatives. Our aim is to rewild the Indo-Pacific Region of the planet.

Selection criteria:

- Degree qualification in environmental science, conservation biology, zoology, or related
- Experience in the efficient preparation, submission and management of specialist science-based reports
- High level and proficient community liaison skills, including liaison with and work for wildlife/environmental NGOs and or government conservation departments

- Experience in preparation and submission of funding applications
- Working knowledge and skills in single and multi-phase project management
- Working knowledge of environmental and or wildlife protection legislation, including but not limited to international agreements and charters
- Working knowledge of various government policies and standards
- Ability and willingness to undertake field work as required, including international travel
- Current driver's licence

The position is based in offices near Newcastle, Australia, attached to one of SaffronAid's plastics recycling plants.

For more information, please contact Dr Rod Bennison (Chief Scientific Officer) on: 041 491 4040. Applications for the position close on 5 March, 2021, and should be forwarded to: environment@saffronaid.com

Residencies



Nature, Art, Habitat: 2021 ANIMALS: Interdependence Between Species

Italy, summer, 2 spaces

NAHR recognizes that all living organisms depend on each other for survival. This coexistence is at the root of ecological thinking, and holds as paramount the need to fight climate change and save animal species from extinction. NAHR 2020 intends to foster an expanded consciousness of these issues through sensorial and reflective "dialogue." From this exploration, we believe we can develop a pivotal

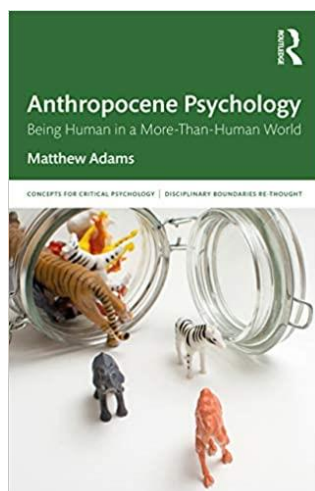
change in the global approach to Nature, moving away from the hierarchical view that sees humankind as entitled to dominate any other species, and towards a holistic approach where humankind lives in harmony with other species.

Using this emerging framework, Fellows will be encouraged to create artifacts embedded with the transformation from an ego-centric to an eco-centric world view. Projects could focus on the loss of biodiversity, interspecies relations, species vulnerability, conservation efforts, biopolitics, among other topics. Fellows are also encouraged to explore how animals inspire design, architecture, art, music and/or the performing arts.

Due date: 9 February

Full details: https://nahr.it/NAH_Residency-Animali-Animals

New Books in our Field

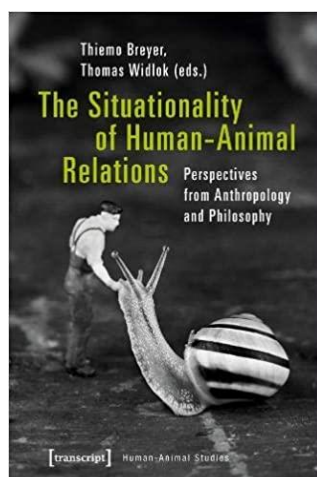


Anthropocene psychology: Being human in a more-than-human world (Concepts for Critical Psychology)

Matthew Adams, Routledge, 2020

This ground-breaking book critically extends the psychological project, seeking to investigate the relations between human and more-than-human worlds against the backdrop of the Anthropocene by emphasising the significance of encounter, interaction and relationships. Interdisciplinary environmental theorist Matthew Adams draws inspiration from a wealth of ideas emerging in human–animal studies, anthrozoology, multi-species ethnography and posthumanism, offering a framing of collective anthropogenic ecological crises to provocatively argue that the Anthropocene is also an invitation – to become conscious of the ways in which human and nonhuman are inextricably connected.

Through a series of strange encounters between human and nonhuman worlds, Adams argues for the importance of cultivating attentiveness to the specific and situated ways in which the fates of multiple species are bound together in the Anthropocene. Throughout the book this argument is put into practice, incorporating everything from Pavlov's dogs, broiler chickens, urban trees, grazing sheep and beached whales, to argue that the Anthropocene can be good to think with, conducive to a seeing ourselves and our place in the world with a renewed sense of connection, responsibility and love.



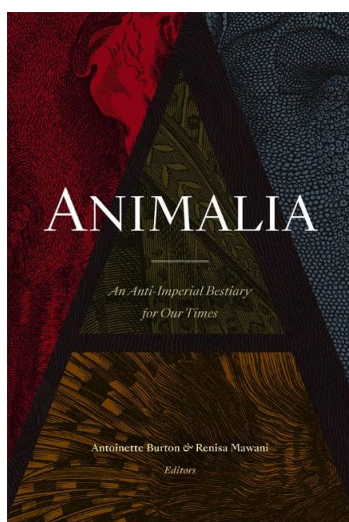
The situationality of human-animal relations: Perspectives from anthropology and philosophy

Edited by: Thiemo Breyer and Thomas Widlok, Columbia University Press, 2019

Riding, hunting, fishing, bullfighting: Human-animal relations are diverse.

This anthology presents various case studies of situations in which humans and animals come into contact and asks for the anthropological and philosophical implications of such encounters. The contributions by renowned scholars such as Garry Marvin, Albert Piette, and Kazuyoshi

Sugawara present multidisciplinary methodological reflections on concepts such as embodiment, emplacement, or the *conditio animalia* (in addition to the *conditio humana*) as well as a consideration of the term situationality within the field of anthropology.



Animalia: An anti-imperial bestiary for our times

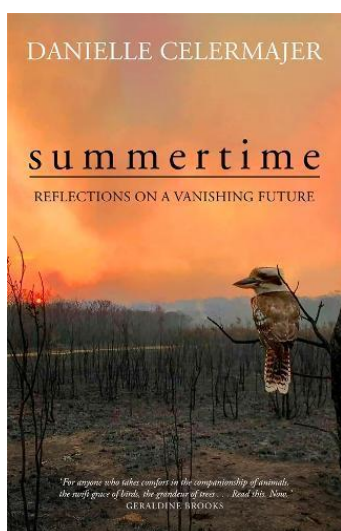
Edited by: Antoinette Burton and Renisa Mawani, Duke University Press, 2020

From yaks and vultures to whales and platypuses, animals have played central roles in the history of British imperial control.

The contributors to *Animalia* analyse twenty-six animals—domestic, feral, predatory, and mythical—whose relationship to imperial authorities and settler colonists reveals how the presumed racial supremacy of Europeans underwrote the history of Western imperialism. Victorian imperial authorities, adventurers, and colonists used animals as companions, military transportation, agricultural laborers, food sources, and status symbols. They also overhunted and

destroyed ecosystems, laying the groundwork for what has come to be known as climate change. At the same time, animals such as lions, tigers, and mosquitoes interfered in the empire's racial, gendered, and political aspirations by challenging the imperial project's sense of inevitability.

Unconventional and innovative in form and approach, *Animalia* invites new ways to consider the consequences of imperial power by demonstrating how the politics of empire—in its racial, gendered, and sexualized forms—played out in multispecies relations across jurisdictions under British imperial control



Summertime: Reflections on a vanishing future

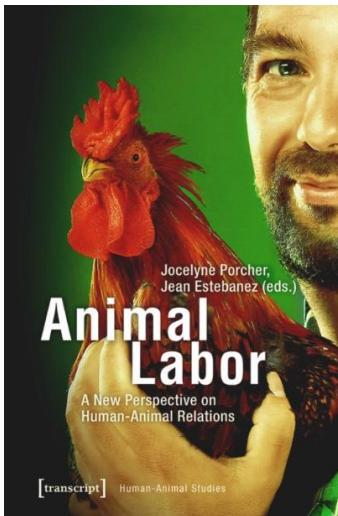
Danielle Celermajer, Penguin Books, 2021

"I went and sat alone where Jimmy has been lying. It is way down in the bush. The light is soft, the air and the earth are cool, and the smell is of leaves and the river. I cannot presume to know what he is doing when he lies here, but it seems that he is taking himself back to an ecology not wrought by the terror of the fires, not fuelled by our violence on the earth. He is letting another earth heal him."

Philosopher Danielle Celermajer's story of Jimmy the pig caught the world's attention during the Black Summer of 2019-20.

Gathered here is that story and others written in the shadow of the bushfires that ravaged Australia. In the midst of the death and grief of animals, humans, trees and ecologies Celermajer asks us to look around - really look around - to become present to all beings who are living and dying through the loss of our shared home.

At once a howl in the forest and an elegy for a country's soul, these meditations are lyrical, tender and profound.



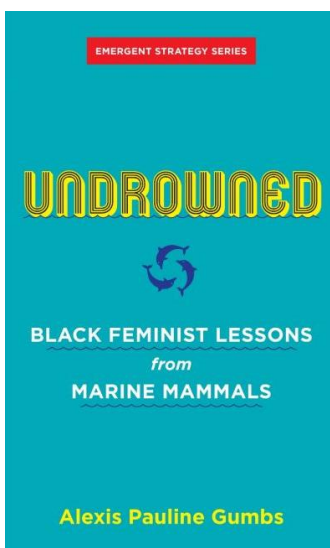
Animal labor: A new perspective on human-animal relations

Edited by: Jean Estebanez and Jocelyne Porcher, Columbia University Press, 2020

Do animals work? Is it possible to work with animals without exploiting them? Might animals even be empowered through work?

This provocative collection offers original answers to these questions and allows readers to think about human relationships with domestic animals beyond the well-trodden tropes of domination or animal welfare. To study animal work means to look at animals in new ways and to discover in them unsuspected skills and knowledge that open

up new ethical and political horizons.



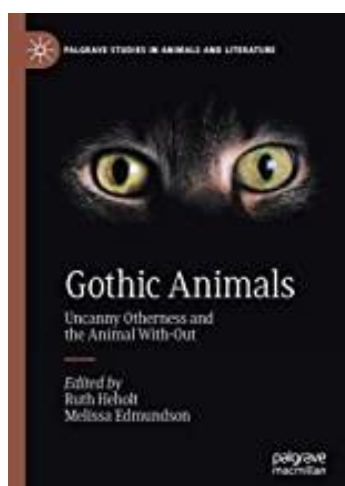
Undrowned: Black feminist lessons from marine mammals

Alexis Pauline Gumbs, AK Press, 2020

Alexis Pauline Gumbs has spent hundreds of hours watching our aquatic cousins. She has found them to be queer, fierce, protective of each other, complex, shaped by conflict, and struggling to survive the extractive and militarized conditions humans have imposed on the ocean.

Employing a brilliant mix of poetic sensibility, naturalist observation, and Black feminist insights, she translates their submerged wisdom to reveal what they might teach us. The result is a powerful work of creative nonfiction that produces not a specific agenda but an unfolding space for wonder and questioning.

The book is divided into eighty short meditations, each grouped into “movements” with names like “Listen,” “Breath,” “Stay Black,” and “Go Deep.” A graceful use of metaphor and natural models in the service of social justice, it explores themes that range from the ways that echolocation might inform our understandings of visionary action to the similar ways that humans and marine mammals do—or might—adapt within our increasingly dire circumstances. Gumbs’s narrative moves seamlessly between dolphins born in captivity and Black political prisoners giving birth behind bars, between the migratory patterns of dolphins and the Atlantic slave trade



Gothic animals: Uncanny otherness and the animal with-out

Edited by: Ruth Heholt and Melissa Edmundson, Palgrave, 2020

This book begins with the assumption that the presence of non-human creatures causes an always-already uncanny rift in human assumptions about reality. Exploring the dark side of animal nature and the 'otherness' of animals as viewed by humans, and employing cutting-edge theory on non-human animals, eco-criticism, literary and cultural theory, this book takes the Gothic genre into new territory.

After the dissemination of Darwin's theories of evolution, nineteenth-century fiction quickly picked up on the idea of the 'animal within'. Here, the fear explored was of an unruly, defiant, degenerate and entirely amoral animality lying (mostly) dormant within all of us. However, non-humans and humans have other sorts of encounters, too, and even before Darwin, humans have often had an uneasy relationship with animals, which, as Donna Haraway puts it, have a way of 'looking back' at us. In this book, the focus is not on the 'animal within' but rather on the animal 'with-out': other and entirely incomprehensible.



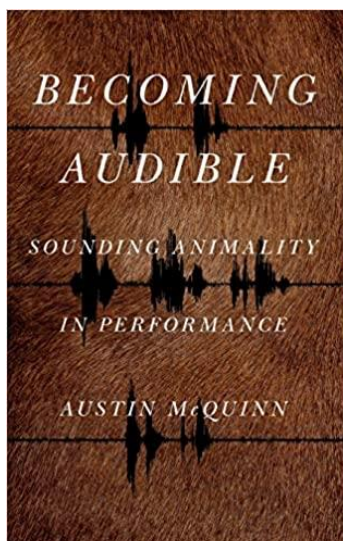
Animal welfare in China

Peter J. Li, Sydney University Press, 2021

In *Animal Welfare in China*, Peter J. Li calls for attention to China's contemporary politics rather than its cultural tradition for an answer to the many challenging questions in human-animal relations in China.

This perspective also helps explain the country's wildlife exploitation industry that has been blamed for SARS and COVID-19. The book explores the key animal welfare challenges facing China, including animal agriculture, wildlife farming, the trade and consumption of exotic wildlife, dog meat, and other controversial practices.

He considers how Chinese policymakers have approached these issues and evaluates the political environment in which China's growing animal rights movement has been evolving. Li also offers an overview of the history of animal welfare in China, from ancient times through the enormous changes of the 20th and 21st centuries. Some practices that are today described as "traditional", he argues, are in fact quite recent developments, reflecting the contemporary pursuit of economic growth rather than longstanding cultural traditions. Based on years of fieldwork and analysis, *Animal Welfare in China* makes a compelling case for a more nuanced and evidence-based approach to these complex issues.



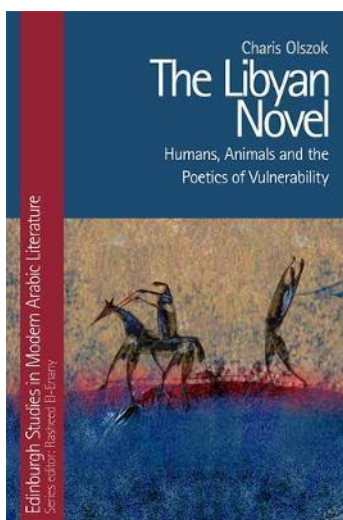
Becoming audible (Sounding animality in performance)

Austin McQuinn, The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2020

Becoming Audible explores the phenomenon of human and animal acoustic entanglements in art and performance. Focusing on the work of artists who get into the spaces between species, McQuinn discovers that sounding animality secures a vital connection to the creatural.

To frame his analysis, McQuinn employs Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari's concept of becoming-animal, Donna Haraway's definitions of multispecies becoming-with, and Mladen Dolar's ideas of voice-as-object. McQuinn considers birdsong in the work of Beatrice Harrison, Olivier Messiaen, Céleste Boursier-Mougenot, Daniela Cattivelli, and

Marcus Coates; the voice of the canine as a sacrificial lab animal in the operatic work of Alexander Raskotov; hierarchies of vocalization in human-simian cultural coevolution in theatrical adaptations of Franz Kafka and Eugene O'Neill; and the acoustic exchanges among hybrid human-animal creations in Harrison Birtwistle's opera *The Minotaur*. Inspired by the operatic voice and drawing from work in art and performance studies, animal studies, zooarchaeology, social and cultural anthropology, and philosophy, McQuinn demonstrates that sounding animality in performance resonates "through the labyrinths of the cultural and the creatural," not only across species but also beyond the limits of the human.

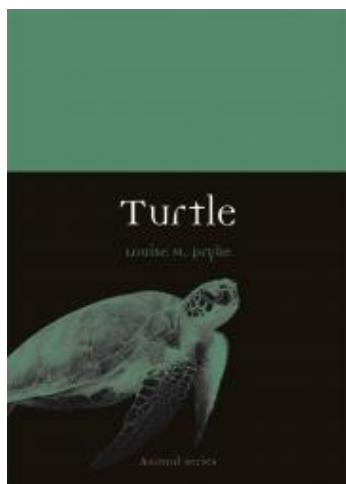


The Libyan novel: Humans, animals and the poetics of vulnerability

Charis Olszok, *The Libyan novel: Humans, animals and the poetics of vulnerability*, 2020

Analysing prominent novelists such as Ibrahim al-Kuni and Hisham Matar, alongside lesser-known and emerging voices, this book introduces the themes and genres of the Libyan novel during the al-Qadhafi era. Exploring latent political protest and environmental lament in the writing of novelists in exile and in the Jamahiriyya, Charis Olszok focuses on the prominence of encounters between humans, animals and the land, the poetics of vulnerability that emerge from them, and the vision of humans as creatures (*makhlūq*) in

which they are framed. As Libya transforms into a dictatorial, rentier state, animals represent multi-layered allegories for human suffering, while also becoming focal points for empathy and ethics in their own right. Within reflections on Italian colonisation and ensuing forms of political and social oppression, concomitant with oil, urbanisation, exile and war, staged in remote deserts, isolated coastlines and neglected city parks, *The Libyan Novel* examines how physical, emotional and intellectual hardship prompts empathetic gazes across species lines. Through engagement with the folkloric and Sufi traditions that define the country's past and shape its modern fiction, it further traces the spiritually, environmentally and politically holistic imaginings that contest a precarious reality.

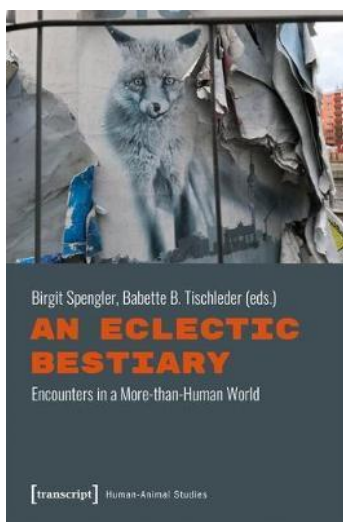


Turtle

Louise M. Pryke, Reaktion Books, 2021

As ancient creatures that once shared the Earth with dinosaurs, turtles have played a crucial role in maintaining healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems for more than one hundred million years. While it may not set records for speed on land, the turtle is exceptional at distance swimming and deep diving, and some are gifted with astounding longevity. In human thought, the animal's ties to creativity, wisdom, and warfare stretch back to the world's earliest written records. Pryke celebrates the slow and unassuming manner of this doughty creature, which provides a living model of endurance and efficiency. In the increasingly fast-paced world of the twenty-first

century, it has never been more important to consider the natural and cultural history of this remarkable animal.

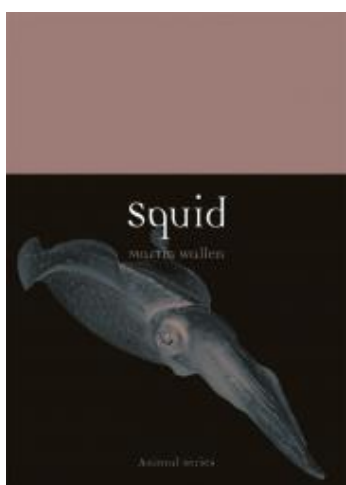


An eclectic bestiary: Encounters in a more-than-human world

Edited by: Birgit Spengler and Babette B. Tischleder, Columbia University Press, 2020

The essays, poetry, and visual art collected here consider the more-than-human cultures of our multispecies world. At a time when humanity's impact has put our planet's ecosystems into great jeopardy, the book explores literary, sonic, and visual imaginaries that feature encounters between and across a variety of living creatures: beetles and bison, people and pigeons, trees and spiderwebs, vegetables and violets, orchards and octopi, vampires and tricksters. Offering a wide range of critical and creative contributions to human

animal studies, critical plant studies, and the nonhuman turn, the volume seeks to foster new ways of imagining a more response-able coexistence on our shared Earth.



Squid

Martin Wallen, Reaktion Books, 2021

In myths and legends squids are portrayed as fearsome sea-monsters, lurking in the watery deeps waiting to devour humans. Even as modern science has tried to turn those monsters of the deep into unremarkable calamari, squids continue to dominate nightmares. Taking inspiration from early weird fiction writer H. P. Lovecraft, modern writers such as Jeff VanderMeer depict squids as the absolute Other of human civilization, while non-Western poets such as Daren Kamali depict squids as anything but threats. Wallen traces the many different ways humans have thought about and pictured this predatory mollusc: as guardians, harbingers of environmental collapse

or an untapped resource to be exploited. However humans have perceived them, squids have always gazed back at us, unblinking, from the dark.

animalstudies.org.au