

# Animail: March 2016

Dear All,

Welcome to the March edition of *Animail*, brought to you by the collective efforts of the AASA Executive team, and reflecting the talents of our AASA members and the diversity and strength of Animal studies in Australasia.

This edition includes 2 profiles with AASA members – **Laura Jean McKay** and **Natasha Fijn**. Natasha Fijn recalls her experiences researching her book, *Living with Herds*, when she “lived in the Khangai Mountains with Mongolian herders and their herd animals during 2005 and again in the spring of 2007. I found that Mongolian herders’ ontology and philosophy toward animals is indeed different and does not employ a master-slave type hierarchy”. Laura is a writer and PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne. She tells *Animail*: “I think that all writers are interested in otherness, whether that be otherness within ourselves or other beings or things.” They are both fascinating profiles. Big thanks to Rick de Vos for compiling them, and to Natasha and Laura for taking the time to tell us about their important work.

This month also sees the release of two fabulous podcasts from **Siobhan O’Sullivan’s** ‘Knowing Animals’ series. Episode 20 “Sex with Vegans (or not)” features the work of AASA Executive member **Annie Potts**, from the New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies at the University of Canterbury. Siobhan and Annie discuss her co-authored paper ‘Vegan Sexuality: Challenging Heteronormative Masculinity through Meat-free Sex’ which appeared in the journal *Feminism & Psychology* in 2010. Episode 12 of ‘Protecting Animals’ also features an interview with **Bidda Jones** from RSPCA Australia about her new book *Backlash*.

<https://shop.animalsaustralia.org/products/backlash>. Her book recounts her involvement with the Live Exports controversy (as seen on Australian TV in the ABC’s “A Bloody Business” in 2011), and the consequent backlash against promised reforms. Both of these podcasts can be heard at this link: and <http://knowinganimals.libsyn.com/>

A reminder that our next **Annual General meeting** will be held at the University of Sydney, on July 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be occurring in the lunchtime break of *Animaladies*, a conference featuring Professor Lori Gruen as keynote. <http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/harn/conferences/index.shtml>. On this page you will also see the full list of presenters. (Please note: Margo de Mello is now unable to attend the conference – but promises to come for the AASA in 2017 in Adelaide). For those planning to attend Animaladies, registration is here:

<http://events.sydney.edu.au/office3/getdemo.ei?id=30648&s=75G122TX3> **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS April 4<sup>th</sup>.....** If you are attending ONLY the AGM, then you do not need to register for the conference.

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

- **Blog:** Nik Taylor and Christine Townend, [[christownend@bigpond.com](mailto:christownend@bigpond.com)] and [nik.taylor@flinders.edu.au](mailto:nik.taylor@flinders.edu.au)
- **Conference Calls** –<[joanne.sneddon@uwa.edu.au](mailto:joanne.sneddon@uwa.edu.au)> Please send your news to Jo
- **Membership News** –<[R.DeVos@curtin.edu.au](mailto:R.DeVos@curtin.edu.au)> Please send your news to Rick
- **New Book releases** –Annie Potts <[annie.potts@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:annie.potts@canterbury.ac.nz)>) - Please send your news to Annie
- **Other news/AASA exec news** –Fiona Probyn-Rapsey ([fiona.probyn-rapsey@sydney.edu.au](mailto:fiona.probyn-rapsey@sydney.edu.au)). Please send any items to me.

Please enjoy the rest of *Animail* February: Membership News, New Book Releases and Conferences. You’ll see AASA members represented in all of these sections. Cheers, fiona

# AASA Blog

Edited by Christine Townend and Nik Taylor.

The AASA now provides opportunities for those who wish to air their feelings, their research or their thoughts in accordance with the guidelines at <http://animalstudies.org.au/contribute-to-blog> The first blog has been written by Dr. Jack Reece, B.V. Sc., M.R.C.V.S., and can be viewed at <http://animalstudies.org.au/blog-2>

## Member Profiles

### Natasha Fijn



Recently I was asking myself why I chose to research relations between humans and domestic animals. Why did I feel the need to question our perceptions of domestication? I realised that there were seminal experiences in my childhood that sparked my thinking and helped to form my ontology toward other beings. Since childhood I have thought of animals as persons, as having an individual personality and characteristics, through growing up with individual dogs, cats, horses, sheep, chickens and ducks.

One experience was particularly significant. I was ten-years-old and our family were temporarily staying with relatives while our house was being built. Our dog Klimy had to stay elsewhere because my cousin was allergic to dogs. Klimy was a particularly gentle and timid dog - she was driven crazy with fear if she heard thunder or gunshots. Left alone one night, Klimy scrambled out an open window and ran off into the darkness. That night I dreamt that she was trying to escape into the wild because she thought we had abandoned her. The next morning I told my dad that I was worried about Klimy being away from us. He told me, visibly upset himself, that he had received a phone call and that she had been in a car accident. She was lucky, she had survived but with a badly broken leg.

At the time I was reading a personal narrative about the multi-generational impact of slavery in the United States. I can still remember the word 'Roots' written in large letters across the cover. No doubt I would read this book in a different light now as an adult, but as a naïve ten-year-old, in my secure world, I kept wondering why the main protagonist didn't just run away and escape from his captors. The neighbouring landowners repeatedly turned him in. I realised that even if he managed to escape from the neighbours he would have eventually

been captured by the authorities in some way or another. He was trapped with nowhere to go. I dwelled on the story within *Roots* (Haley, 1976) and thought about how Klimey had not been able to make her own decisions about where she wanted to live. She too would have been captured in one way or another. At night I kept seeing the bright lights of the vehicle bearing down on her in the surrounding darkness.

I think this experience as a ten-year-old and a growing awareness that there were inequalities in the world stayed with me and resulted in my motivation to explore the relationship between humans and domestic animals. I wanted to research about these relations, however, not from the perspective of my own society that still retains historical hang-ups from a monotheistic, dualistic mindset, but through the perspective of other cultures. I wanted to find out whether there was a way to engage with animals through employing a different philosophy, one that did not have an underlying master-slave dynamic (still particularly evident in contemporary industrialised factory farming).

I completed a Masters degree in animal behaviour with a theoretical focus on cognition, communication and decision-making in tropical jumping spiders. This enabled me to explore simple kinds of decision-making and, dare I say it, spider thought. I then went on to work as a field researcher for a team from the University of Vienna to study social learning in a mountain parrot, the kea. Through natural history documentaries and academic publications my research was conveying what I wanted to communicate to the general public: that animals, even spiders and parrots, are behaviourally more complex than they are given credit for and are even capable of their own means of learning and decision making. In other words, they have their own cognitive abilities and agency. Anthropomorphism, or applying human-like emotions or characteristics toward other animals, was not accepted within animal behaviour and I found this limiting. To me kea were clearly expressing emotions that I could only describe from my human perspective. I was unable to include my own subjectivity in the picture, yet I wanted to be honest about the fact that there is constant social engagement between humans and other animals (for better or for worse).

For my doctoral thesis, I turned to domestic rather than 'wild' animals and from animal behaviour to anthropology. I based my fieldwork in Mongolia because I knew that herders were still reliant on animals for survival and that their lives were intertwined with herd animals as a part of their everyday existence. I utilised my background in animal behaviour and filmmaking to inform my research and combined this with the field methods within anthropology, particularly participant observation.

I lived in the Khangai Mountains with Mongolian herders and their herd animals during 2005 and again in the spring of 2007. I found that Mongolian herders' ontology and philosophy toward animals is indeed different and does not employ a master-slave type hierarchy. Instead, the relationship, due to the co-existence and co-dependence between herders and their herd animals, is a reciprocal one (see my book *Living with Herds: human-animal coexistence in Mongolia*, 2011). My more recent postdoctoral project focussed on the connections between Yolngu and significant totemic animals in Northeast Arnhem Land, Australia. The Yolngu totemic ontological framework is quite different again, a kinship-based ecological philosophy involving webs of interconnectedness.

For me, this process of figuring out our social relations with other animals is ongoing. I have realised that, as a child, an influential book combined with a formative experience instigated

my future trajectory. My intention has been consistent throughout- to strive toward greater equality and respect for animals, particularly the animals we rely upon and live amongst.

To view Natasha Fijn's human-animal related filmic material see:

<https://fijnfilms.squarespace.com/config#/>

## Laura Jean McKay



I've been working on a novel that wonders what would happen if humans and other animals could talk to each other. By 'talk' I mean communicate. I came to this project from a humanitarian background and at first felt quite shy about exploring this idea creatively, even though I knew that the idea of human-nonhuman communication was critically strong. I guess that's where I found my strength – through a combination of critical and creative work in animal studies and creative writing and I've been exploring this through a PhD at the University of Melbourne. I'm looking forward to being part of the 'Being Interdisciplinary in Animal Studies' Postgraduate Symposium in Glasgow this May, to talk about this creative/critical work. There is a wealth of novels that explore this idea beyond fable. Books like Marian Engel's stunning *Bear*, Suniti Namjoshi's satirical *The Conversations of Cow*, and Colin McAdam's *A Beautiful Truth* have helped me to understand my own ideas, and how

I could, should and shouldn't try to represent nonhumans on the page.

I rent a house that looks over Port Phillip Bay and across the water at Melbourne. Between the house and the bay sits a small wildlife reserve and the birds use the sky above the house as a flight path on their way to the other side of the Bellarine Peninsula. Depending on the time of the year I spend a lot of time staring at the bellies of pelicans, white and black cockatoos, magpies, parrots, currawongs and gulls. There's something very lovely and wondrous about the undercarriage of a bird. It's very neat. Everything is in order. And it's not something that you expect to see. So I guess you could say my relationship to animals is very much one of watcher.

I think that all writers are interested in otherness, whether that be otherness within ourselves or other beings or things. Terrible things have been done to nonhuman animals in the name of difference, which is tragic as the difference between species, including the difference between humans and other animals, is where great scientific and creative strength can be found. I grew up for a time on a harness racing farm, where I rode the same horse every day and had that experience of equine-human communication (where you can read a horse through the twitch of her skin, and she can read you). It's like that with captive or domestic



animals – you do learn each other's' non-verbal language. On the farm, I also learnt the human language of horse training, where 'breaking', 'studding' and 'racing' was the norm. These days I don't live on a farm or have pets, so my interaction with actual animals is pretty casual. It's wonderful in the way that arriving in a new country is wonderful. I don't know much of the language but I love all these wild experiences! I also know that these encounters are bitter-sweet. For me seeing an animal by chance in the wild is a thrill, for them it may be frightening. The more time I spend with other animals now, the less I know them and to me there is a beauty to this interaction. It makes me want to try harder. (I should note that I also spend an enormous amount of time imagining a red talking kelpie for my novel ...).

As far as my other work goes, I was an aid worker for many years, and so my previous critical and creative work was focused on humanitarian ideas. I wrote a short story collection called *Holiday in Cambodia* (Black Inc, 2013), which can be found in bookstores and online. As well as the novel that I'm working on now, I also write short stories in response to my research on human/nonhuman relationships, and links to these can often be found on my website and on twitter.

For *Holiday in Cambodia*: [www.blackincbooks.com](http://www.blackincbooks.com) and online bookstores

My website: [www.laurajeankmckay.com](http://www.laurajeankmckay.com)

Twitter: @laurajeankmckay

## Recent Publications

Each month **Animail** will present a list of recently published journal articles and book chapters by AASA members. Please contact Rick De Vos < [r.devos@curtin.edu.au](mailto:r.devos@curtin.edu.au) > if you are an AASA member and have had work published in the previous month that you would like included in the list.

**Laura Jean McKay**, 'Territory' (short story), *North American Review*, online issue, 2016.  
<http://northamericanreview.org/latest-online-issue/territory/>

Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw, **Affrica Taylor** and Mindy Blaise, 'De-centring the human in multispecies ethnographies'. In C. Taylor & C. Hughes (Eds) *Posthuman Research Practices*, Houndmills, Basingstoke & Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

**Linda Williams**, 'Between the City and the Ocean: The slow turn to a biotic imaginary'.

In I. McCalman, M. Cohen and J. Lamb (Eds), *The Underwater Realm*, Abingdon, Oxon, and New York: Routledge, 2016 (in press). <https://rmit.academia.edu/LindaWilliams>

New research project: 'Walking with Wildlife in Wild Weather Times' - **Affrica Taylor** (University of Canberra) and Tonya Rooney (ACU). This is an ongoing multispecies ethnography that has a website and blog: [http://commonworlds.net/portfolio\\_page/walking-with-wildlife-in-wild-weather-times/](http://commonworlds.net/portfolio_page/walking-with-wildlife-in-wild-weather-times/)

# Call for submissions

Sydney University Press is looking for submissions to the **Animal Publics** series.

It publishes original and important research in animal studies by both established and emerging scholars. Animal Publics takes inspiration from varied and changing modalities of the encounter between animal and human. The series explores intersections between humanities and the sciences, the creative arts and the social sciences, with an emphasis on ideas and practices about how animal life becomes public: attended to, listened to, made visible, foregrounded, included and transformed. Animal Publics investigates publics past and present, and publics to come, made up of more-than-humans and humans entangled with other species.

Authors are invited to discuss potential titles for the series and submit a proposal to Agata Mrva-Montoya: [agata.mrva-montoya@sydney.edu.au](mailto:agata.mrva-montoya@sydney.edu.au)

Series Editors: Dr Melissa Boyde and Associate Professor Fiona Probyn-Rapsey.

Advisory Board:

Professor Steve Baker (University of Central Lancashire); Professor Una Chaudhuri (New York University); Dr Matthew Chrulew (Curtin University); Professor Barbara Creed (University of Melbourne); Dr Chris Degeling (University of Sydney); Dr Thom van Dooren (University of New South Wales); Professor Adrian Franklin (University of Tasmania); Professor Lori Gruen (Wesleyan University); Professor Claire Kim (University of California, Irvine); Professor Paul McGreevy (University of Sydney); Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan (University of Melbourne); Professor Clare Palmer (University of Texas); Dr Anat Pick (Queen Mary, University of London); Dr Anthony Podberscek (University of Cambridge); Associate Professor Annie Potts (University of Canterbury); Professor Deborah Bird Rose (University of New South Wales); Professor Peta Tait (La Trobe University); A/Prof Nik Taylor (Flinders University); Dr Dinesh Wadiwel (University of Sydney); Professor Cary Wolfe (Rice University); Professor Wendy Woodward (University of the Western Cape).

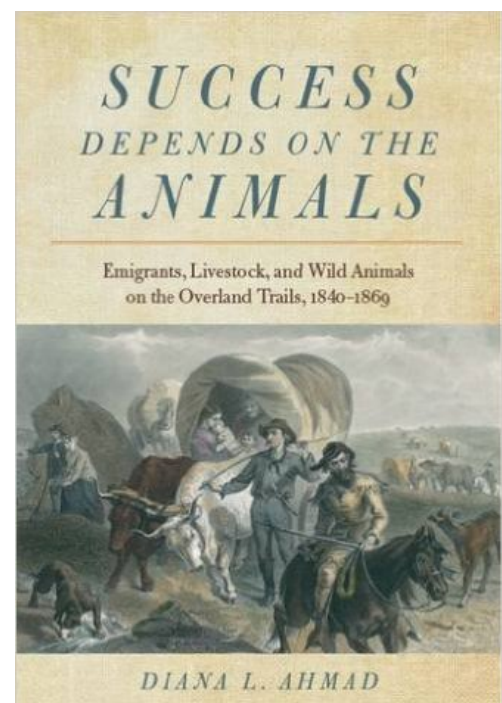
## NEW BOOK RELEASES

Compiled by Annie Potts

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

***Success Depends on the Animals: Emigrants, Livestock, and Wild Animals on the Overland Trails, 1840-1869.* By Diana L. Ahmad. Published by University of Nevada Press, 2016. ISBN-10: 0874179971; ISBN-13: 978-0874179972**

Between 1840 and 1869, thousands of people crossed the American continent looking for a new life in the West. *Success Depends on the Animals* explores the relationships and encounters that these emigrants had with animals, both wild and domestic, as they travelled the Overland Trail. In the longest migration of people in



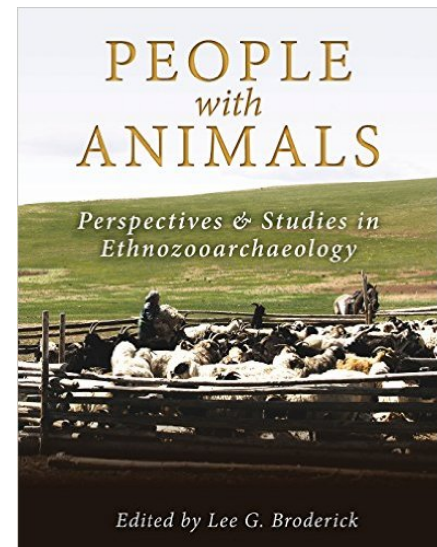
history, the overlanders were accompanied by thousands of work animals such as horses, oxen, mules, and cattle. These travellers also brought dogs and other companion animals, and along the way confronted unknown wild animals.

Ahmad's study is the first to explore how these emigrants became dependent upon the animals that travelled with them, and how, for some, this dependence influenced a new way of thinking about the human-animal bond. The pioneers learned how to work with the animals and take care of them while on the move. Many had never ridden a horse before, let alone hitched oxen to a wagon. Due to the close working relationship that the emigrants were forced to have with these animals, many befriended the domestic beasts of burden, even attributing human characteristics to them. Drawing on primary sources such as journals, diaries, and newspaper accounts, Ahmad explores how these new experiences influenced fresh ideas about the role of animals in pioneer life. Scholars and students of western history and animal studies will find this a fascinating and distinctive analysis of an understudied topic.

Author Info: Diana Ahmad is a Curators' Teaching Professor, specializing in the history of the American West.

***People with Animals: Perspectives and Studies on Ethnozoarchaeology.* Edited by Lee. G. Broderick. Published by Oxbow Books, 2016. ISBN-10: 1785702475; ISBN-13: 978-1785702471**

People with Animals emphasizes the interdependence of people and animals in society, and contributors examine the variety of forms and time-depth that these relations can take. The types of relationship studied include the importance of manure to farming societies, dogs as livestock guardians, seasonality in pastoralist societies, butchery, symbolism and food. Examples are drawn from the Pleistocene to the present day and from the Altai Mountains, Ethiopia, Iraq, Italy, Mongolia and North America. The 11 papers work from the basis that animals are an integral part of society and that past society is the object of most archaeological inquiry. Discussion papers explore this topic and use the case-studies presented in other contributions to suggest the importance of ethnozoarchaeology not just to archaeology but also to anthrozoology. A further contribution to archaeological theory is made by an argument for the validity of ethnozoarchaeology derived models to Neanderthals. The book makes a compelling case for the importance of human-animal relations in the archaeological record and demonstrates why the information contained in this record is of significance to specialists in other disciplines.



Info on Editor: Lee G. Broderick is a zooarchaeological consultant affiliated to the University of York and previously Visiting Researcher within the Department of Archaeology at the University of Sheffield and in the Department of Africana Studies at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

***Ape Culture*. By Anselm Franke and Hila Peleg. Published by Spectre Books, 2016.**

**ISBN-10: 3959050062; ISBN-13: 978-3959050067**

*Ape Culture* traces the long cultural and scientific obsession with humanity's closest relatives. A liminal figure separating humans and animals, the ape has played a central role in the narrative of man's progress, historically used to show an absence of culture. This reader, accompanying the Haus der Kultur, Berlin, exhibition (2015), seeks to go beyond the examination of apes as signifiers of difference. The juxtaposition of artworks with documents taken from popular culture and the history of primatology provides insight into what the science historian Donna Haraway has termed the primate order. Organized in three sections, the book includes art-based and scientific essays and extensive images of featured artworks plus scientific documents. Engaging text by Lene Berg, C.R. Carpenter, Marcus Coates, Anja Dornieden and Juan David González Monroy, Ines Doujak, Coco Fusco, Jos de Gruyter and Harald Thys, Pierre Huyghe, Louise Lawler, Damián Ortega, Nagisa Oshima, Erik Steinbrecher, Rosemarie Trockel, Klaus Weber and Frederick Wiseman.



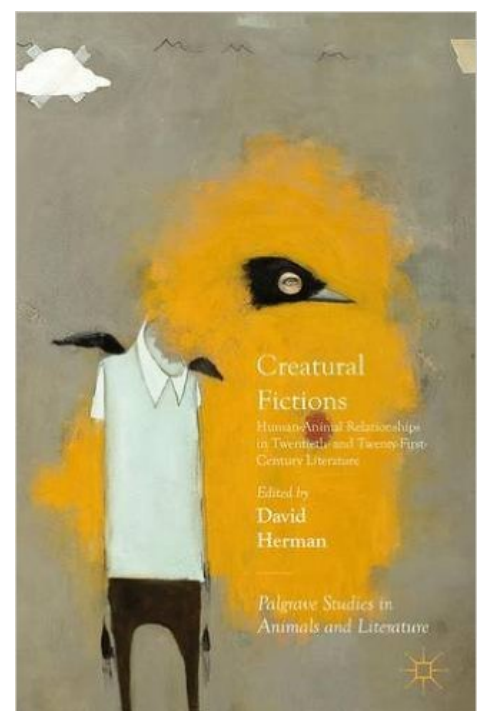
About the Authors: Anselm Franke is head of visual art and film at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin and former artistic director of Extra City Kunsthall in Antwerp.

Hila Peleg is a curator and filmmaker based in Berlin and the founder and artistic director of the Berlin Documentary Forum.

***Creatural Fictions: Human-Animal Relationships in Twentieth- and Twenty-First-Century Literature*. Edited by David Herman. Published as part of the Palgrave Studies in Animal and Literature Series, 2016. ISBN-10: 1137520663; ISBN-13: 978-1137520661**

Examining how ideas about species, sexuality, and gender link to 20th- and 21st-century literary texts, this wide-ranging collection of essays explores the complicated yet evocative relationship between animals and humans within a literary context. Contributors discuss writers like Franz Kafka, J. R. Ackerley, and Yann Martel, author of *Life of Pi*.

"In this rich and theoretically robust volume of essays, animals emerge as constitutive not only of human identity but of modern and postmodern fiction. Putting into practice a creaturely approach to literary studies, *Creatural Fictions* illustrates the myriad ways in which the shared bodily being of humans and animals is foundational for all rhetorical, political, and ethical acts. Moving freely between the canon and the periphery and attending to questions of form, genre, sexuality, and gender, the fluctuations of species are brought to bear on every aspect of literary endeavour.





Here is an expansive exploration of critical practice after the 'animal turn' that will reshape the disciplines we so narcissistically call the 'humanities.'" - Anat Pick, Senior Lecturer of Film Studies, Queen Mary, University of London, UK

"This cutting-edge anthology brings together an impressive group of established and emerging scholars to showcase the central themes and issues that motivate literary animal studies. Discussing authors from Kafka to Coetzee and Martel to Mda, the authors provide insightful readings of essential texts that will be of interest to students and scholars alike. This volume will help readers appreciate the numerous ways in which literature serves both to inform and challenge contemporary work in critical animal studies." - Matthew Calarco, Associate Professor of Philosophy, California State University, Fullerton, USA

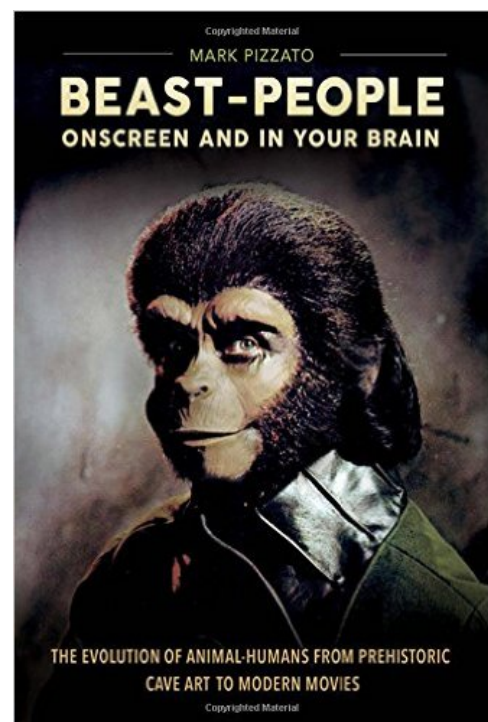
List of Contributors: Roman Bartosch, University of Cologne, Germany; Damiano Benvegnù, University of Virginia, USA; Marianne DeKoven, Rutgers University, USA; Josephine Donovan, University of Maine, USA; Andrew Kalaidjian, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA; Shun Yin Kiang, Northeastern University, USA; Jopi Nyman, University of Eastern Finland; Rajesh K. Reddy, University of Georgia, USA; Craig Smith, Grande Prairie Regional College, Canada; Nandini Thiyagarajan, McMaster University, Canada; Hilary Thompson, Bowdoin College, USA; Christy Tidwell, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, USA.

About the Editor: Professor David Herman is in the English department at Durham University.

***Beast-People Onscreen and in your Brain: The Evolution of Animal-Humans from Prehistoric Cave Art to Modern Movies.* By Mark Pizzato, published by Praeger, 2016. ISBN-10: 1440844356; ISBN-13: 978-1440844355**

A new take on our bio-cultural evolution explores how the "inner theatre" of the brain and its "animal-human stages" are reflected in and shaped by the mirror of cinema.

- Creates a new model exploring the "inner theater" of human reality perceptions, fantasies, memories, and dreams in relation to art, ritual, everyday actions, and cultural events
- Employs neuroscience research, evolutionary theory, and various performance paradigms, drawing on what is known about the animal ancestry and neural circuitry of the human brain to probe the framework of our bio-cultural evolution
- Explains how the "emotion pictures" found in prehistoric caves represent turning points in human awareness
- Examines a wide range of beast-people films ranging from the 1931 *Dracula* to the *Twilight* series (2008–

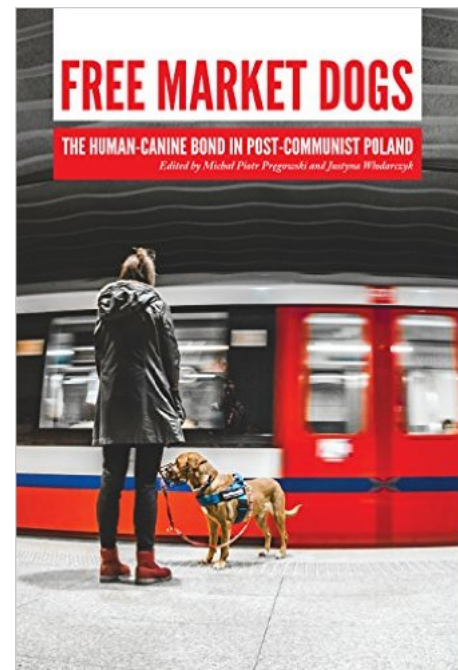


2012) and the 2014 *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*, showing how viewers connect to the films and the potential positive and negative impacts they have.

About the Author: Mark Pizzato, MFA, PhD, is professor of theatre and film at UNC-Charlotte, where he teaches theatre history, theory, playwriting/screenwriting, and various topics in film.

***Free Market Dogs: The Human-Canine Bond in Post-Communist Poland.* Edited by Michał Piotr Pregowski and Justyna Włodarczyk. Published by Purdue University Press. ISBN-10: 1557537402; ISBN-13: 978-1557537409**

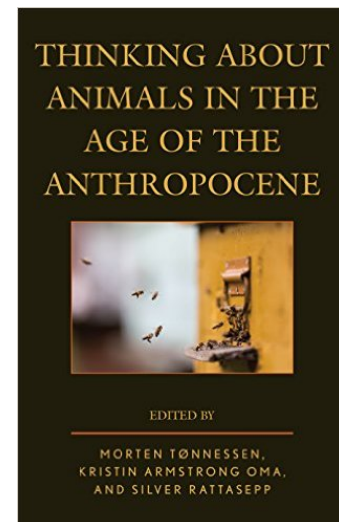
What has changed in the last twenty-five years in the relationship of Poles with their dogs? How have the free market and capitalism influenced Poland and the human-canine bond there? Are dogs property, friends, or members of the family in post-communist Poland? *Free Market Dogs*, edited by Michał Piotr Pregowski and Justyna Włodarczyk, examines the interactions and relationships of dogs and humans in contemporary Polish culture and society, and explores how Poland's intense exposure to Western and particularly American cultural patterns influenced the status of dogs after restoration of democracy in 1989. This book discusses topics such as the emergence of pet cemeteries, dog memoirs, and presidential dogs in Poland; the growing popularity of dog sports and the feminization of said sports; the philosophical and ideological changes in dog training caused by exposure to state-of-the-art methods from American books and videos; dogs in contemporary Polish art; and the specificity and growing pains of local pet-facilitated therapy. *Free Market Dogs* was written by researchers and practitioners whose academic background includes sociology, anthropology, pedagogy, cultural studies, and literary studies, and whose practical experience involves either training dogs or working with them. Based on thorough research and personal expertise, this is a great book for anyone interested in human-canine relationships and their similarities and differences around the world."



About the Editors: Michał Piotr Pregowski received his PhD in sociology from the University of Warsaw in 2008 and works as an assistant professor at the Warsaw University of Technology. He also is a Fulbright grantee in the Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program. Pregowski's academic specialties are sociology of norms and values, and human-animal studies. His current research projects include social construction of dogs in the contemporary West, especially their naming and training, as well as social practices of commemorating companion animals.

***Thinking about Animals in the Age of the Anthropocene (Ecocritical Theory and Practice)*. Edited by Morten Tønnessen, Kristin Armstrong Oma and Silver Rattasepp. ISBN-10: 1498527965; ISBN-13: 978-1498527965**

The term “Anthropocene”, the era of humankind, is increasingly being used as a scientific designation for the current geological epoch. This is because the human species now dominates ecosystems worldwide, and affects nature in a way that rivals natural forces in magnitude and scale. *Thinking about Animals in the Age of the Anthropocene* presents a dozen chapters that address the role and place of animals in this epoch characterized by anthropogenic (human-made) environmental change. While some chapters describe our impact on the living conditions of animals, others question conventional ideas about human exceptionalism, and stress the complex cognitive and other abilities of animals. The Anthropocene idea forces us to rethink our relation to nature and to animals, and to critically reflect on our own role and place in the world, as a species. Nature is not what it was. Nor are the lives of animals as they used to be before mankind’s rise to global ecological prominence. Can we eventually learn to live with animals, rather than causing extinction and ecological mayhem?



About the Editors: Morten Tønnessen is associate professor of philosophy at University of Stavanger.

Kristin Armstrong Oma is associate professor of archaeology at the department of cultural heritage, Museum of Archaeology, University of Stavanger.

Silver Rattasepp is a junior researcher in the Department of Semiotics at University of Tartu.

## Conference Calls

Compiled by Jo Sneddon

### **First International Conference on Human Behaviour Change for Animal Welfare.**

September 19-21., Dorking, Surrey, UK. This conference will be the first of its kind in a field that is rapidly becoming recognized as a vital part of animal welfare work. Projects are moving away from the traditional approaches of providing a service (e.g. veterinary care, training, or hands-on assistance) or awareness campaign and towards human-centered approaches that generate sustainable change. The conference will include keynote presentations on human behaviour change theory and case studies as well as talks selected from submitted abstracts. The deadline is **April 4** for abstract submissions <http://www.hbcanimalwelfare.com/>

## 2016 Oceania Conference for Critical Animal Studies



## Critical Animal Studies: Liberation theory, education and practice.

As exploitation across the globe escalates, analysis of liberation theory, education and practice is of crucial importance. For the 4<sup>th</sup> annual ICAS Oceania conference we aim to focus on various liberation theories, education and practice to foster new discussions on how to facilitate change. The conference in general aims to increase awareness of CAS in the Australia-Pacific region to further develop critical discussion and action for liberation of human and nonhuman animals. Held at the University of Canberra, this conference will contribute to the solidification of CAS theory and practice in Oceania, interdisciplinary scholarship and linkages with other movements.

### Open call for papers

The Institute for Critical Animals Studies (ICAS) Oceania conference organising collective are seeking panels, proposals, workshops and papers providing comparative engagement across countries and regions. Intersectional and transdisciplinary panels, visual art pieces and installations, and bilingual panels are encouraged. Non-academic and activist papers that explore grassroots movements are also sought.

### Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Theory and practice behind activism and organising
- Intersectionality in theory and practice
- The debates between welfarism and liberation theories and practice
- Global and local resistance
- Learning communities and pedagogy
- Gender, sexuality and veganism
- Class, race and CAS
- The criminalisation and prosecution of dissent
- Cinematic, literary, and art representations of nonhuman animals
- Nonhuman animals and the law
- Re-imagining the Anthropocene

In the first instance, submit a 250-300 word abstract and short bio to [icasoceania@gmail.com](mailto:icasoceania@gmail.com) with 'ICAS Oceania 2016' in the subject line, by August 31. Visit our website to see what we are about: <http://www.criticalanimalstudies.org/oceania-conference/>

**Friday Sep 30 - Sat Oct 1 (2016)**  
**University of Canberra, Australia**

Following the conference, the **Living Green Festival** will be held on **Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> (Sunday)** at the Albert Hall. Please visit their website for more information about this **amazing vegan festival**: <http://www.lgf.org.au/>