



Animail: February 2019

Introduction

Kia ora koutou katoa! Hello again everyone!

Decolonizing Animals: AASA Conference 2019

With less than four months to go until the conference begins, here in Ōtautahi / Christchurch your conference committee is hard at work responding to delegates' emails, organizing catering, liaising with the venue ... And of course assembling the programme, which we intend to upload to the website in draft form by the end of March.

In the meantime, we do have a few changes to announce:

- Unfortunately Professor Alexis Wright will not be able to make it to the conference. Alexis found herself overcommitted, and had to make some hard decisions about her schedule in order to retain time for her writing. While we're deeply disappointed not to be hosting her at AASA 2019, naturally we don't want to impinge on Alexis' writing time! and we wish her a year full of tremendous creative energy and success.
- In much happier news, we have expanded the list of plenary speakers to include scholars and activists from as many different locations as possible. Currently, then, our list of plenary speakers includes the following: Dr Rick De Vos (Australia), Kirsty Dunn (NZ), Dr Carol Gigliotti (USA), Terry Hurtado (Colombia), Professor Witi Ihimaera-Smiler (NZ), Dr patrice jones (USA), Professor Alphonso Lingis (USA), Dr Tobias Linné (Sweden), Philip McKibbin (NZ), Lynn mowson (Australia), Angela Singer (NZ), Dr Vasile Stansecu (USA), Gerardo Tristan (Mexico/USA). Shortly we'll be adding bios, photos, and presentation titles and abstracts for each of these speakers.
- We are also trialing something a little different in our scheduling. For the most part, plenary speakers will be paired or grouped into shared sessions: in other words, two (or more) speakers will present during most plenary sessions. It is our hope that this structure, by creating more

opportunities for participants to listen and respond as a single large group, will help foster a more coherent and engaged atmosphere overall.

Information about conference fees has now been posted on the website, and we hope to have the registration system up and running in the next few weeks. We have also posted some initial suggestions regarding accommodation, to which we'll be adding soon. Some participants have also begun posting invitations to share accommodation on the Facebook page, so please keep an eye out for those.

For all of the above information and more, then, please keep an eye on the conference website – <https://aasa2019.org> – and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/aasa2019/>).

This month's *Animail* contains profiles of two more of AASA's committed, compassionate and clever members: Justine Groizard and Mandy Paterson. The stories they tell about the lives they have built, for themselves and the animals for whom they care and advocate, are both absorbing and inspiring.

In addition, you'll find our usual roundup of new books in the field, and recent publications by some of our troops, as well as a highly informative conference report on the 'Animals and Sociology' stream at The Australian Sociology Association's 2018 conference in November last year.

My sincerest thanks, as always, to Rick De Vos for compiling all this great material for us all!

Finally a word about this month's poem, which is by one of the most sharp-eyed and silver-tongued of all human-animal poetic observers, Emily Dickinson. Typically, she doesn't focus on one of the species that her culture would have considered picturesque, cute, or delightful. Instead she takes notice of what's happening in the corners, under the floorboards, and in the attic ...

Don't forget to look for the next issue of *Animail* in two months' time!

Until then, noho ora mai, stay well.

Philip Armstrong, AASA Chair

The Rat is the concisest Tenant.

He pays no Rent.

Repudiates the Obligation—

On Schemes intent

Balking our Wit

To sound or circumvent—

Hate cannot harm

A Foe so reticent—

Neither Decree prohibit him—

Lawful as Equilibrium.



— Emily Dickinson

Member Profiles

Justine Groizard

I have always had a love for dogs, especially greyhounds. I largely attribute this love (as odd as it may seem) to my upbringing within a greyhound racing family. Ever since I could walk I could be found following my father around his kennels. Naturally, this eventuated to me also taking part in the caring and training of the dogs. When I was 12 years old I began working for my dad, walking dogs and cleaning kennels before getting on the bus for primary school. This was all so I could purchase my first ever greyhound puppy, Beckam.

While I loved spending such large amounts of time with and caring for dogs, there were many aspects to the sport that inevitably began to have an impact on how I felt about it, and my relationship with my father. Eventually I moved away from the sport and viewed myself as being distinctly 'anti-racing'.



Dove helping me with some reading. Our beautiful girl, Dovesary Louise, passed away October last year from her congenital brain disorder. We miss you Dovey.

It was as I grew older and saw more of people and the way people construct other animals that I began to realise that my intense respect and love for dogs could largely be attributed to my family and upbringing. For my Honours research I set out to explore this conundrum, that is, how it was that people who so often gave dogs away or had them 'put down' were so adamant that these same dogs deserved love and respect. Now halfway through the first year of my PhD, I intend to expand on the Honours project. I have a particular interest in how human relationships with animals intersect with class and gender to create the political contestation within the Australian greyhound racing and rescue social landscape. As part of my research I will be spending equal amounts of time with the New South Wales' greyhound racing and rescue communities, learning firsthand how they feel about the dogs they work with, and how their everyday lives and experiences create these feelings.

When not in the field or campus office I spend my days working and reading with the best company in the world, my family. Nothing makes me happier than a big pot of green tea, our dog and bird family members sleeping or playing around myself and my partner, and the sound of typing or pages turning. If interested in finding out more about my work, please feel free to email me at Justine.Groizard@uon.edu.au or, follow and chat with me on Twitter @JustineGroizard.



My happy place: Movie nights with my family. Vegan potato pie and snuggles on the lounge with Dove, my partner Justyn, and Bruce (who is sulking because the pie is not for him).

Mandy Paterson

I grew up without animals. My parents didn't dislike animals but they had no experience with them. We lived in Glasgow, Scotland, and animals were not part of our world. So imagine their consternation and surprise when they produced a child who wanted to be around animals and work with them. However, they remained firm that we were a non-animal household. Then in my first year at veterinary school I had my heart broken and their solution was to come home with a puppy for me. Needless to say my heart recovered quickly or should I say transferred its affection to my new bundle of canine joy.

Right from the start the dog was totally my responsibility and when I had to go on compulsory farm or practice visits (and even when I went on dates) I had to ask my parents to puppysit. They didn't always agree so there were many a date which had to include the dog. If she was still alive I'm sure she would have many interesting stories to tell.

Over time, however, she spun her canine magic on my parents until they became smitten and were asking me if they could look after her. By the time I was finishing my veterinary degree they were completely transformed into animal people and had adopted a couple of cats from the vet school, and when I left home taking my dog with me, they adopted a dog.

I worked as a clinical veterinarian for ten years firstly in South Australia and then Queensland. I loved the work and experienced many interesting jobs that my training hadn't properly prepared me for. These included being the veterinarian for the local reptile and wildlife park, and performing a caesarean on a circus lioness that happened to go into unsuccessful labour while in the town where I was the only veterinarian for hundreds of kilometres (my more experienced boss was away on holiday).

After a time, however, I felt I needed more and I undertook a PhD looking at parent verification of greyhounds used for racing. I won't bore anyone with the details of what this entailed but I actually enjoyed overcoming the challenges of doing a PhD in an area where there was nothing much already known and I was not able to import canine products from overseas which could have helped me. The discoveries I made were almost immediately superseded by DNA technology, but fortunately not before I was awarded the degree. While undertaking my PhD study I continued to work as a clinical veterinarian part time.

The next few years following the PhD could be described as wilderness years as I undertook motherhood and various part time jobs to keep me sane and to maintain an income. These included veterinary practice, lecturing at the University and supporting students, particularly higher degree students, as they undertook their studies. I found all of these marvellous experiences and all have fed into and informed the work I do in my current position at RSPCA Qld.





My current position is as the Principal Scientist with RSPCA Qld which brings together all my loves – of animals, research, helping people and arguing my opinion with Government and industry. The job is varied and interesting. I undertake research of interest to the RSPCA and supervise students in collaboration with academics from several universities. This research is always aimed at benefitting animal welfare and mostly deals with issues relevant to shelters. I am involved with policy development – RSPCA policy but also that of Government and industry. I represent

the RSPCA Qld on several Government committees and Boards, and provide objective opinion on animal welfare. I also provide expert advice to the RSPCA Qld Board and to other areas within RSPCA Qld.

My areas of interest have also grown to include more social science related topics such as examining the perceptions and opinions of members of the public to various topics such as threats to wildlife, feral animal management, and the use of animal in animal-assisted therapies. Finally, I lead several campaigns and other initiatives for RSPCA Qld. I manage Operation Wanted, our major de-sexing promotion which we run annually in collaboration with local councils and local participating veterinary clinics. It has run now for five years and resulted in many hundreds of animals being de-sexed. We also conduct other campaigns to improve the welfare of animals in many situations.

I am now coming to the end of my working life but maintain the passion for improving the lives of all animals.

Member News

Laura McKay's novel *The Animals in That Country* was recently signed with Scribe Publications, and is due to be published in 2020.

<https://scribepublications.com.au/news-events/news/scribe-acquires-the-animals-in-that-country-by-laura-jean-mckay>

The e-version of **Nik Taylor** and **Heather Fraser's** new book *Companion Animals and Domestic Violence: Rescuing Me, Rescuing You* is now available for purchase.

<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030041243>

Recent Publications

Adam M. Willows, and **Marcus Baynes-Rock**, 2018. Two perspectives on animal morality. *Zygon*, 53 (4), 953-970. <https://doi.org/10.1111/zygo.12464>

Yamini Narayanan, 2019. "Cow Is a Mother, Mothers Can Do Anything for Their Children!" Gaushalasas Landscapes of Anthropatriarchy and Hindu Patriarchy. *Hypatia* vol. X, no. X
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/>

Alasdair Cochrane, **Siobhan O'Sullivan** and Josh Milburn, 2019. Book Symposium: 'Sentientist Politics: A Theory of Global Inter-Species Justice'. *Politics and Animals*, 5: 1-32.
<https://journals.lub.lu.se/pa/article/view/18819>

Thom van Dooren, 2018. Thinking with Crows: (Re)doing Philosophy in the Field. *Parallax* 24 (4): 439-438. <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tpar20/24/4?nav=toCList>

Carmel Nottle and **Janette Young**, 2019. Individuals, instinct and moralities: exploring multi-species leisure using the serious leisure perspective, *Leisure Studies*,
DOI: [10.1080/02614367.2019.1572777](https://doi.org/10.1080/02614367.2019.1572777).

Conference Report - TASA 2018 - Sociology & Animals Stream Recap

On November 20th, 2018, The Australian Sociological Association hosted its second Sociology & Animals stream at the annual conference. With six talks in this stream, the most yet, this is a good sign of the growing "animal turn" in sociology. Addressing the conference themes of precarity, rights and resistance, presenters covered a range of topics that critically engaged with the positioning of animals in society and potential to challenge their marginalisation.

Katherine Calvert highlighted the complicity of equine science and sociological studies of human-horse relationships in failing to recognise horse resistance. Equine science, with its focus on constructing horse resistance as problem behaviours to be solved by learning theories, fails to create space for animal

agency. Sociological studies tend to focus on equestrian activities as reflective of ‘shared goals’ between horses and riders, thus constructing the horses as docile bodies, rather than individual actors in their own right. Katherine highlighted the need for sociological accounts of human-animal relations to acknowledge the negative impacts on animals and not just the positive, if we are going to promote a sociology *for* other animals and not just *about* them.

Diego Padilla explored the construction of donkeys as co-therapists in therapeutic interventions. Beginning by discussing the many (exploitative) roles donkeys hold in society, his presentation highlighted the potential of donkey assisted therapy to promote respect for donkeys’ agency and value to humans, and encouraged human participants to ‘enter the donkey’s universe’ in order to think about how to deliver therapy *with* donkeys rather than utilising them as mere tools. This approach contrasted with Katherine’s and these differences highlight a central debate amongst animal advocates and scholars alike – are other animals ‘co-participants’ in such situations, as Diego argued, or are they being exploited for human benefit without giving consent, as Katherine argued?

Venturing into the under explored area of subversive social work for animals, **Melissa Laing** presented data on the various ways social workers find ways to advocate for other animals despite the species exclusive system they find themselves in, to better attend to ‘multispecies families’ that include companion animals. Melissa’s research looks at intersections between harm to women and harm to other animals in family violence situations, highlighting the need for all victims/survivors to be taken care of, regardless of species. These intersectional connections are increasingly being made in academic work in animal studies and beyond.

Nick Pendergrast posed the question ‘to what extent is humane food resistance?’ arguing that the labelling of animal-derived foods as ‘humane’ does not necessarily constitute resistance against the exploitative abuses of animals for food. Placing companies and approaches on a spectrum of resistance, he demonstrated that while some ‘humane’ food movements do resist animal exploitation to a degree, many are subject to ‘humane washing’ that is cashing in on the connotations of humane while failing to make any real difference to the material conditions of the animals exploited as food and food producers. Even in the best case scenario where significant changes are made to the treatment of animals, he argued that the resistance is still always somewhat limited, as animal welfare discussions around ‘humane’ animal products leave out animal rights and liberation perspectives that fundamentally reject industries that use and slaughter animals.

Zoei Sutton argued for the need to consider companion animals in discussions around animal liberation and resistance. In literature on animal liberation, companion animals are rarely mentioned, and when they are it is often to compare their better treatment compared to animals used for other purposes such as food. This has meant the topic has mostly been left to more human-focused research that does not problematise the notion of humans using other animals for companionship. Adopting an animal liberation approach, Zoei highlighted the limited agency companion animals have, even where they are treated well. Drawing on qualitative data to demonstrate examples of animal and human resistance to the construction of sentient beings as pet-commodities, she argued that resistance in human-companion animal relationships occurs in a broader context of complicity and is therefore always limited, however, with these animals already domesticated for this use, it is important to give them as much respect and consideration as possible.

Rohan Todd rounded out the session with a call to embrace a Deleuzian understanding of becoming in order to move beyond current, limited, ways of thinking about human-animal relations. To this end he

put forth ethological, epistemological and aesthetic provocations to encourage a radical reimagining of human doings with and alongside other animals. Such a reimagining requires that humans attend to the dynamic capacities of individual animals to act and be acted upon, recognising that current (mis)understandings of animals are a reflection of humans' failed learning rather than a lack of information. Rohan concluded by stating that the inclusion of 'the animal' in the social sciences not only necessitates a different way of thinking, but also a different way of *feeling*, and the latter is an important aspect of becoming-with animals that cannot be ignored.

This session is one of many examples of the growing field of sociological animal studies. More information about the TASA Sociology and Animals Thematic Group can be found on the [TASA website](#), [TASA Sociology & Animals Thematic Group Facebook page](#) and Twitter account [@tasaanimals](#).

Zoei Sutton and Nick Pendergrast

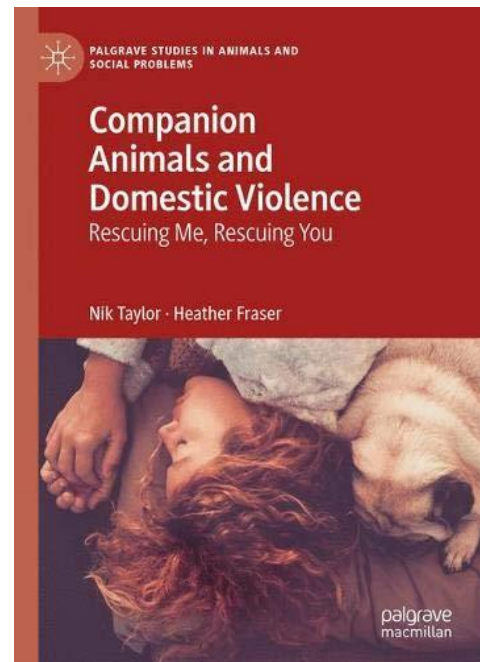
New Books

Compiled by Rick De Vos

Companion Animals and Domestic Violence: Rescuing Me, Rescuing You

Nik Taylor and Heather Fraser
Palgrave Macmillan, 2019

In this book, Nik Taylor and Heather Fraser consider how we might better understand human-animal companionship in the context of domestic violence. The authors advocate an intersectional feminist understanding, drawing on a variety of data from numerous projects they have conducted with people, about their companion animals and links between domestic violence and animal abuse, arguing for a new understanding that enables animals to be constituted as victims of domestic violence in their own right. The chapters analyse the mutual, loving connections that can be formed across species, and in households where there is domestic violence. *Companion Animals and Domestic Violence* also speaks to the potentially soothing, healing and recovery oriented aspects of human-companion animal relationships before, during and after the violence, and will be of interest to various academic disciplines including social work, anthropology, sociology, philosophy, geography, as well as to professionals working in domestic violence or animal welfare service provision.



The cow with ear tag #1389

Kathryn Gillespie
University of Chicago Press, 2018

To translate the journey from a living cow to a glass of milk into tangible terms, Kathryn Gillespie set out to follow the moments in the life cycles of individual animals—animals like the cow with ear tag #1389. She explores how the seemingly benign practice of raising animals for milk is just one link in a chain that affects livestock across the agricultural spectrum. Gillespie takes readers to farms, auction yards, slaughterhouses, and even rendering plants to show how living cows become food. The result is an empathetic look at cows and our relationship with them, one that makes both their lives and their suffering real.

Zöopedagogies: Creatures as Teachers in Middle English Romance

Bonnie J. Erwin

CRC Press/Routledge, 2018

The human protagonists of medieval romance are works in progress. They are learners, taught by an unexpected set of teachers: non-human animals including horses, hawks, lions, and the various quarry of the hunt. These “creature teachers” show humans how to be more perfectly human—how to love, fight, survive, and live according to medieval culture’s highest ideals. *Zöopedagogies* explores the pedagogical role of animals in medieval romance, a genre whose fantastical elements enable animal characters to behave in ways inspired by, but not limited to their real-world actions. Situated at the intersection of animal studies and medieval studies, *Zöopedagogies* claims medieval roots for posthumanism by telling a new story about the role of animals in constructing Western culture. Bonnie Erwin brings together a diverse array of texts, including chivalric romances like *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and popular romances like *Bevis of Hampton* and *Richard Coer de Lyon*. She puts these into conversation with medieval texts on natural science, horsemanship, hawking, and hunting that inform the representation of creatures who teach. In so doing, she reveals a rich and nuanced sense of animals as participants in interspecies collaborative culture-making.



ZÖOPEDAGOGIES

CREATURES AS TEACHERS IN MIDDLE ENGLISH
ROMANCE

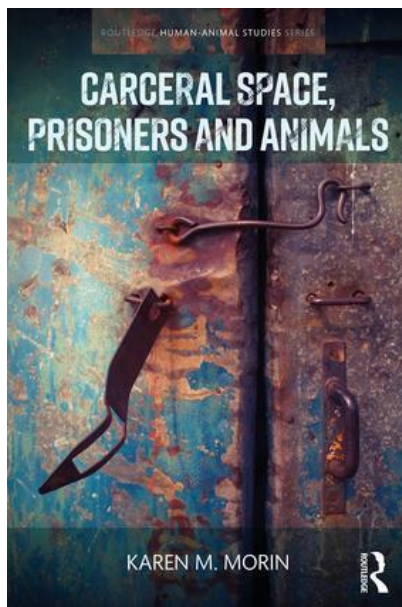
Bonnie J. Erwin



Carceral space, prisoners and animals

Karen M. Morin

Routledge, 2018

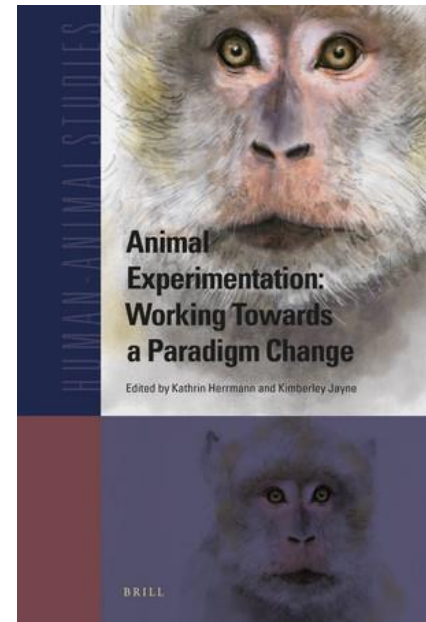


Carceral Space, Prisoners and Animals explores resonances across human and nonhuman carceral geographies. The work proposes an analysis of the carceral from a broader vantage point than has yet been done, developing a ‘trans-species carceral geography’ that includes spaces of nonhuman captivity, confinement, and enclosure alongside that of the human. The linkages across prisoner and animal carcerality that are placed into conversation draw from a number of institutional domains, based on their form, operation, and effect. These include: the prison death row/ execution chamber and the animal slaughterhouse; sites of laboratory testing of pharmaceutical and other products on incarcerated humans and captive animals; sites of exploited prisoner and animal labor; and the prison solitary confinement cell and the zoo cage. The forms of violence that span species boundaries at these sites are all a part of ordinary, everyday, industrialized violence in the United States and elsewhere, and thus this ‘carceral comparison’ amongst them is appropriate and timely.

Animal Experimentation: Working Towards a Paradigm Change

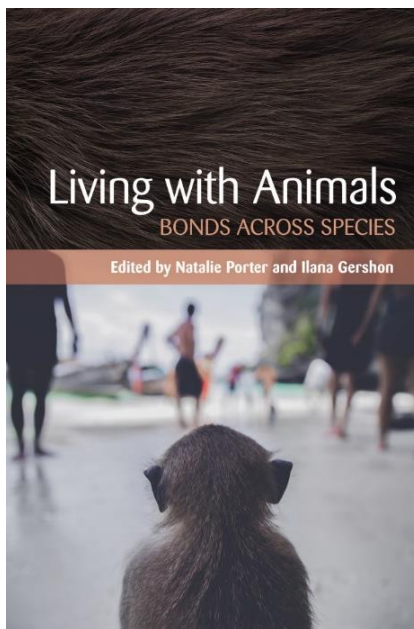
Edited by Kathrin Herrmann and Kimberley Jayne
Brill, 2019

Animal experimentation has been one of the most controversial areas of animal use, mainly due to the intentional harms inflicted upon animals for the sake of hoped-for benefits in humans. Despite this rationale for continued animal experimentation, shortcomings of this practice have become increasingly more apparent and well-documented. However, these limitations are not yet widely known or appreciated, and there is a danger that they may simply be ignored. The 51 experts who have contributed to *Animal Experimentation: Working Towards a Paradigm Change* critically review current animal use in science, present new and innovative non-animal approaches to address urgent scientific questions, and offer a roadmap towards an animal-free world of science.



Living with Animals: Bonds Across Species

Edited by Porter, N., & Gershon, I.
Cornell University Press, 2018



Living with Animals is a collection of imagined animal guides—a playful and accessible look at different human-animal relationships around the world. Anthropologists and their co-authors have written accounts of how humans and animals interact in labs, in farms, in zoos, and in African forests, among other places. Modeled after the classic *A World of Babies*, an edited collection of imagined Dr. Spock manuals from around the world—*Living with Animals* focuses on human-animal relationships in their myriad forms. This is ethnographic fiction for those curious about how animals are used for a variety of different tasks around the world. To be sure, animal guides are not a universal genre, so *Living with Animals* offers an imaginative solution, doing justice to the ways details about animals are conveyed in culturally specific ways by adopting a range of voices and perspectives. How we capitalize on animals, how we live with them, and how humans attempt to control the untamable nature around them are all considered by the authors of this wild read. If you have ever experienced a moment of “what if” curiosity—what is it like to be a gorilla in a zoo, to work in a pig

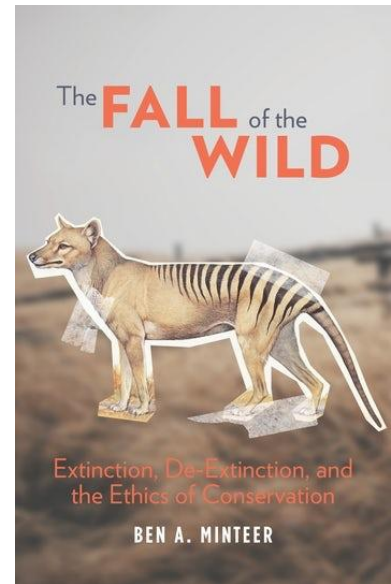
factory farm, to breed cows and horses, this book is for you. A light-handed and light-hearted approach to a fascinating and nuanced subject, *Living with Animals* suggests many ways in which we can and do coexist with our non-human partners on Earth.

The Fall of the Wild: Extinction, De-Extinction, and the Ethics of Conservation

Ben A. Minter

Columbia University Press, 2018

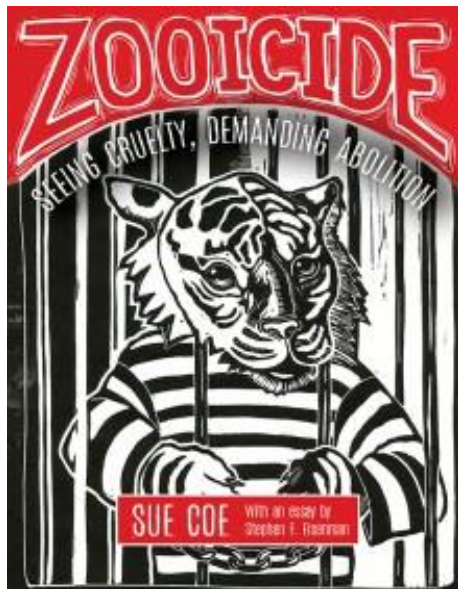
In *The Fall of the Wild*, Ben A. Minter calls for reflection on the ethical dilemmas of species loss and recovery in an increasingly human-driven world. He asks an unsettling but necessary question: Might our well-meaning efforts to save and restore wildlife pose a threat to the ideal of preserving a world that isn't completely under the human thumb? Minter probes the tension between our impulse to do whatever it takes and the risk of pursuing strategies that undermine our broader commitment to the preservation of wildness. From collecting wildlife specimens for museums and the wilderness aspirations of zoos to visions of "assisted colonization" of new habitats and high-tech attempts to revive long-extinct species, he explores the scientific and ethical concerns vexing conservation today. *The Fall of the Wild* is a nuanced treatment of the deeper moral issues underpinning the quest to save species on the brink of extinction and an accessible intervention in debates over the principles and practice of nature conservation.



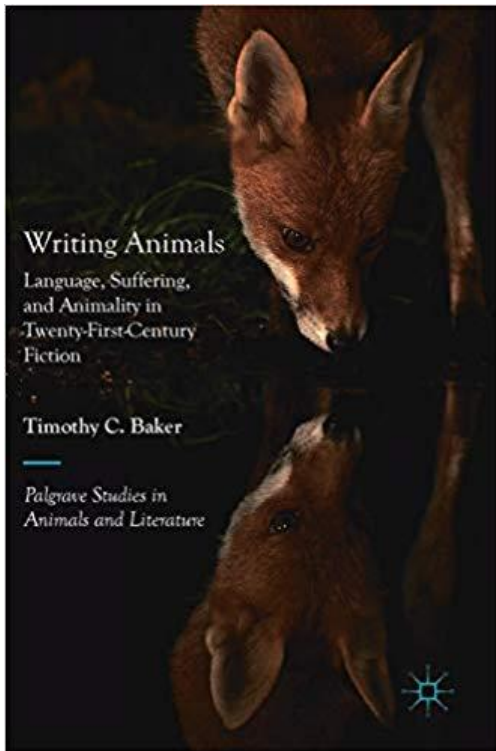
Zoocide: Seeing Cruelty, Demanding Abolition

Sue Coe and Stephen F. Eisenman

AK Press, 2018.



In *Zoocide*, Sue Coe employs her bold artistic style to confront the institution of zoos, showing that they are inherently cruel and why the solution is not to reform them, but to abolish them. Coe's visual journalism investigates the mental anguish inflicted upon animals— including cases where they have killed themselves to end their torture. Zoos may pay lip service to education, enrichment, and conservation, but their depravity is systemic and ubiquitous; it is built into the very idea of animals as commodities. As long as they are considered property, animals will be treated as things, with no rights—things that can be caged, bred, abused, or killed for profit and entertainment. It's time to end this cruelty. A powerful accomplice to Coe's images, and written specifically for them, Stephen F. Eisenman's essay, "The Capitalist Zoo," is a history of zoos written from the future—a future in which zoos as we know them no longer exist.



Writing Animals: Language, Suffering, and Animality in Twenty-First-Century Fiction

Timothy C. Baker

Palgrave Macmillan, 2019

Writing Animals surveys a broad range of contemporary texts to show how representations of human-animal relations challenge the anthropocentric nature of fiction. By looking at the relation between language and suffering in twenty-first-century fiction and drawing on a wide range of theoretical approaches, Baker suggests new opportunities for exploring the centrality of nonhuman animals in recent fiction: writing animal lives leads to new narrative structures and forms of expression. These novels destabilise assumptions about the nature of pain and vulnerability, the burden of literary inheritance, the challenge of writing the Anthropocene, and the relation between text and image. Including both well-known authors and emerging talents, from J.M. Coetzee and Karen Joy Fowler to Sarah Hall, Alexis Wright, and Max Porter, and texts from experimental fiction to work for children, *Writing Animals* offers an original perspective on both contemporary fiction and the field of literary animal studies.

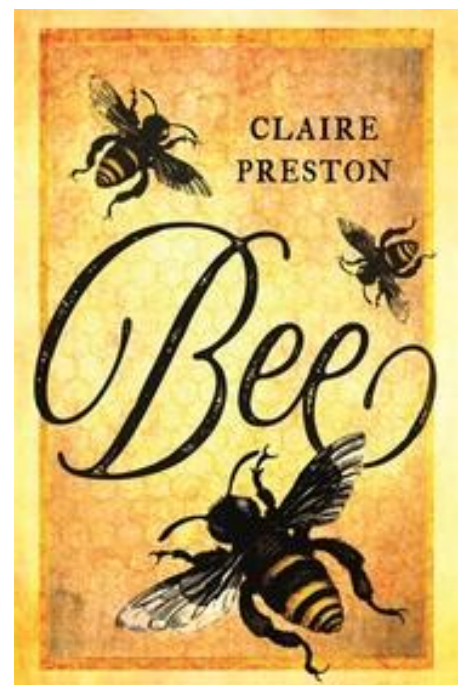
Bee

Claire Preston

Reaktion, 2019

Claire Preston's *Bee* is a history of our long, complex relationship with this industrious, much-admired insect. The book moves from ancient political descriptions of the bee to Renaissance debates about monarchy, to the conversion of the virtuous, civil bee into the dangerous swarm of the Hollywood horror flick, and finally to the melancholy recognition that the modern decline of the bee is due to our use of harmful pesticides and destruction of the insect's habitat.

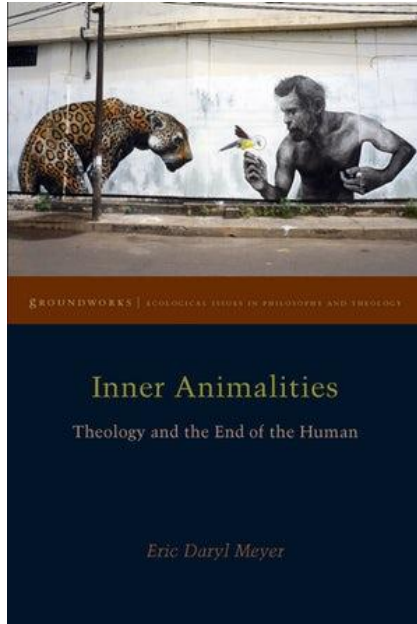
Written in a lively, engaging style and containing many fascinating facts, anecdotes, fables and images, *Bee* is a wide-ranging, highly illustrated natural and cultural history of this familiar visitor to our gardens and parks. The book appeals to a wide audience: those who work with bees and honey; those who appreciate this hard-working, humble creature and its intricate, miniature society; and those too who have an interest in the way the bee has woven itself into the fabric of our culture.



Inner Animalities: Theology and the End of the Human

Eric Daryl Meyer

Fordham University Press, 2018



Most theology proceeds under the assumption that divine grace works on human beings at the points of our supposed uniqueness among earth's creatures—our freedom, our self-awareness, our language, or our rationality. *Inner Animalities* turns this assumption on its head. Arguing that much theological anthropology contains a deeply anti-ecological impulse, the book draws creatively on historical and scriptural texts to imagine an account of human life centered in our creaturely commonality.

Meyer argues that humanity's exceptional status is not the result of divine endorsement, but a delusion of human sin. Where the work of God knits human beings back into creaturely connections, ecological degradation is no longer just a matter of bodily life and death, but a matter of ultimate significance.

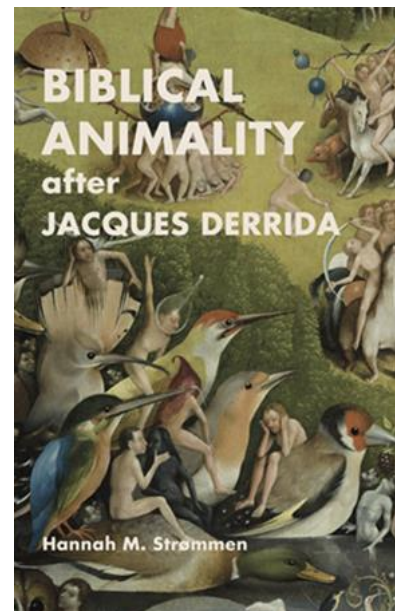
Bringing a theological perspective to the growing field of Critical Animal Studies, *Inner Animalities* puts Gregory of Nyssa and Karl Rahner in conversation with Jacques Derrida, Giorgio Agamben, Kelly Oliver, and Cary Wolfe. What results is not only a counterintuitive account of human life in relation with nonhuman neighbors, but also a new angle into ecological theology

Biblical Animality after Jacques Derrida

Hannah M. Strømme

SBL Press, 2018

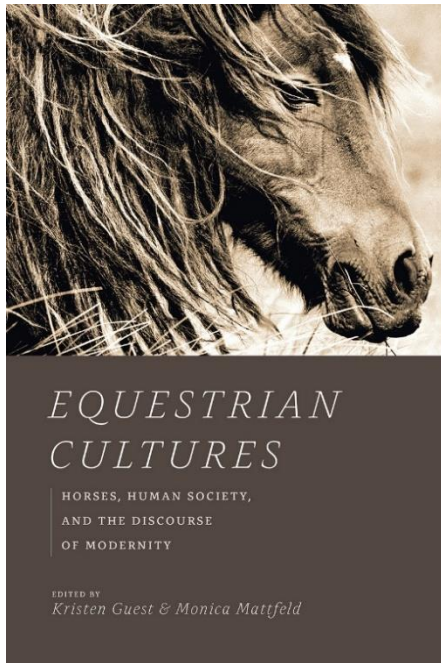
This book provides a new theoretical and exegetical angle on the Bible and animal studies. According to Genesis, humans are made in God's image but animals are not. Hannah M. Strømme challenges this view by critiquing the boundary between humans and animals in the Bible through the work of philosopher Jacques Derrida. Building on Derrida's *The Animal That Therefore I Am*, Strømme brings to light significant moments where the lines between the divine, human, and animal are ambiguous. A rich range of biblical texts is covered, from Noah as the first carnivorous man in Genesis 9 to Revelation's beasts. The text contributes to research on Jacques Derrida and deconstruction, presents an examination of Derrida's work on the human/animal boundary, and critically engages with the way the Bible is frequently held up as a point of blame for anthropocentrism.



Equestrian Cultures: Horses, Human Society and the Discourse of Modernity

Edited by Kristen Guest and Monica Mattfeld

University of Chicago Press, 2019



As much as dogs, cats, or any domestic animal, horses exemplify the vast range of human-animal interactions. Horses have long been deployed to help with a variety of human activities—from racing and riding to police work, farming, warfare, and therapy—and have figured heavily in the history of natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. Most accounts of the equine-human relationship, however, fail to address the last few centuries of Western history, focusing instead on pre-1700 interactions. *Equestrian Cultures* fills in the gap, telling the story of how prominently horses continue to figure in our lives, up to the present day.

Kristen Guest and Monica Mattfeld place the modern period front and center in this collection, illuminating the largely untold story of how the horse has responded to the accelerated pace of modernity. The book's contributors explore equine cultures across the globe, drawing from numerous interdisciplinary sources to show how horses have unexpectedly influenced such distinctively modern fields as photography, anthropology, and

feminist theory. *Equestrian Cultures* boldly steps forward to redefine our view of the most recent developments in our long history of equine partnership and sets the course for future examinations of this still-strong bond.

Texts, Animals, Environments: Zoopoetics and Eco-poetics

Edited by Roland Borgards, Catrin Gersdorf, Frederike Middlehoff
and Sebastian Schönbeck
Rombach Verlag, 2019

Texts, Animals, Environments. Zoopoetics and Eco-poetics probes the multiple links between ecocriticism and animal studies, assessing the relations between animals, environments and poetics. While ecocriticism usually relies on a relational approach to explore phenomena related to the environment or ecology more broadly, animal studies tends to examine individual or species-specific aspects. As a consequence, ecocriticism concentrates on eco-poetical, animal studies on zoopoetical elements and modes of representation in literature (and the arts more generally). Bringing key concepts of ecocriticism and animal studies into dialogue, the volume explores new ways of thinking about and reading texts, animals, and environments – not as separate entities but as part of the same collective.

