

A photograph of a Highland cow with long, shaggy brown and black fur, grazing in a field of tall, dry grass. The cow is positioned in the center-left of the frame, facing left. The background is a clear blue sky.

Animail

Bulletin of the Australasian Animal Studies Association

March / April 2021

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AASA News

Chair's Report

Dear Members,

I hope 2021 has started well for you! I am chuffed to write an introduction to another fantastic edition of *Animail* – I hope this helps to keep you informed. My sincere thanks to Emily Major and Esther Alloun all for their work in compiling this edition.

AASA Online Workshop - Tools for Animal Studies Research February

As you may know, on February 10th 2021, AASA organised an inaugural series of “masterclasses” targeting early career scholars and those new to the field of animal studies. We were very excited to be working with Artsfront (<https://artsfront.com/>) to host these events, using their online platform.



We had three absolute knockout sessions, with fabulous conversations in each. The events were well attended by members; and the online workshops also attracted new folk who signed up to join the Association. Importantly, the event was a useful test for the AASA in pulling together an online event, something we will continue to explore with an online AASA conference later this year (see below). Huge thanks to everyone who was involved, including our panellists and chairs: Esther Alloun, Kirsty Dunn, Melissa Boyde, Agata Mrva-Montoya, Yvette Watt, Natasha Fijn, Laura Jean Mackay and Clare Archer Lean.

By the way, while the recordings of the event are not available, you can still access details on the events here: <https://artsfront.com/event/73457-tools-for-animal-studies-research-workshop#!tab>.

AASA Conference

In the last two editions, I have let you know that AASA is currently planning an online conference for later in 2021. 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 now have a conference sub-committee comprised of AASA members who have volunteered time to help out with organising the conference, which includes the following: Peter Chen, Daniela Rizzo, Yamini Narayanan, Muhammad Kavesh and Rebecca Hendershott. Thanks everyone for volunteering!

Stay tuned – we are currently planning out events for later this year, and we will be sharing a save the date and a call for papers.

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. In this edition of *Animail* we have provided a summary of our results (see “Member News” on page 4).

The survey has proved invaluable in getting a snapshot of who AASA is and what concerns the membership. This information will help the AASA Committee in planning for events, designing its communications to members and thinking about ways available to raise funds to support activities.

Thanks to the AASA Committee

In this edition of *Animail*, I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the AASA Committee: lynn mowson, Clare Archer-Lean, Peter Chen, Laura Jean McKay, Sue Pyke, Esther Alloun, Agata Mrva-Montoya and Emily Major. AASA is run by volunteers who give up their time to manage everything involved in running the Association – keeping the website and communications going (including *Animail*), managing events, keeping track of memberships and finances, and ensuring ongoing governance and accountability. Every member of the Committee is involved in making our Association continue to do what it does; in fact, we have all been busier than I ever recall. Huge thanks to everyone on the Committee!

I very much hope you enjoy this edition of *Animail*.

Warm regards

Dinesh Wadiwel
AASA Chair

Member News



Culture & Animals Foundation Grantee

Congratulations to Emily Major, both an AASA member and our postgraduate representative, who has recently been awarded a grant by the Culture & Animals Foundation to fund a blog that explores her on-going doctoral research 'Framing Possums'. More information and relevant links will be available once the blog is up-and-running.

AASA Membership Survey Findings

In December AASA carried out a member survey to inform our strategic planning. About one-third of our members participated, and we are grateful to members who responded and provided helpful suggestions. Below is a summary of the results.



Who are we?

AASA members come from a wide variety of disciplines, work and/or study in academia (most commonly), are activists or advocates (second most common) or are in the creative industries. They have little disciplinary commonalities beyond the common interest in human-animal relations. Seventy-five per cent of survey respondents identified as female. Respondents have similar interests in the AASA activities, with members broken down by employment sector not having large differences in their responses to the prioritisation of the AASA activities.

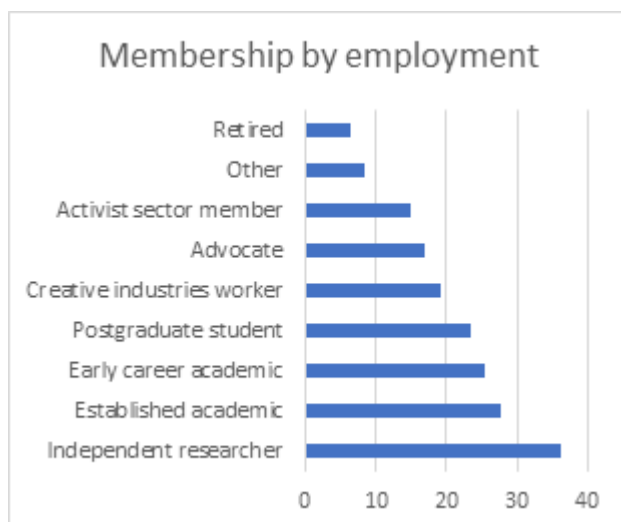
Importantly, very few members who responded to the survey identify as being from a culturally or linguistically diverse

background and none are trained in the physical sciences. A large minority of members are in insecure employment (38 per cent).

Why do we join the association?

The survey told us that members predominantly join for the purpose of networking, and report positive networking opportunities through their membership. Members' most highly realised benefit of membership is access to news and information about human-animal studies.

Running conferences (91.7 per cent) or workshops / seminars (87.3 per cent) are the most valued activities of the association, however, a number of other activities has been indicated as valuable to members. These include advocating for the discipline, supporting research and creative works in the field of animal studies, supporting teaching and supporting advocacy (all above 80 per cent). In contrast, the least valuable activities to members include financial support to research students (47.9 per cent), hosting blogs / podcasts (62.1 per cent) and supporting members in their publication activities (60.4 per cent).



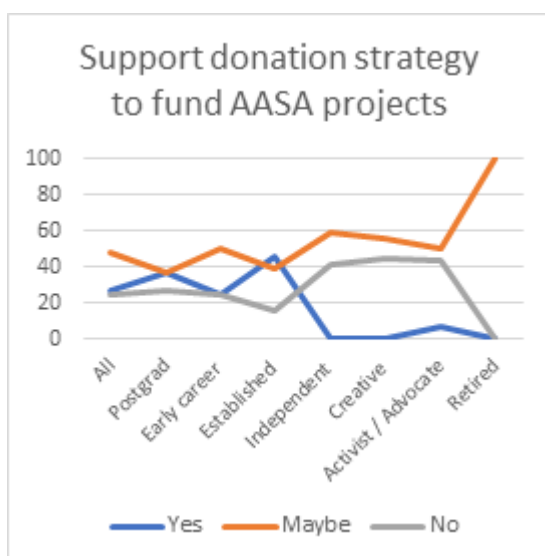
How best should AASA communicate with its members?

AASA members surveyed favour “traditional” forms of communication: email and *Animail*, have modest use of social media (with Twitter of low present use, but ranked second to Facebook as a professional communications tool by members) and are least likely to engage with the AASA website and its specialist features (e.g. RSS). *Animal’s* valued contents aligns with members’ valuing AASAs role in providing general animal studies news and information over internal AASA news and updates.

Recommendations to AASA

Members had a range of constructive suggestions for the AASA.

A number of them focused on the need to foster community by organising regular Zoom networking meetings and online workshops / reading groups. A number of respondents suggested running an ongoing program of artist-led exhibitions, which could be delivered online and in physical gallery space. Another idea was to organise design/writing competitions to engage with the general public. In order to broaden the network of academics, artists and activists working together a need for an internationalist approach to AASA activities has been suggested. Finally, funding unwaged/precariouly employed animal scholars and PG students was also suggested.



Finally, we were interested in whether AASA members were open to donating funds to support specific valued projects. Survey respondents indicated that there was a large number of members, particularly those who are established scholars and retired, who are open to supporting donations for key projects.

Going forward

The survey findings will underpin the planning of the future events and other activities so that the AASA continues to support its members, and foster and support animal studies scholarship. If you have any further comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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 profile

Mona Quilty

My practice is based in learning. With this framework in mind, I look at the human animal relationship, using sculpture and performance to realise perspectives we may not have considered. I work with the performative aspect of animal bodies. Active engagement with the nonhuman, the ones present and forgotten, helps me to face an overwhelming question: How do we change what we think is the truth?

An insurmountable task it seems, but I believe the way to understanding our shared paths with animals lies right in front of us – what rests warm and quiet at our feet, the body still by the roadside, those who sing on the roof at the fall of dusk, they peer through the trees and wonder why we're here. Through my work I wonder too, watching back closely. I don't know what I hope to find, but I will never stop looking.

I am a 24-year-old artist. I am glad to be in this new and interesting space, here to talk about my work. Above is the artist bio I use, I read it again and wonder: have I addressed everything? Does it speak right to what I do? Who am I talking over? Who am I working over?



"Finding the Tiger", 2020

In my first solo exhibition in 2019, the *Blind Eye of the Needle* at Melbourne's BSIDE Gallery, I focused on taxidermy as a methodology. My representation of the non-human questioned the taxidermic process as a means of negating animal agency. Through the work I revealed the animal

as altered, betraying the supposedly 'naturalistic' depictions of animals as seen in traditional taxidermy with the evidence of the perpetrator's hand.

In my recent solo show, *Finding the Tiger* at Sawtooth ARI in Tasmania, my video work/performance depicted transformation from fox to thylacine by the application of thick black paint. The work interrogated how we can be bound to an unchanged narrative of animals, and at whose cost. Through my imposition upon the skin, once again the perpetrator was me.

With the premise and execution of my artwork so fraught with tension, I fight in my own head a lot. My ethics around animals are in a constant state of motion, my own contradictions nipping at my heels. What I found most important in these exhibitions was the questions that arose: how do we transcend the anthropocentric viewpoint when the animal itself is used as vessel for doing so? Even if I manage to pull it off, is anyone even listening?

It's odd to think how I may be perceived in this field, myself as someone who chooses to work with animal bodies as if they were objects of my power. However, moments of encounter is what informs my practice. I believe the event of the shared gaze between human and animal has the potential to suspend our learnt conceptions. But who am I to say there'll be any shared gaze in the first place? Or on the flip side, what if I look too closely and just see my own reflection in their eyes?

From this I watch my entitlement to animals from afar, my developing ideas sitting comfortably in privilege. I can see I play an active role in a system, one that assures me that I can know animals however I want and it doesn't matter. The animals I work with are in my care but I am always mindful of how that care is defined and the influences that permit such a thing.

As I walk along the roadside I search for my medium. There in the same moment, I look for one who got lost, tripped and fell or one that just didn't understand. The evening brims with different voices but along the gravel all is quiet. This is the special silence that leads me to speak up. I choose to do this through art.

AASA's Blog

Animal Language and Prairie Dogs by Con Slobodchikoff

An increasing amount of evidence shows that a number of animals have language or language-like properties. I summarize this information with a variety of examples in *Chasing Doctor Dolittle: Learning the Language of Animals*; a short video on the topic is also available for viewing.



Prairie dog. Photo by Con Slobodchikoff

In 1960, linguist Charles Hockett published a list of thirteen design features of human language, which have become the gold standard for what linguists will accept as indicating that an animal species has a language. Some of these features are found in any signal-producing system, while the following seven (explained in more detail later) represent key elements distinguishing language from mere communication: semantics, arbitrary, discrete, displacement, productivity, duality, cultural transmission.

When we try to apply these features to other animals we are faced with a conundrum. We need a Rosetta Stone to give us the key to unlock a species' system of language or communication.

In this post I discuss one of the best available examples of animal language, which comes from my work with prairie dogs. Prairie dogs are ground squirrels (1kg, 0.1m long), living in extensive burrow systems, called towns or colonies, in North American grasslands. They have alarm calls utilized to warn each other about approaching predators. Their escape behaviors involve running to their burrows and diving inside where predators cannot reach them.

Within a prairie dogs' town there might be hundreds of animals, and the ground is partitioned into territories, occupied by discrete social groups. When a predator appears, one or more prairie dogs give an alarm call that to our ears sounds like a bird chirping. Other prairie dogs run to their burrows to escape the predator.

The entire sequence of predator appearing, prairie dogs alarm calling and running to their burrows offered my students and me a means of decoding the language of the Gunnison (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) prairie dogs' language.

We videotaped the appearance and behavior of the predator as it approached the colony, recorded the alarm calls prairie dogs produced in response to the predator, and videotaped prairie dogs' escape responses. Subsequently, on another day when no predator was present, we played back the recordings made in response to the predator that had previously appeared and videotaped prairie dogs' escape responses to see if prairie dogs' responses when no predator was present were the same as the responses when the predator appeared.

In a series of experiments we found that prairie dogs have different alarm calls and different escape responses for different predator species. Predators include coyotes and domestic dogs that hunt prairie dogs' on the ground, humans who shoot them, and red-tailed hawks that swoop down from the air. Prairie dogs' escape responses differ, depending on the species of predator.

For coyotes, prairie dogs immediately run to their burrows, and stand on their hind legs at the burrow opening, watching the progress of the coyote through the colony. Prairie dogs who were below ground before the coyote appeared, emerge and join those standing at the burrow entrances. This is related to the hunting strategy of coyotes, who will often find a concentration of prairie dogs and lie down on the ground near those burrow openings, waiting for unwary prairie dogs to emerge. By watching the progress of the coyote, prairie dogs get an excellent idea of where the predator is likely to lie down and wait for them.

For domestic dogs, prairie dogs stand up on their hind legs wherever they happen to be foraging, and watch the progress of the dog through the colony. They only run for their burrows if the dog gets close to them. However, as with coyotes, prairie dogs that were below ground emerge from their burrow opening to stand and watch the dog. Domestic dogs aren't efficient predators of prairie dogs; unlike coyotes, they don't lie down next to burrows, so prairie dogs don't need to find immediate safety in their burrows but still need to see where the dog is going.

For red-tailed hawks, prairie dogs in the immediate flightpath of the swooping bird run to their burrows and dive inside, without standing at the lip of the burrow. Prairie dogs that aren't in the hawk's flightpath stand on their hind legs wherever they happen to be foraging and watch the progress of the bird.

For humans, the entire colony of prairie dogs immediately runs to their burrows and dives in, without emerging or standing at the lip. Prairie dogs have been hunted since ancient times by Native Americans with bows and arrows. Today, prairie dogs are shot for sport. Be it bows and arrows or bullets, prairie dogs don't have much time to escape, and become easy targets if they stand at their burrow lips.

Just as the escape responses differ, we found that the alarm calls for different predator species differ in their acoustic structure. Prairie dogs have acoustically different alarm calls for coyotes, domestic dogs, red-tailed hawks and humans.

This gave us the Rosetta Stone we needed to begin to unravel prairie dogs' language system. In a series of experiments, we were able to show the following design features in their alarm calls:

- *Semantics* (just as words in human languages have distinct meanings, signals produced by animals must also have distinct meanings): prairie dogs have distinctly different alarm calls for different species of predators. Furthermore, they can vary acoustic elements within a call for a predator species to describe its size, color, and shape.
- *Arbitrary* (an arbitrary symbol has no direct connection to what it represents, e.g. "green" doesn't tell anything about what the color looks like, in contrast to an iconic symbol, e.g. "bow-wow" [barking] used to describe a dog): prairie dogs' calls are completely arbitrary with a series of acoustic frequencies changing as a function of time within an alarm call.
- *Discrete* (each symbol has to be a discrete unit, like words in the sentence are all discrete units): Each prairie dog's alarm call is a discrete unit.

- *Displacement* (capacity to provide information about events occurring in different locations or time periods from the speaker): prairie dogs can indicate the presence of a predator that is far away, with one experiment showing that prairie dogs were able to consistently affix an apparent label of a gun to a person who once fired a shotgun and then subsequently appeared without a gun during the month of the experiment.
- *Productivity* (capacity to make up new words, e.g. “cell phone” didn’t exist until recently): prairie dogs can coin new “words” for objects they’ve never seen before, such as a black oval, a triangle, and a circle.
- *Duality* (language has to have smaller units that can be combined into bigger ones: phonemes into morphemes, words into sentences): an analysis of the structure of prairie dogs’ alarm calls showed that they were composed of phonemes, like human words. For the alarm calls for different species of predators, most of the same phonemes were used, but the proportion of phonemes used for different species of predators was different.
- *Cultural Transmission* (languages are learnt): An experiment showed that new-born prairie dogs emerging from their burrows have a non-specific alarm call for all predators, but over time, the specificity increases, suggesting that some aspects of the call are under genetic control and other aspects are determined by cultural transmission.

Prairie dogs represent one of the best animal language-like systems that’s been decoded. But there are a number of other examples of animals with language-like properties. For example, Sagebrush lizards have been shown to have a grammatical system in their head bobbing, tail lifting, and arm lifting. Both Japanese tits and American chickadees’ vocalizations have syntax, and blackbirds’ calls have recursion.

In all of these cases, the behavioral context represents a starting point for decoding the language of the communication system. As with prairie dogs, the behavioral context is the Rosetta Stone.

Published at: <http://animalstudies.org.au/archives/8211>, 2 March 2021

About the author

Con Slobodchikoff, PhD, is Professor Emeritus of Biology at Northern Arizona University, and founder and CEO of Zoolingua, a company that is using artificial intelligence technology to decode animal communication. His research involves the study of animal languages and communication. His book on animal languages, *Chasing Doctor Dolittle: Learning the Language of Animals* (St. Martin’s Press, 2012) explores the issues of animal languages.

Animal Studies News

In Memoria: Helen Marston

AASA would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Helen's family, friends, and supporters. As the former CEO of Humane Research Australia (HRA), Helen championed for animals used in research and she continued fighting for the cause until the end. Throughout her battles with cancer, Helen spoke openly about her opposition to animal research and shared her thoughts as to how human-relevant research should be pursued in her blog 'Let's End Animal Experiments'. You can read her blog post [here](#). In lieu of flowers, Helen's family have requested that donations be made to HRA or Animals Australia.



'Violence' Series

The British Animal Studies Network is organising a series of events throughout March-May 2021 on the theme of 'violence'.

Full details:

<https://www.britishanimalstudiesnetwork.org.uk/FutureMeetings/Violence.aspx>



Teaching Resources on Animal Welfare

For a playlist of educational video clips on the topic of animal welfare issues, visit the University of Winchester's Animal Welfare YouTube account. Topics range from farming, to animal research, to disaster management. Resource Link:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLttO61_1BU7fxvUdK4cF88o7MgyuMECjM

DEAKIN
CRITICAL ANIMAL



Dingo Bold: The Life and Death of K'gari Dingoes

Dingo Bold is a talk by Dr. Rowena Lennox about her experience meeting Bold, a young male dingo, at a beach on K'gari (Fraser Island). This hour-long session is set to argue for a more nuanced understanding of dingoes. Takes place on April 28, 2021, at 4 pm (AEDT) Canberra.

For more information: [Dingo Bold: The Life and Death of K'gari Dingoes - Dr. Rowena Lennox — Deakin Critical Animal Studies Network \(dcasn.com\)](#)

Zoom Registration Link: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)



ASI Seeks Board Members with Non-Profit Finance Expertise

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. If you have experience in nonprofit finances, we would love to talk to you. 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: [Volunteer Opportunity—Board Member with Non-Profit Finance Expertise - Welcome to Animals & Society Institute | Ann Arbor Michigan \(animalsandsociety.org\)](https://animalsandsociety.org/volunteer-opportunity-board-member-with-non-profit-finance-expertise-welcome-to-animals-society-institute-ann-arbor-michigan)



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



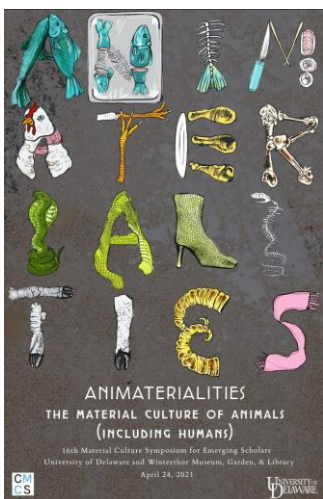
COVID-19 Research: *With or Without Animals?* Recorded seminar series



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/>



Symposium: Animaterialities: The Material Culture of Animals (Including Humans)

The [Center for Material Culture Studies](#) at the University of Delaware welcomes you to the 16th Material Culture Symposium for Emerging Scholars, “Animaterialities: The Material Culture of Animals (including Humans).” The symposium will be held via Zoom on Saturday, April 24, 2021.

More information available here:
<https://sites.udel.edu/animaterialities/>

conference/?fbclid=IwAR1mwppnDspDmyp_57hZr5CLDssHRCI8BogLG31rVCn1jjJCimdsIjbSP9E



Call for Registrants: Animal Advocacy Conference

The registration page for the virtual Animal Advocacy Conference: Insights from the Social Sciences (June 30 - July 2, 2021) is open!

The registration fee for students, animal activists/advocates, and non-academics for the three days of the conference is £10. The registration fee for academics for the three days of the conference is £25. Registrations will close ten days prior to the conference on June 20, 2021.

For more info and to register, go to <https://blogs.kent.ac.uk/animaladvocacy/registration>



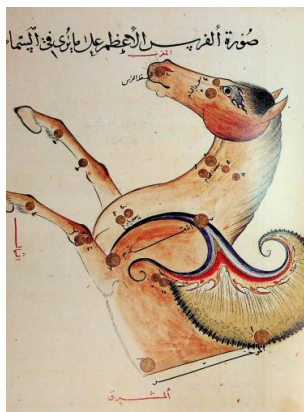
Call for Participants: Farmed Animal Welfare Regulation Research - Melbourne Law School

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 brombergl@student.unimelb.edu.au for more details.

Calls for Papers and Conferences



Call for Papers: From Morning Hunt to Beloved Gazelle Literary and Visual Representations of Animals from Central Asia to the Maghreb

15-16th December, 2021 University of Cambridge

This conference seeks to rethink the literatures and arts of the Middle East, North Africa, and the Persianate and Turkish lands through the presence of non-human animals situated within their 'worlds', whether these be pastoral gardens, constructions of the wild, or the interstices of human habitations.

We invite papers that consider what these imagined animal worlds say about human animals, and how they shape the structure, imagery, and language of literary and artistic creativity. Through tracing the migration of animals across aesthetic forms, we seek to gain fresh perspectives on the entanglement of species, on literary, cultural, and creative boundaries, and the development of genres, as well as their rooting in the material world.

Contributions are invited that address literature, art, and film from the early Medieval period to the present, and that establish connections across eras, geographies, and languages. We hope in the process to address the primarily Eurocentric foundations of Critical Animal Studies, and to provide an impetus for further study of the rich presence of animals in Middle Eastern literatures, art, and film.

Proposals for individual contributions and panels are invited, particularly, but not exclusively, papers (max. 20 minutes, exclusive of Q&A) that address the following:

- Comparative perspectives on animal tropes, motifs and genres
- Animal intertextuality between and within classical, popular, and modern traditions
- The influence of religious/spiritual beliefs on the representation of animals
- Animals and environment as agential presences within literature and art
- Animals in allegorical narratives
- Texts written through and about animal worlds
- Human and animal interactions; human interference in animal worlds
- The use and transformation of zoological reality into artistic vocabulary
- Fantastical creatures
- Investigations and deconstructions of the human-nonhuman boundary
- Cross-regional and generic perspectives on specific species

Please submit abstracts of between 300 and 500 words to Dr Charis Olszok (co383@cam.ac.uk) by Friday 30th April. Decisions will be sent out by the 31st May. We hope to hold the conference in person, at Cambridge (the conference language will be English). In addition, we intend to publish select conference papers in a peer-reviewed journal by Spring 2023.



Call for Applications: Tiny Beam Fund

A charitable foundation based in the U.S. - offers fellowship awards and research grants to academic researchers interested in topics related to drivers and negative impacts of industrial animal agriculture, especially those concerning low- and middle-income countries.

Application dates: Opens March 23, 2021.

Closes May 14, 2021. Duration: 6 months

<https://tinybeamfund.org/>



CFP: Animal/Privacy: Historical and Conceptual Approaches (Online Workshop: November 9, 2021)

The Centre for Privacy Studies (University of Copenhagen) and the Kent Animal Humanities Network (University of Kent, UK) are planning an online workshop in November 2021, exploring the intersections between Privacy Studies

and Animal Studies. We would like to invite you to submit a proposal (250-300 words) for a 20-minutes paper to contribute to the workshop.

The critical debates surrounding privacy have been predominantly human-centred, privacy being usually understood as something we humans protect from other humans. Our understanding of privacy as a human right stems from the belief that it is part of our nature to establish barriers – physical, normative, or behavioural – between the individual and the collective. We thus tend to disregard the roles which other animals play in shaping our sense and space of privacy (for instance, as family pets). Likewise, we do not take seriously the idea of nonhuman animals' entitlement or 'right' to their privacy, or consider what forms nonhuman 'privacy' might take. This is despite the fact that our continuing encroachment into their spheres of life is endangering and dismantling the lives of other species.

What new insights can we gain if we take non-human animals into account while exploring notions of privacy? This workshop aims to explore how human-animal relationships historically affected how we understand, conceptualise, and act upon privacy, while also exploring how the concepts of privacy shed new light on other species and our relationships with them. We welcome papers from all historical periods and geographical regions, as well as across a wide range of fields (humanities, social sciences, sciences), to foster cross-disciplinary approaches to the topic. Themes of interest include (but are not limited to):

- Animal behaviour and privacy
- Pet-keeping and zones of privacy
- Animal mobility between public and private spaces
- Animals and experimental knowledge;
- Animals and violence – the right to privacy in relation to other rights

- Privacy and the history of zoological studies
- Animals and sensorial experiences
- Animals and sexuality
- Privacy and hunting
- Privacy, Ecology and Multispecies Environments
- Theoretical Directions in Privacy and Human-Animal Studies
- Animals as Property: Privatization and Privacy
- Privacy, Publicity and the Betting Culture of Horse-Racing
- Privacy and animal literature
- Animals and places of isolation (prisons, nature reserves, ships, lockdown, etc)
- Animals and the Covid crisis

Please send your abstract (250-300 Words) And Short Cv (2 Pages Max.) by **July 31, 2021** to Dr Natacha Klein Käfer (nkk@teol.ku.dk) and Dr Kaori Nagai (k.nagai@kent.ac.uk)
For more information, please visit: <https://animalprivacy.wordpress.com/>



Call for Interest: Writing Animals Program, Spring 2021

Writing Animals Program is a free motivational forum for animal law and policy scholars to come together to move forward in their writing projects, generate outstanding scholarship, and further the academic and public influence of animal law and policy as a field.

Writing Practice, twice weekly online (log in as your schedule allows)

Spring 2021 Session: April 13th – June 10th (9 weeks)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:35 p.m. (PDT)

Thursday session extends 15 minutes for Writing Mentorship in Breakout Rooms

Based on the Pomodoro Writing Program, we will participate in a silent twice-weekly online structured writing practice alongside emerging and established animal law and policy scholars. Engagement in the Writing Animals Program is directed at producing high quality scholarly writing in animal law and policy.

Find out more by emailing Maneesha Deckha at aasri@uvic.ca, or register here:

<https://uvic.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkc-GuqzkuHdK0vwEZuLKqXnyqUcVngPna>



Call for Papers: Multiple Knowledges. Learning from/with Other Beings

Deadline for submitting the completed manuscripts: September 15, 2021. The issue is expected to be published in spring 2022. Publication languages: German and English.

“In some remote corner of the universe, poured out and glittering in innumerable solar systems, there once was a star on which clever animals invented knowledge. [...] After nature had drawn a few breaths the star grew cold, and the clever animals had to die. One might invent such a fable and still not have illustrated sufficiently how wretched, how shadowy and flighty, how aimless and arbitrary, the human intellect appears in nature. [...] But if we could communicate with the mosquito, then we would learn that he floats through the air with the same self-importance, feeling within itself the flying center of the world.” (Tr. Walter Kaufmann)

The words used by Friedrich Nietzsche to begin his 1873 essay “On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense” can serve as the motto of the planned issue of *Transpositiones*. More than 150 years after the publication of this thought-provoking text about the inadequacy of epistemological usurpations revealed in supposedly stable linguistic constructions and identity constructs, we would like to reiterate the question about the status of cognition and models of knowledge in a world that requires radical decentralization in response to the greatly endangered multiplicity of human and non-human beings and their discursive representations.

We are primarily interested in interdisciplinary and critical approaches to classic and alternative conceptions of cognition and sources of knowledge, oscillating between the paradigm of the empirical and heuristic intuition, the sense of human exceptionalism and the many types of sensory and extrasensory knowledge of other beings, which is unavailable to humans. The existence of these knowledges makes us question species boundaries and onto- and epistemological perspectives, in the process of learning no longer only about other beings but also from and along with them. Therefore, overcoming the anthropocentric perception of subjectivity should be a significant element of this endeavor, as should the abandoning of an optics based on the dualisms of nature and culture, spirit and matter, subject and object, animate and inanimate nature, *physis* and *techne*, etc., which are so firmly entrenched in the Western intellectual tradition. Concepts stemming from new materialism – the work of Donna Haraway, Rosi Braidotti, Karen Barad or Jane Bennett – can constitute an important reference point for this type of reflection.

We would like to invite authors to submit articles which relate to, among other possibilities, the following topics:

- the decentralization and heterogenization of knowledge in light of the multiplicity of beings,
- bio- and zoosemiotics and the semiotics of culture,
- interspecies communication,
- more-than-human perception and sensory knowledge,
- pre- and extra-rational cognition,
- non-anthropocentric cognitive experiences and their discursive and artistic representations,
- scientific and medical empirical knowledge and creative artistic experience,
- pre-Enlightenment cognitive paradigms vs. contemporary evidence-based knowledge,
- learning processes in the world of non-human beings,
- non-human languages and systems of communication,
- the autonomy of indigenous epistemologies in the ecocritical perspective,
- imaginative cognitive and intentional acts in the context of bio-empathy in the age of crisis.

Proposals for contributions in German or English (max. 300 words) with title, abstract and short biographical details should be sent by April 15, 2021 to: transpositiones@uw.edu.pl

You will receive information about the acceptance or rejection of the proposal by the end of April. TRANSPOSITIONES is a new interdisciplinary biannual peer-reviewed journal correlated with the topics of the project “Non-Anthropocentric Cultural Subjectivity” realized as part of the Research Excellence Initiative at the University of Warsaw primarily oriented towards interdisciplinary publications addressing issues of posthumanist theories of the late anthropocene. It is published by the German publishing house Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht (imprint of BRILL Deutschland GmbH)

More information available at: <https://www.asle.org/calls-for-contributions/multiple-knowledges-learning-from-with-other-beings/>



POLITICAL
ECOLOGY
RESEARCH
CENTRE

Call for Papers: Conviviality Conference: A Nearly Carbon-Neutral Conference

Abstract Due: April 5, 2021

The Political Ecology Research Centre at Massey University and the Centre for Space, Place & Society at Wageningen University & Research welcome submissions for the 2021 virtual conference, **Conviviality** from June 1-7, 2021.

In this year's conference, we invite virtual presentations on the tangled global predicaments of climate change, agriculture, biodiversity, and conservation with a focus on *conviviality* – that is, the cultivation of vitality, regeneration, and restoration in shifting terrains of belonging and exclusion in multispecies communities. We encourage presentations from anthropologists, geographers, sociologists, artists, practitioners, and environmental humanities that contemplate a plurality of agri/cultures and stewardship possibilities, from indigenous food forests and agroecology, to rewilding the industrial plantation.

Even as efforts to promote biodiversity continue apace, extant forests, grasslands, and inhabited wildernesses remain protracted battlegrounds over socio-economic inequalities and ethico-political programmes. We welcome presentations that extend the reach of *conviviality* to landscapes where co-evolved plant, animal and human lives are intimately woven, yet often in collision amid fragmenting habitats and conservation efforts. What new promises and enduring failures await in pursuits to live companionably and thrive together?

More information available at: <https://perc.ac.nz/wordpress/conviviality/>



Call for Papers: British Animal Studies Network “Loss”

Abstracts Due: 28 June 2021

The British Animal Studies Network is delighted to announce that the call for papers for our autumn 2021 meeting is now open. ‘Loss’ will take place online on 7-9 September 2021 (hosted by

University of Birmingham). Confirmed plenary speakers are Ursula K. Heise (UCLA) and Erika L. Milam (Princeton)

The organisers invite lightning talks (of up to 5 minutes) or papers (of 15 minutes) addressing the topic of 'Loss' from diverse disciplinary perspectives. Please submit your title, with an abstract of no more than 200 words, a brief biography (also of no more than 200 words), and indicate whether you are proposing a lightning talk or paper. This information should be included in the body of your email – i.e. not as attachments – and directed to Megan Cavell at m.c.cavell@bham.ac.uk. The deadline for abstracts is Monday 28th June 2021. We anticipate circulating pre-recorded lightning talks and papers in advance and hosting discussion sessions, live keynotes and workshops or networking activities in the afternoons of the dates above. If you would like to propose a workshop or networking activity, please do get in touch.

Topics covered at this meeting might include (but are not limited to):

- Species loss and extinction
- Habitat loss, deforestation and loss of natural environments
- Non-human cultures of grief and rituals of lament
- Solastalgia and eco-anxiety
- Temporalities of extinction/the history of extinctions
- Intersectionalities of loss
- Changing relationships with and exploitations of non-human animals

We welcome papers that deal with the theme of 'Loss' in both contemporary and historical settings, and especially encourage papers that address these issues from contexts outside the UK. Papers are welcomed from across animal studies, including disciplines such as (but not limited to) geography, anthropology, sociology, literary studies, art history, history, science and technology studies, ethology, psychology, behavioural sciences and ecology, bioscience/biomedical research. We hope to include work by individuals at different career stages.

Full details: <https://www.britishanimalstudiesnetwork.org.uk/>



Call for Participation: Witnessing and Worlding Beyond the Human: An Interdisciplinary and Interspecies Conversation

Due Date: April 11, 2021

The virtual event, Witnessing and Worlding Beyond the Human, May 28-29, 2021 (Times TBD), aims to push against the boundaries of the human sensorium and anthropocentric forms of knowledge production. Here, we follow the provocations of James Hatley in thinking with a mode of storytelling enhanced by the art of witnessing, which carries with it an irreducible fleshiness and an ethical obligation to those with whom we share our stories (2000). In this respect, the act of becoming-witness is defined just as much by the testimony it puts forth as it is by the actual experience of having witnessed (van Dooren and Bird Rose, 2016). To this end, we invite submissions exploring novel, dynamic, and unorthodox methods for relating to, connecting with,

and narrating other and more-than-human worlds. To be clear on the notion of “representation,” we seek to generate a critical dialogue about other animals and the more-than-human that aspires to portray, with fidelity (however partial), their lives and experiences as individuals or material forces, not just as they are deployed as symbols, metaphors or cultural tropes.

As multispecies and more-than-human studies readily lend themselves to interdisciplinary and genre-bending conversations and collaborations, we encourage those from all academic disciplines (the social sciences and humanities but also physical and material sciences, fine arts, law, geography, design, musicology, botany, agricultural sciences, etc.), theoretical inclinations, and graduate career stages to submit. All participants will share a 5-minute lightning talk followed by a large community conversation between panelists and the audience. This format is designed to invite widespread participation, within and beyond the academy, and emphasize the many interdisciplinary connections across fields. Finally, while recognizing the many limitations of a virtual event, we wish to call attention to how the remote format could allow for creative presentations, even those that potentially incorporate nonhuman collaborators and interlocutors.

To galvanize multispecies and other-than-human imaginations and incite innovative, idiosyncratic, and strange avenues of investigation, we offer the following ten subjects as guiding themes for submissions and welcome additional ideas from participants.

1. Spectrums: Wild/Domestic/Feral/Habituated/Liminal/Invasive/Endangered
2. Care/Violence, Sanctuary, Refuge, & Conservation
3. Agency/Consent/Ethics; Species Hierarchies/Power Matrices
4. Animal Capital/Industrialized Animals, Commodification, Extraction, & Nonhuman Labor
5. Decay/Grief/Mourning/Dystopia/Hauntings/Monstrosity
6. Navigating Intersubjectivity and Interspecies Communications across Ecosystems, A/biotic Life
7. Scales & Geographies of Being
8. Responsibility
9. Racialization, Policing/Surveillance/Biopolitics, Gendering, & Coloniality of the nonhuman
10. Abolition, Rights, Solidarities & Justice(s)

If interested, please complete the short form at the following link: t.ly/MFQv (Due by Midnight, April 11, 2021). Selected speakers will be notified in late April.

Any questions and/or concerns may be directed to Austin Hoffman (he/they): adh5@illinois.edu
And/or Jesann Gonzalez Cruz (she/her): jesanng2@illinois.edu



animals

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

Due date: 30 April 2021

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



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

Employment and Grants



We Animals Media is looking for a Marketing and Media Outreach Manager. The position will be responsible for We Animals Media's overall marketing strategy and media outreach. As an ideal candidate for this role, you are an energetic person who is always thinking a few steps ahead, and you passionately believe that animal photojournalism needs to be amplified. *No deadline given.*

More information available at: <https://weanimalsmedia.org/work-with-us/director-marketing-media-outreach/?fbclid=IwAR3ccOIew1Cmiqyh1IKAxR-lx96Y2RI8P7AT21dQoRBdYbjK6NITKg3jmQU>



SCAS Funding Opportunity

As part of its three-year funding plan, the Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS) is releasing the second batch of funding to support research that furthers our understanding of the human-animal bond. 8 grants are available, ranging from £1,500- £10,000. Deadline for applications: 30 April

2021.

Full details:

<http://www.scas.org.uk/scas-funding-opportunities-2021/?fbclid=IwAR1LxA-cN5oV8WPG073Eq3PovMNsH1oxy7kkBq5Sdhz6ykJW3KV2plvwxzM>



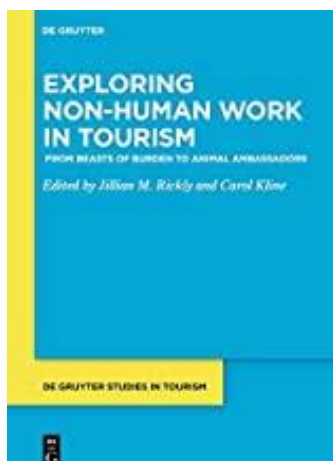
Animal Legal Defense Fund Scholarship & Clerkship

A clerkship and scholarship of \$25,000 is available to a second-year law student at Howard University on behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Contact media@aldf.org for more information on applying.

Full details on opportunity:

<https://aldf.org/article/animal-legal-defense-fund-offers-scholarship-and-clerkship-to-howard-university-school-of-law/>

New Books in our Field

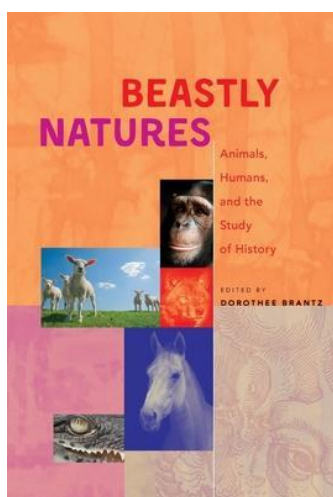


Exploring non-human work in Tourism: From Beasts of Burden to Animal Ambassadors

Carol Kline & Jillian Rickly, de Gruyter, 2021

Critical animal studies is increasingly interfacing with tourism research in an effort to shed light on the various ways animals are incorporated into touristic experience. Exploring non-human work in tourism: From beasts of burden to animal ambassadors builds upon the theoretical connections of animal ethics, agency, and welfare as it foregrounds specifically the work that animals perform in the industry. While some types of animal labor are more readily identified, readers of this volume may be surprised by how many forms of animal labor are

overlooked. Taking a widely international perspective, with cases from the Arctic, China, Costa Rica, China, Finland, Greece, Mexico, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, this volume offers readers diverse scenarios of animals working. The book is arranged along three themes of work. Performative work focuses on the animals whose performances are front and center of tourists' motivations and experiences. Value-added work turns attention to the co-working relationships of animals, while the political work of animals as ambassadors and icons is examined within the chapters on hidden labor. Additionally, the book makes theoretical considerations of the implications of positioning animals as workers.

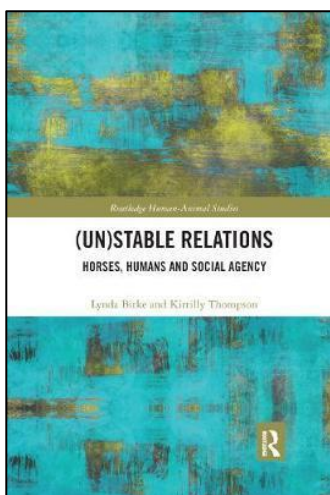


Beastly Natures: Animals, Humans, and the Study of History

Edited by: Dorothee Brantz, University of Virginia Press, 2021

Although the animal may be, as Nietzsche argued, ahistorical, living completely in the present, it nonetheless plays a crucial role in human history. The fascination with animals that leads not only to a desire to observe and even live alongside them, but to capture or kill them, is found in all civilizations. The essays collected in Beastly Natures show how animals have been brought into human culture, literally helping to build our societies (as domesticated animals have done) or contributing, often in problematic ways, to our concept of the wild. The book begins with a group of essays that approach the historical relevance of human-animal relations seen from the perspectives of

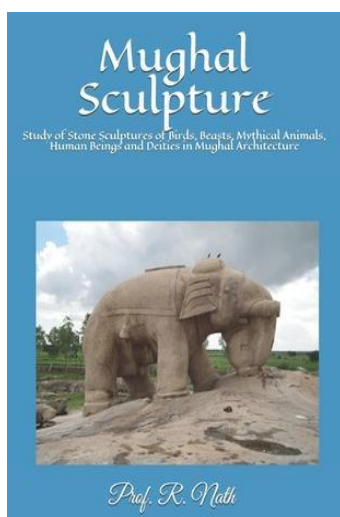
various disciplines and suggest ways in which animals might be brought into formal studies of history. Differences in species and location can greatly affect the shape of human-animal interaction, and so the essays that follow address a wide spectrum of topics, including the demanding fate of the working horse, the complex image of the American alligator (at turns a dangerous predator and a tourist attraction), the zoo gardens of Victorian England, the iconography of the rhinoceros and the preference it reveals in society for myth over science, relations between humans and wolves in Europe, and what we can learn from society's enthusiasm for "political" animals, such as the pets of the American presidents and the Soviet Union's "space dogs." Taken together, these essays suggest new ways of looking not only at animals but at human history.



(Un)Stable Relations: Horses, Humans and Social Agency
 Edited By: Lynda Birke & Kirrilly Thompson, Taylor & Francis Ltd, 2019

This original and insightful book explores how horses can be considered as social actors within shared interspecies networks. It examines what we know about how horses understand us and how we perceive them, as well as the implications of actively recognising other animals as actors within shared social lives. This book explores how interspecies relationships work, using a variety of examples to demonstrate how horses and people build social lives. Considering horses as social actors presents new possibilities for improving the quality of animal lives, the human condition and human-horse

relations.

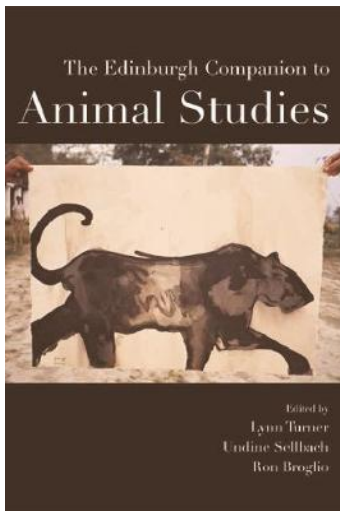


Mughal Sculpture: Study of Stone Sculptures of Birds, Beasts, Mythical Animals, Human Beings and Deities in Mughal Architecture

R. Nath, Independently Published, 2020

The present work is a study of stone-sculptures of birds, beasts, mythical animals, human beings and deities in Mughal Architecture. Only stone sculptures-both in relief and in full, round, free-standing form-have been studied. This is the first work on this novel and unique subject which, though these sculptures were all the time here, had been consistently overlooked and by-passed owing primarily to the fact that a life-time's experience of this discipline is needed to take up a study of this type which is essentially related to the

evolutionary process and the prototypes of this style. The age of Mughal Sculpture ranges from Babur to Jehāngīr, roughly from 1522 to 1627 A.D. Some masterpieces were produced during the course of its development. Jehāngīr's reign (1605-27 A.D.) was certainly the golden era of Mughal Sculpture, when overall emphasis was given on the making of full, round, free-standing sculptures. Their quality too improved a lot and Jehāngīr's sculptors not only made life-size, but also true-to-life sculptures which were conceptually, as much as artistically, superior even to the earlier sculptures of the Hindu period which either belonged to the "idealistic" or the "toys" class. Jehāngīr's sculptures are as realistic as are the subjects depicted in contemporary painting. They vibrate with life. The art of sculpture developed as a court (*durbārī*) art, and it goes to the credit of the Mughals that they secularised this art and completely freed it from all restrictions, compulsions and affiliations. A novel development of Mughal sculpture was that it no longer remained dependent and subservient to architecture, and it could stand independently, by virtue of its own inherent creativity, vigour and force. Mughal Sculpture derived basic inspiration from the native art, and this art grew and developed in Medieval India, obviously, on earlier traditions. Its roots have been identified and enumerated and tangible classification has been worked out.

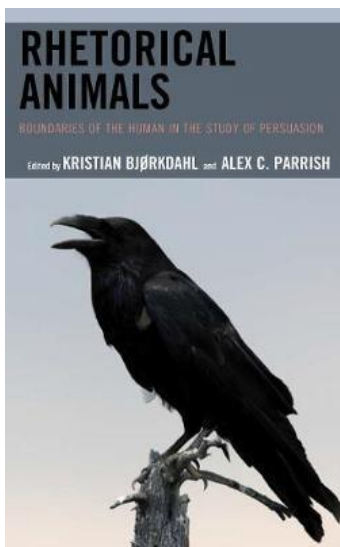


The Edinburgh Companion to Animal Studies

Edited by: Lynn Turner, Undine Sellbach, and Ron Broglio, Edinburgh University Press, 2020

This volume critically investigates current topics and disciplines that are affected, enriched or put into dispute by the burgeoning scholarship on Animal Studies. What new questions and modes of research need come into play if we are to seriously acknowledge our entanglements with other animals? World-leading scholars from a range of disciplines, including Literature, Philosophy, Art, Biosemiotics, and Geography, set the agenda for Animal Studies today. Rather than a narrow specialism, the 35 newly commissioned essays in this book show how we think of other animals to be intrinsic to fields as major as ethics, economies as widespread as capitalism and relations as common as friendship.

The volume contains original, cutting-edge research and opens up new methods, alignments, directions as well as challenges for the future of Animal Studies. Uniquely, the chapters each focus on a single topic, from 'Abjection' to 'Voice' and from 'Affection' to 'Technology', thus embedding the animal question as central to contemporary concerns across a wide range of disciplines.

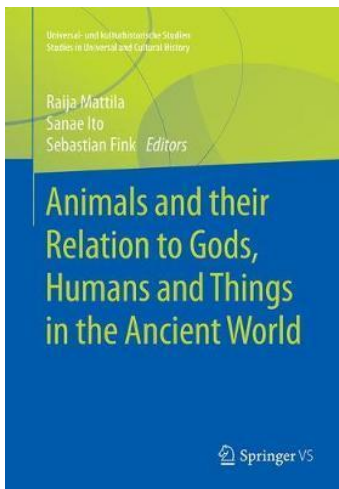


Rhetorical Animals: Boundaries of the Human in the Study of Persuasion

Edited by: Kristian Bjørkdahl & Alex Parrish, Lexington Books, 2020

For this edited volume, the editors solicited chapters that investigate the place of nonhuman animals in the purview of rhetorical theory; what it would mean to communicate beyond the human community; how rhetoric reveals our "brute roots." In other words, this book investigates themes that enlighten us about likely or possible implications of the animal turn within rhetorical studies.

The present book is unique in its focus on the call for nonanthropocentrism in rhetorical studies. Although there have been many hints in recent years that rhetoric is beginning to consider the implications of the animal turn, as yet no other anthology makes this its explicit starting point and sustained objective. Thus, the various contributions to this book promise to further the ongoing debate about what rhetoric might be after it sheds its long-standing humanistic bias.

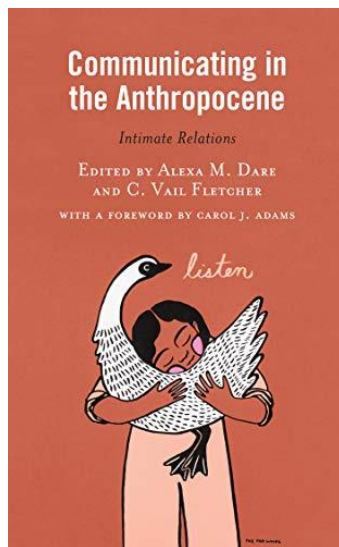


Animals and their Relation to Gods, Humans and Things in the Ancient World

Edited by: Raija Mattila, Sanae Ito, & Sebastian Fink, Springer, 2019

While Human-Animal Studies is a rapidly growing field in modern history, studies on this topic that focus on the Ancient World are few. The present volume aims at closing this gap. It investigates the relation between humans, animals, gods, and things with a special focus on the structure of these categories. An improved understanding of the ancient categories themselves is a precondition for any investigation into the relation between them. The focus of the volume

lies on the Ancient Near East, but it also provides studies on Ancient Greece, Asia Minor, Mesoamerica, the Far East, and Arabia.



Communicating in the Anthropocene: Intimate Relations (Environmental Communication and Nature: Conflict and Ecoculture in the Anthropocene)

Edited by: Alexa M. Dare & C. Vail Fletcher, Lexington Books, 2021

The purpose of *Communicating in the Anthropocene: Intimate Relations* is to tell a different story about the world. Humans, especially those raised in Western traditions, have long told stories about themselves as individual protagonists who act with varying degrees of free will against a background of mute supporting characters and inert landscapes. Humans can be either saviors or destroyers, but our actions are explained and judged again and again as emanating from the individual. And yet, as the coronavirus

pandemic has made clear, humans are unavoidably interconnected not only with other humans, but with nonhuman and more-than-human others with whom we share space and time. Why do so many of us humans avoid, deny, or resist a view of the world where our lives are made possible, maybe even made richer, through connection? In this volume, we suggest a view of communication as intimacy. We use this concept as a provocation for thinking about how we humans are in an always-already state of being-in-relation with other humans, nonhumans, and the land.

animalstudies.org.au