

# ANIMAIL



*Magazine for members of the Australasian Animal Studies Association, November 2021*

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## FEATURED ARTWORK

*feeler* by m0wson&Mowson, 2019–2020 (latex, string, clothes hangers, LED light strips and electronics, 3 x 3 metres). Photos (throughout this issue): Remi Chauvin.

*feeler* forms part of m0wson&MOWson's ongoing artistic research into motherhood and the reproductive manipulation and control of non-human life forms.

In this work dismembered octopus tentacles hang from the gallery ceiling, their colours and arrangement reminiscent of drying deli meat. The tentacles emit contrasting and pulsating lights creating an animate effect. The skin is embedded with patterns inspired by microscopic images of agricultural and zoonotic pathogens, clusters of papilla (protrusions on octopus skin) and papule (pustules).

Octopuses are highly intelligent and sensitive; the octopus mother nurtures her eggs (in one documented case for four and a half years), and dies shortly after they hatch. Current research into breeding octopuses is being driven by the potential to intensively farm them for meat. There are few welfare considerations for farmed fish, and practically none for invertebrates.

*feeler* responds to issues of how intensive agricultural systems have been linked to the emergence and amplification of disease; how large-scale antibiotic use and the misuse of antiviral drugs can lead to the emergence of drug resistant species strains; how, increasingly, humans are under threat from zoonotic pathogens (such as germs, viruses, bacteria and parasites); and how many recent viral infections have arisen through intensive farming, through contact forced by the spatial expansion of agriculture, or through captive wildlife contact and consumption.

*feeler* asks us to consider the nature of human relationships with other animals and the ethics of intensive farming practices.

You can see *feeler* in *Experimenta Life Forms: International Triennial of Media Art*, which is currently touring Australia. The work will next be seen at Tweed Regional Gallery, Murwillumbah, NSW, 10 December 2021 – 30 January 2022. See <https://experimenta.org/> for more details.



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**m0wson&MOwson (lynn mowson and Bruce Mowson) collaborate on sculpture and sound/light projects focusing on human/non-human animal interactions.**

lynn mowson is a sculptor whose practice is driven by the entangled relationships between human and nonhuman animals, in particular those animals we consume. Her sculptural research has been included in exhibitions nationally and internationally, and has been featured in publications including *Animaladies* (Bloomsbury 2018), *Animal Studies Journal* (2018), *Antennae: the journal of nature in visual culture* (2018) and *The Art of the Animal* (2015). lynn is also the vice-chair of AASA.

<https://www.instagram.com/lynnmowson/>

[https://www.instagram.com/mowson\\_m0wson/](https://www.instagram.com/mowson_m0wson/)

[lynnmowson.com](http://lynnmowson.com)

Bruce Mowson works with sound and listening, with adventures into light, installation/sculpture, text and participatory art. He aims to make art that is broadly accessible and has in recent years been involved with the community sector. He is a founder of Liquid Architecture, holds a PhD in art, has taught art and design and has had the privilege of sharing work around Australia and occasionally overseas.

[https://www.instagram.com/bruce\\_mowson/](https://www.instagram.com/bruce_mowson/)

[brucemowson.com](http://brucemowson.com)

## EDITOR'S LETTER

Welcome to AASA's new-look *Animail*. This year AASA is producing two publications for members: *Animail* and the fortnightly *Newsletter*. Time-sensitive information comes out in the *Newsletter*, compiled and edited by Natalie Lis. *Animail* will be published three times a year and will continue to keep AASA members in touch with each other and with animal studies news by publishing profiles of members; news about members' activities; and a list of recently published books of interest. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue.

To introduce myself, I live on Gweagal country in southern Sydney and joined AASA in 2014 when I started a doctorate of creative arts at the University of Technology Sydney. For my doctorate I was writing creative non-fiction about dingoes and people, which became my second book *Dingo Bold* (Sydney University Press 2021). AASA expanded my horizons: I met animal studies scholars, activists and artists, and participated in conferences, reading groups and other gatherings. My doctoral research would have been much lonelier and less convivial without AASA.

My aim as editor is to continue the work of previous editors, contributors and compilers in making *Animail* a creative and community-building space. If there is something you've enjoyed, something you'd like to see included or themes that you would like *Animail* to address, please get in touch. *Animail* is for AASA members, by AASA members; I would love to publish your reviews of animal studies books and events, and/or your informal responses to animal studies happenings. If you'd like to write a short essay about animal studies history or how animal studies relates to other subjects, please get in touch. I welcome letters to the editor about animal studies related issues.

AASA's 2021 conference Flourishing Animals is online from 30 November to 2 December. It's free for AASA members, so, if you haven't already done so, please register at:

<https://artsfront.com/event/137832-flourishing-animals>. To whet your appetite, some of the keynote speakers have shared their ideas about what flourishing animals means to them in this issue. I would love to publish your summaries and reviews of and/or responses to presentations at Flourishing Animals in the March 2022 issue of *Animail* – so please send them!

Happy reading and look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Rowena Lennox  
editor.animail@gmail.com

### ABOUT ANIMAIL

*Animail*, the magazine for members of the Australasian Association of Animal Studies (AASA), promotes and showcases the work of AASA members, colleagues and friends, and aims to keep readers informed about animal studies people, research, publications and events including grants, exhibitions, performances and other happenings. *Animail* is published three times a year – in March, July and November. We welcome your contributions. For inclusion in the next issue, due out in March 2022, please send your news to editor.animail@gmail.com by 28 February 2022.

*Animail* is produced on unceded Dharawal country, and acknowledges and pays respect to First Nations Custodians and Elders, and to their continuing spiritual and cultural connection to, and custodianship of, country.

Many of the scholars who form the Australasian Animal Studies Association (AASA) live and work on the lands of First Nations peoples. AASA acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, work and meet and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.

## CHAIR'S REPORT

Welcome to this new-look edition of *Animail*. I hope you enjoy the fantastic content, which includes information on the upcoming AASA conference, some fascinating profiles on AASA members, and information on publications and events to keep you up to date.

In case you missed it, AASA has done a lot of work in the past 12 months to reorient the way we communicate to the membership. All members now have access to a new fortnightly *Newsletter*, which is edited with great expertise by AASA member Natalie Lis.

*Animail* remains a centrally important resource for members, which we have transformed into the 'magazine' of the association, published every four months. You are now reading our first edition in this new format; my thanks to AASA member Rowena Lennox for all her work as editor in helping to realise this vision!

In this report I will be providing some updates on our association to let you know some of the past events and future happenings.

### Membership

Despite the impacts of the pandemic on scholarship and the financial base of universities, AASA has seen increase in members. At the time of writing we have 168 financial members; I believe this is the largest the association has ever been! Important to note here is the high proportion of concessional memberships (just over half). We have a growing and thriving association that has an active involvement of junior and independent scholars, artists and activists.

### Masterclass – Creative non-fiction in animal studies

In 2021 AASA began hosting online events through a partnership with the arts platform ArtsFront. In July 2021 we held a writing masterclass with AASA member Professor Danielle Celermajer. This event proved hugely popular and provided an avenue for early career researchers to interact with a senior scholar in the field.



### Supporting and defending the discipline – the Centre for Compassionate Conservation

I genuinely believe that AASA has grown to become one of, if not the, largest, most diverse and most active animal studies associations in the world. This gives us an important role in supporting and defending the discipline, not only in our region but internationally. In the last two months, our dear colleagues in the Centre for Compassionate Conservation faced threats of closure and redundancy as a result of a change plan by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). The AASA committee is proud to have been part of an international campaign to save the centre, producing our own submission to UTS to protest the proposed changes. This is just one of the many challenges animal studies as a discipline will face in coming years. AASA will continue to play our role in supporting the valuable work of researchers in this space.

## CHAIR'S REPORT CONT.

### 2021 conference - Flourishing Animals

AASA conferences were previously hosted as in-person events organised by university-based networks with the support of the AASA committee. Unfortunately, because of the Covid 19 pandemic, many university networks have been stripped of funding and, further, the possibility of hosting in-person events in the near future is uncertain. This year AASA, in partnership with ArtsFront, will run its own conference as an online event - Flourishing Animals - from 30 November to 2 December 2021. The program is immense and includes leading scholars, such as Christine Winter, patrice jones, Dany Celermajer, David Clough, Dan Ramp, Arian Wallach and Krithika Srinivasan, as keynote and plenary speakers. Check out the short interviews with some of our keynotes in this edition of *Animail*.



The AASA conference has been supported with the help of a fantastic conference subcommittee (huge thanks to Muhammad Kavesh, Yamini Narayanan, Rebecca Hendershott, Daniela Rizzo and Peter Chen for their efforts) and is now supported by AASA friend Nikki Savvides as a professional conference organiser.

### AGM – our new committee

In October 2021, AASA held its annual general meeting. This was our second online AGM, and it was well attended by members – thanks to everyone who came along.

The AGM is the place where our new committee is elected. Our association relies on the volunteer work of many people, including committee and subcommittees members, and our publications editors. Aside from myself, our new committee comprises: Lynn Mowson (vice chair), Peter Chen (treasurer and memberships), Chantelle Bayes (secretary), Emily Major (postgraduate committee member), Sue Pyke, Clare Archer-Lean, Laura Jean McKay and Arian Wallach. Many thanks to Agata Mrva-Montoya and Esther Alloun for all their contributions to AASA while they were on the committee in 2020/21. I would also like to extend thanks to Clare Archer-Lean who has stepped down from the secretary role after many years of service – we are very pleased that Clare is staying on as a general committee member.

Yours sincerely

Dinesh Wadiwel

# *Flourishing Animals*

AASA 2021 CONFERENCE  
30 November – 2 December 2021

Free registration for AASA members at  
<https://artsfront.com/event/137832-flourishing-animals>

*Animail* asked keynote speakers about their thoughts on flourishing. Here are their replies:

**David Clough, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Chester**

*What does flourishing mean to you?*

I find creaturely flourishing to be an invaluable core concept for my Christian approach to animal ethics. To flourish as a creature means having the opportunities to grow, develop, and be active in ways that are specific to the kind of creature you are. Asking whether creatures can flourish in particular contexts is a helpful basis for addressing ethical questions about whether human treatment of animals is justifiable. Answering this question requires detailed attention to and knowledge of the ways of life of particular animals and their preferences. It encourages the attempt to appreciate the world from the perspective of the animal concerned. It also has the potential to ground critique of particular human uses of animals in ways that are both persuasive and radical in their implications. If one accepts that it is unethical for humans to subject other animals to conditions that are not conducive to their flourishing, it is clear that most human uses of animals are ethically unacceptable. Taking this approach does not resolve all disagreement, of course, but in my experience it helps to frame ethical discussion in useful ways.

**Danielle Celermajer, Sydney Environment Institute and School of Political and Social Sciences, University of Sydney**

**Daniel Ramp, Centre for Compassionate Conservation, School of Life Sciences, University of Technology Sydney**

**Arian Wallach, Centre for Compassionate Conservation, School of Life Sciences, University of Technology Sydney**

*Feral flourishing*

How do we recognise flourishing in others? How do we promote others' flourishing? How do we flourish? These three questions will be woven together in an open and honest conversation between Daniel Ramp, Danielle Celermajer and Arian Wallach, and we invite everyone to reflect on these questions with us. We will share our stories on decades battling for the protection of kangaroos; about having our worldviews fundamentally flipped by wild donkeys in the Kimberley, wild camels in the Simpson Desert, cane toads singing in the dam; about breaking taboos; about the joys and horrors of surfing the fringes of our professions; about forming new intellectual and emotional spaces – compassionate conservation and multispecies justice.

## AASA 2021 CONFERENCE – FLOURISHING ANIMALS



**Christine Winter, Sydney Environment Institute and Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney**

### *1 What does 'flourishing' mean to me?*

Flourishing is a word and concept I use frequently. Like thriving and blossoming – it describes how well something is and suggests that its future prospects look positive. Flourishing conveys robustness and wellbeing – of being well cared for, with all the resources required to stay strong, healthy and in good spirits. It also suggests that there is sound reason to expect this will continue. That justice requires that entities can flourish under their own definitions of 'the good life' seems a productive starting point for multispecies justice. I like the word 'flourishing' particularly because it is species-neutral and can be applied to the nonsentient, to landscapes and ecosystems too.

### *2 How does my work address flourishing?*

The idea of flourishing weaves its way through intergenerational, environmental and multispecies justice in the context of the settler state. Do existing Western concepts of justice support the flourishing of the Indigenous Peoples of the settler states? And more particularly what does flourishing mean for Māori on Māori terms, within the boundaries of Māori philosophy and concepts of wellbeing? Consequently, these questions demand adjustments to the foundational concepts of Western justice theories – to ideas such as individualism, and anthropocentrism for instance.

### *3 How can humans enable other animal beings to flourish?*

If you regard other beings or whole ecosystems as independent entities with their own life forces and life projects as I do, then we must respect their independence and acknowledge our interdependence. If we regard ourselves as thoughtful, caring and moral creatures who want to do the right thing now and for the future then we should support by whatever means possible the flourishing of other beings. If we diminish their wellbeing, I think we damage ourselves.

# ANIMAL STUDIES JOURNAL CALL FOR PAPERS

## ASJ Special Issue 11.1: 'Flourish'

Coinciding with and complementing AASA's Flourishing Animals conference, *Animal Studies Journal* invites contributions to a special issue on this theme.

AASA's conference focus emphasises the importance of nonhuman animal resilience, flourishing and vitality despite the current interrelated threats posed by anthropogenic crises and ongoing colonial power structures. Work in the areas outlined in the conference CFP will provide an important conversational counterpoint within animal studies, as the flourishing of animals takes on a vital significance.

As always, *Animal Studies Journal* encourages scholarly and creative practice research which has a strong sense of the work's intervention in the field. For this special edition, submissions could include or address creative fiction, nonfiction or poetry and visual art; and engage with First Nations and decolonising philosophies and practices, hybridity, posthumanism, ferality, symbiosis, queer theory or entanglement. The 2021 AASA Denise Russell Postgraduate Prize for Animal Ethics will be awarded to a selected postgraduate paper accepted for publication in this special issue. For details see: <https://artsfront.com/event/137832-flourishing-animals#!tab=Denise%20Russell%20Prize>

Papers should be submitted by 5 December at the latest via our website at <https://ro.uow.edu.au/asj/> and should adhere to *ASJ* guidelines. For any queries please contact: [editorialteam@animalstudiesjournal.com](mailto:editorialteam@animalstudiesjournal.com)

### MEMBER PROFILES

#### Rebecca Hendershott

The paths we take are rarely linear; mine has felt like I keep circling around the same topic – knowing animals – but from different angles (rights, intersubjectivity, conservation) and with different teachers. As a child, family pets taught me to think beyond the human – to recognise sentience (that I was later told is very different than my own). As an undergraduate, professors taught me about animal physiology, behaviour, evolutionary strategies; I thought a bachelor of science in ecology and evolutionary biology was the only legitimate way of knowing animals. As a primatology postgrad, readings, discussion, and my own research taught me about cognition, sociality, and the so-called 'missing [cultural, biological] links' between humans and nonhuman animals; I had amazing conversations with like-minded peers throughout my master of science in primate behaviour and PhD in biological anthropology.



## MEMBER PROFILES

### Rebecca Hendershott cont.

As a university lecturer, more anthropological readings and conversations taught me to be critical of the animal studies I had taken at face value. As part of a multispecies family, my dogs taught me that no matter how much I get absorbed by books or digital spaces, I'm still an animal myself; they remind me when it's time to eat, drink, enjoy the sun, and smell the wind.

Having only recently started to engage in feminist and Indigenous scholarship, I am trying to undo the colonial, capitalistic, patriarchal frame that has been thrust upon me. Why did I think that reductive biology and science was the way to 'know' animals? Why did I not realise that focusing on primates contributes to speciesism narratives? Why did I value getting degrees about animals over actually being with animals?

My motivation – to know animals – hasn't changed since I was a child, and it is that childhood not-yet-fully-seeped-in-cultural-discourse perception and acceptance of animals that my path has circled back to. Although I took a diversion that reduced animals to body parts, cells, and sexual strategies; that required boiling down the wonder of observing a critically endangered primate into easily code-able behaviour – I've now stepped back and been able to think about what matters: the tangible, mutual, respectful relationship we need to build with the more-than-human world. More than getting a degree, or having the press contact me about my work, or being able to impress people at conferences, my biggest motivation is having an animal accept me, know me, value me. Thus, ironically, my last 30 years of education support that to know animals, I must be with them, rather than just reading and writing about them academically and abstractly. So, if you'll excuse me, my dogs are telling me it is time to step away from the computer and go appreciate a nice walk where we can be co-beings that flourish through our shared existence.



## MEMBER PROFILES

### Natalie Lis

University of Queensland

I am currently in the last year of my PhD in the School of Architecture at the University of Queensland (UQ). I work in an avian-centric home and cohabitate with a combination of rescues, misfits and companion birds. My introduction to architecture was unexpected; my undergraduate degree was in linguistics at Michigan State University (MSU). It was at MSU in elective classes that I found myself mesmerised by how architecture intersects complex issues not limited to political, social and ecological concerns. After finishing my linguistics degree and working for a few years I decided to apply to a specialised master of architecture program at the State University of New York at Buffalo. It was here that my love of architectural history and critical theory ripened. I was fortunate to spend one year studying in Denmark at the Aarhus School of Architecture;



here I worked closely with digital fabrication technologies and greatly improved my woodworking skills. It was in Denmark that I entered a design competition that may have been my first involvement with human-built architecture for animals. My project hønsegård for chickens didn't win the competition, which was more interested in interior furnishings, but the project brought a lot of questions to me. Why do we build for chickens? Why do we build for animals? And how do we use these structures? Intersecting ideas about what it all means and how architecture is used in cross-species power struggles stuck with me. I moved to Australia to work as a graduate architect, I was somewhat surprised by how little the wild animals were considered in the projects I was working on. I decided to send an email out into the dark in a hope to start doing higher research, and as luck would have it Sandra Kaji-O'Grady at UQ was looking to supervise research that intersects human-animal studies with architecture. I send my warmest and most sincere thanks to Sandra for all her guidance, as I know I wouldn't have found my niche if it weren't for her. Today I am pleased to be working between architecture and human-animal studies and my PhD works to reveal the histories of architecture built for birds. I hope that in exploring these histories we can better understand the present. Last year I presented, 'Battle Birds,' at a Re-appropriation and Representation via Drawing On. This was a design exercise that explored how roosters are situated as avatars in cockfighting and the constructs of power that are present within the architecture of the cockfighting arena. Additionally, it explored the gendered space of cockfighting and chicken husbandry. I hope in the coming months and years to produce quality contributions to human-animal studies that examine the role of architecture and architectural theory within current and historic modes of building for birds.

## MEMBER PROFILES

Siobhan O'Sullivan

University of New South Wales

### My animal studies story

I did a traditional politics degree, with little to no nonhuman animal content. When I got to honours level I was told that I could write about 'anything'. At that time I was very involved in animal protection politics. I decided that anything could stretch to animals. I wrote my honours thesis on nonhuman animals and private property. That went well so I decided to pursue my PhD and an academic career.

At PhD stage I started to meet other animal studies scholars. For example, John Hadley was writing his PhD at the University of Sydney. Together we established a regular interdisciplinary reading group. This was the start of me finding my feet as an animal studies scholar and identifying a community of like-minded thinkers.

One year into my PhD I learnt of a small animal studies conference taking place in Perth. The call for papers had closed. But I felt driven to attend, in search of 'my people'. And they were there, in spades! That is where I met Yvette Watt and many other emerging animal studies scholars. That conference would eventually spawn the Australasian Animal Studies Association (AASA). Yvette and I claim to be the only two people to have attended every AASA conference. But we have not necessarily had that claim fact checked!

My PhD was an examination of inconsistencies in animal welfare legislation. I also proposed a new way to conceptualise animal welfare laws, arguing that the equity principle, inherent to liberal democratic political systems, should be applied to animals. That argument would later form the basis of my monograph *Animals, Equality and Democracy*. (Palgrave Macmillan 2011).

My PhD was examined by Denise Russell and Robert Garner. That was the start of an ongoing



collaboration with Robert – which some uncharitable people might describe as me pestering him – that resulted in a coauthored edited collection called *The Political Turn in Animal Ethics* (Rowman & Littlefield 2016).

I also began to expand my animal studies international circles by participating in the Animals & Society internship program at Wesleyan in the US. It was there that I met Robert McKay, Tom Tyler and then later Anat Pick. Somewhere along the way I also stumbled across Alasdair Cochrane, a fellow political scientist. It was via that connection that I met Josh Milburn who is now the ongoing host of my (his) podcast Knowing Animals. But I am getting ahead of myself!

While my PhD was under examination I was appointed as a postdoc at the University of Melbourne. The research was focused on welfare-to-work. A far cry from animal welfare, but I had the research skills needed for the project. I took to welfare-to-work research like a duck to water! Since, I have had two research areas: animal protection and employment services.

## MEMBER PROFILES

### Siobhan O'Sullivan cont.

I continue to enjoy both fields and my new book *Buying and Selling the Poor* (Sydney University Press 2021) has just come out.

While at the University of Melbourne I made many friends and developed collaborations with numerous interlocutors - far more than I could possibly name. But Clare McCausland and Barbara Creed were both significant to my intellectual development at that time.

In 2015 I took up an ongoing position at UNSW in Sydney. Peter Chen was the first Sydney-based animal studies scholar I met. But I would soon start collaborating with Fiona Probyn-Rapsey and co-convening a reading group with Dinesh Wadiwel.

In August 2020 I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. The cancer has spread and I am chemo resistant. I am on a drug trial and I hope to live a little longer, but I will die from the disease before too long. In the time I have left I am dedicating myself to ovarian cancer education - did you know that it is the deadliest gynaecological cancer? It has a less than 25 per cent ten-year survival rate. That's horrible compared to most other cancers. I am now a spokesperson for the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation. I have also established an Animal Studies Prize with AASA, in the hope that we can further grow and celebrate animal studies scholarship, long after I am gone.

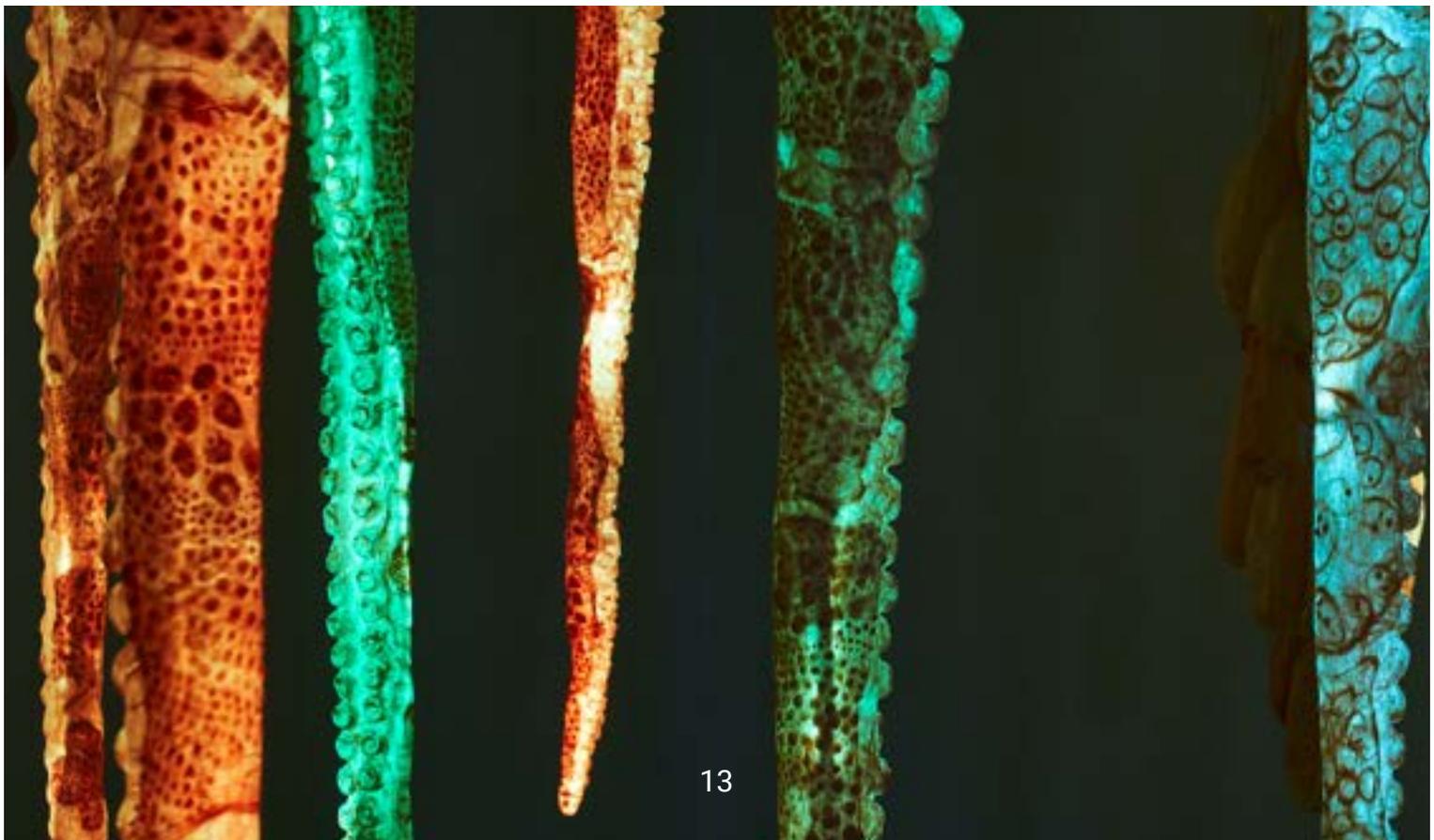
I know I have left many people out of this short story. Maybe I will find the time to tell a longer version. I hope so! Animal studies has afforded me a deeply satisfying intellectual life and career. I owe a debt of gratitude to everybody who has been part of that work - thank you!

Web: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/siobhan-o-sullivan>

Twitter: @so\_s

Facebook: Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan

Instagram: siobhano\_s



## EVENTS, HAPPENINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### **Rick de Vos attended the Humans, Animals, and Indian Ocean Art Histories in the Shadow of the Anthropocene workshop, 24 September 2021**

This online interactive workshop was hosted by the Sydney Environment Institute at the University of Sydney and organised by Olivier Krischer, the convenor of the Sydney Asian Art Series (SAAS) and Danielle Celermajer, deputy director of the Sydney Environment Institute and AASA member. The workshop, which featured Sugata Ray, associate professor of South and Southeast Asian Art at the University of California Berkeley and a guest of the SAAS, provided an opportunity to engage directly and critically with Sugata and his recent work on the book project *Indian Ocean Art Histories in the Age of Anthropocene Extinction*. The project looks at the intersecting histories of the global trade in exotica and natural resources and the extinction of Indian Ocean species from the 1500s onward.

The principal focus of the workshop was Sugata's recent essay 'From New Spain to Mughal India: rethinking early modern animal studies with a turkey', which provided an 'against-the-flow' reading of a portrait by the Mughal painter Ustad Mansur of a turkey, painted at the request of the emperor Janhangir, circa 1612. Critical attention was given to the turkey's multilayered alterity within a Mughal context. Sugata provided a brief introduction and provocation, and Ann Elias, Jennifer Ferng, and I provided responses grounded in our respective disciplines of art history, architectural history and animal studies. Given the early modern context of greater sea travel, the Columbian exchange, and a global turn in art history in the Indian Ocean region toward Westernism (a corrective to Western art criticism and cultural criteria), Sugata asked participants to consider what an art history would look like that was not centred on colonialism.

I found the workshop both challenging and extremely engaging, given the premise of considering how visual art, and pictorial depictions of nonhuman animals, can represent those animals in less speciesist ways. Further questions that have stayed with me since the workshop were:

\* How can we read historical art in a way that might provide clues to more complex interspecies relations, and how might these relations in turn shape the way art represents animals?

\* How can animal studies engage with historical representations of animals outside the cultural determinism of colonial violence and colonial regimes of knowledge?

I was very grateful to participate in this workshop, and to Danielle for inviting me.

For more information:

Humans, Animals, and Indian Ocean Art Histories in the Shadow of the Anthropocene:

<https://sei.sydney.edu.au/events/decolonial-art-and-multispecies-encounters/>

Sydney Asian Art Series: <http://www.powerpublications.com.au/saas2021/>

Sugata Ray: <http://www.sugataray.com/>

Sugata Ray's essay was recently published in the collection *Picture Ecology: art and ecocriticism in planetary perspective*, edited by Karl Kusserow (Princeton UP 2021):

<https://press.princeton.edu/books/paperback/9780691236018/picture-ecology>

## EVENTS, HAPPENINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES CONT.

**Teya Brooks Pribac contributed to the Water Epistemologies: trans-cultural and trans-species knowledge, ethics and citizenship in waterscapes seminar, 21 June 2021**

This online seminar was hosted by Universität Innsbruck. Teya's workshop was 'Like water in water - normativities and rapid flows of change'. Here is Teya's abstract:

'Unlike humans who have traditionally been considered as complex creatures, and our complexity both a blessing and a curse, other animals have been viewed as more fluid, as being in the world like 'water in water', to borrow Georges Bataille's phrasing. This presentation begins with an auto-ethnographic exploration of our homestead and the surrounding land. After an extensive period of severe drought, we experienced mega fires that burnt throughout the summer of 2019/20, and these were then followed by a mega downpour generating floods. Millions of other-than-human animals were affected (along with many humans). We sympathised, we grieved. Nevertheless I believe that most of us underestimate the magnitude of the impact of these events (and of other more directly anthropogenic factors) because we continue to see nonhuman animals as infinitely adaptable, happily 'flowing along' whatever happens around them, and we fail to appreciate the importance of ontogenetic elements, including social learning, and a decent level of environmental stability for successful adaptive functioning and well-being within a lifetime. The rest of the presentation discusses these aspects from a cross-species perspective with implications for theory and practice.'

**New episodes of Marika Bell's anthrozoology podcast *The Deal with Animals* are part of a series on conservation**

*Episode 10: Conservation and recovery efforts of species in decline with Angela Grimes, Born Free USA*

Angela Grimes, CEO of Born Free USA, talks about the vision and mission of Born Free USA, the Born Free monkey sanctuary and other projects important to having a 'positive impact on animals in the wild and [to] protect[ing] their ecosystems in perpetuity, for their own intrinsic value and for the critical roles they play within the natural world'.

*Episode 11: How to be a humane gardener with Nancy Lawson, The Humane Gardener*

Nancy tells us about how to cultivate a beautiful garden that is also safe and inviting for creatures to visit. Learn about the new HOA law in MD and join in Nancy's citizen science project documenting monarch butterfly leaf-scratching behaviour.

*Find *The Deal with Animals* podcast at: [www.thedealwithanimals.com](http://www.thedealwithanimals.com)*

## EVENTS, HAPPENINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES CONT.

### **PhD scholarship opportunity in historical studies/Indigenous studies: the cultural impacts of introduced animals in Australia, part of an ARC strategic research initiative**

Professor Lynette Russell (Monash University) and Professor Fiona Probyn-Rapsey (University of Wollongong) are looking for expressions of interest to undertake a fully funded PhD based at Monash University. We are seeking an Indigenous candidate with an interest in Indigenous knowledges, animal studies, and sustainability. The candidate will have an honours degree in a relevant discipline or the equivalent.

The presence of pastoral and feral animal populations has brought into sharp relief highly divergent views of settler and Indigenous Australians about the status of animals and their management. In response to recent calls for greater recognition of Indigenous ecological knowledge, this project will generate new knowledge about the cultural impacts of conflict over introduced animals. Three case studies will show how Indigenous and settler Australian thinking about animals emerged in the colonial period and continues to shape modern Australia. Significant benefits emerge from deepening our understanding of the cultural impacts of ecological harms, addressing conflicts as well as successful collaborations.

The overall objectives of the project are:

1 To generate new knowledge using the concept of ‘interspecies violence’; exploring how it involves a) the displacement of native species by introduced domesticated animals; b) the dehumanisation of Aboriginal people, and c) the marginalisation of Indigenous knowledge about animals.

2 To work with Indigenous communities in specific case studies to explore dynamics of conflict over animals, with a view to exploring historical complexity and differences.

3 To analyse and explore how contestations over animals in Australia become racialised.

4 To understand how Indigenous knowledges and people have been represented and included in contemporary conservation and animal advocacy work; to identify ways in which the cultural exchange of ideas and beliefs about animal use in Australia can be improved. To explore how successful collaborations between Indigenous people and conservation projects might offer a positive model for resolving conflicts over introduced species in Australia.

To explore the links between contemporary interest in sustainable animal agriculture and Indigenous knowledges of country; to discover and understand the implications of this connection for how Indigenous knowledges are valued, understood and incorporated into sustainability agendas.

Employment Type: full-time

Duration: 3 year and 3 month fixed-term appointment

Remuneration: the successful applicant will receive a Faculty of Arts Research Living Allowance, at current value of \$29,500 per annum 2021 full-time rate (tax-free stipend).

For more information see <https://www.uowblogs.com/asrn/2021/11/03/phd-scholarship-opportunity-2022-the-cultural-impacts-of-introduced-animals-in-australia/>

## MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS

**Bourke, Gabriela** (2021) 'My Year of Meats by Ruth Ozeki (2013)', *Australasian Journal of American Studies*, vol. 40, no. 1, pp. 59–64.

[https://sydney.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/61USYD\\_INST/2rsddf/cdi\\_jstor\\_primary\\_27041171](https://sydney.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/61USYD_INST/2rsddf/cdi_jstor_primary_27041171)

**Evans, Brodie and Johnson, Hope** (2021) 'Contesting and reinforcing the future of 'meat' through problematization: analyzing the discourses in regulatory debates around animal cell-cultured meat', *Geoforum*, vol. 127, pp. 81–91.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2021.10.001>

**Lennox, Rowena** (2021) 'What if Boxer is a horse?' *The Top Paddock*, Menzies Australia Institute, King's College London, online magazine, 28 July.

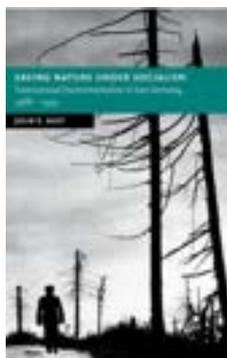
<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/what-if-boxer-is-a-horse>

**Lennox, Rowena and Probyn-Rapsey, Fiona** (2021) 'Colonialism and conservation', *Borderlands*, vol. 20, no. 1, pp. 49–88.

<https://www.exeley.com/borderlands/doi/10.21307/borderlands-2021-003>

## RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST

Many thanks to Agata Mrva-Montoya and Rick de Vos for their help compiling this list.



**Ault, Julie** (2021) *Saving Nature Under Socialism: transnational environmentalism in East Germany, 1968–1990*, Cambridge University Press

When East Germany collapsed outside observers were shocked to learn the extent of environmental devastation that existed there. The communist dictatorship, however, had sought to confront environmental issues since at least the 1960s. Through an analysis of official and oppositional sources, this book complicates attitudes toward the environment in East Germany by tracing both domestic and transnational engagement with nature and pollution. The communist dictatorship limited opportunities for protest, so officials and activists looked abroad for inspiration and support. Julia Ault outlines the evolution of environmental policy and protest in East Germany and shows how East Germans responded to local degradation as well as to an international moment of environmental reckoning in the 1970s and 1980s. The example of East Germany thus challenges and broadens our understanding of the 'greening' of post-war Europe, and illuminates a larger, central European understanding of connection across the Iron Curtain.

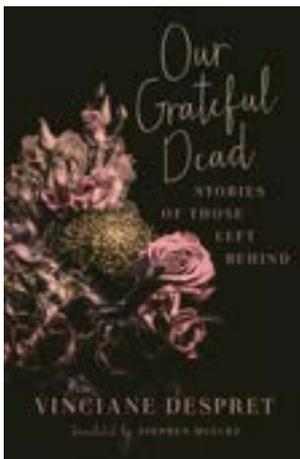
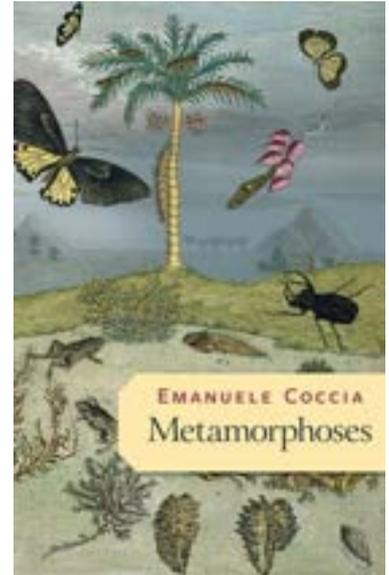
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/saving-nature-under-socialism/4D9F19B42D31E21363AC21F5053A1945>

## RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST CONT.

Coccia, Emanuele (2021) *Metamorphoses*, tr. Robin Mackay, Polity

Emanuele Coccia argues that metamorphosis – the phenomenon that allows the same life to subsist in disparate bodies – is the relationship that binds all species together and unites the living with the non-living. Bacteria, viruses, fungi, plants, animals: they are all one and the same life. Each species, including the human species, is the metamorphosis of all those that preceded it – the same life, cobbling together a new body and a new form in order to exist differently. And there is no opposition between the living and the non-living: life is always the reincarnation of the non-living, a carnival of the telluric substance of a planet – the Earth – that continually draws new faces and new ways of being out of even the smallest particle of its disparate body.

By highlighting what joins humans together with other forms of life, Coccia's brilliant reflection on metamorphosis encourages us to abandon our view of the human species as static and independent and to recognize instead that we are part of a much larger and interconnected form of life. <https://politybooks.com/bookdetail/?isbn=9781509545667>



Despret, Vinciane (2021) *Our Grateful Dead: stories of those left behind*, tr. Stephen Muecke, University of Minnesota Press

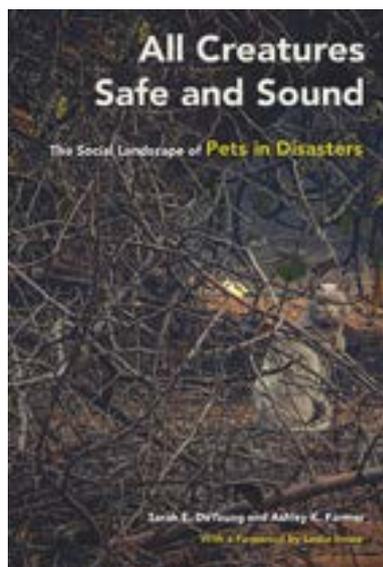
Vinciane Despret's unique storytelling, woven with ethnography and family history, assembles accounts of those living their daily lives with their dead. She explores how the dead play an active, tangible role through those who are living, who might assume their place in a family or in society; continue their labor or art; or thrive from a shared inheritance or an organ donation.

<https://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/our-grateful-dead>

DeYoung, Sarah E. and Farmer, Ashely K. Farmer (eds) (2021) *All Creatures Safe and Sound: the social landscape of pets in disasters*, Temple

This book is a comprehensive study of what goes wrong in our disaster response that shows how people can better manage pets in emergencies—from the household level to the large-scale, national level. Sarah DeYoung and Ashley Farmer offer practical disaster preparedness tips while they address the social complexities that affect disaster management and animal rescue. They track the developments in the management of pets since Hurricane Katrina, including an analysis of the 2006 PETS Act, which dictates that animals should be included in hazard and disaster planning.

## RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST CONT.

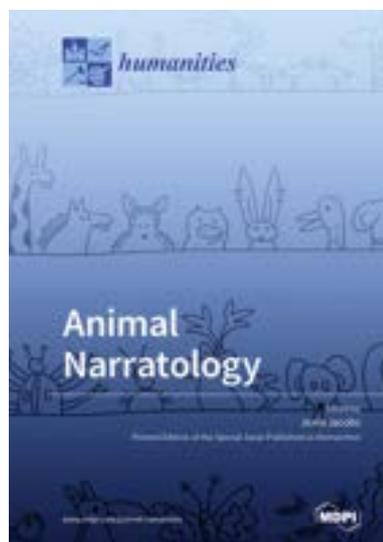


DeYoung and Farmer, *All Creatures Safe and Sound* cont.

Other chapters focus on policies in place for sheltering and evacuation, coalitions for animal welfare and the prevention of animal cruelty, organizational coordination, decision-making, preparedness, the role of social media in animal rescue and response, and how privilege and power shape disaster experiences and outcomes.

Using data they collected from seven major recent American disasters, ranging from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Florence to the Camp, Tubbs, and Carr Fires in California and the Hawaii Lava Flow, the authors provide insights about the successes and failures of animal care. *All Creatures Safe and Sound* also outlines what still needs to change to best prepare for the safety and welfare of pets, livestock, and other companion animals in times of crisis.

<http://tupress.temple.edu/book/20000000010127>



Jacobs, Joela (ed.) (2020) *Animal Narratology*, MDPI Books

This book is a reprint of articles from a special issue of Humanities journal (ISSN 2076-0787) (available at: [https://www.mdpi.com/journal/humanities/special issues/animal narratology](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/humanities/special%20issues/animal%20narratology)). It shines a light on the multifaceted dimensions of animal narratology. Contributors interrogate what it means to narrate, to speak—speak for, on behalf of—and to voice, or represent life beyond the human, which is in itself as different as insects, bears, and dogs are from each other, and yet more, as individual as a single mouse, horse, or puma. The contributions also highlight assumptions about the human perception of, attitude toward, and responsibility for the animals that are read and written about, thus demonstrating that just as ‘the animal’ does not exist, neither does ‘the human’. In their zoopoetic focus, the analyses are aware that animal narratology ultimately always contains an approximation of an animal perspective in human terms and terminology, yet they make clear that what matters is how the animal is approximated and that there is an effort to approach and encounter the non-human in the first place.

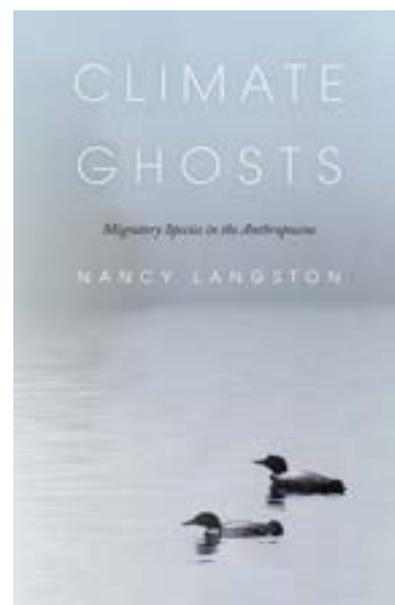
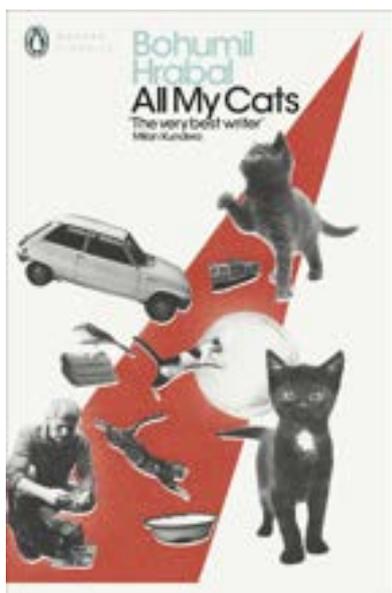
<https://www.mdpi.com/books/pdfview/book/3225>

## RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST CONT.

Hrabal, Bohumil (2020) *All My Cats*, Penguin

In the autumn of 1965, flush with the unexpected success of his first published books, the Czech writer Bohumil Hrabal bought a weekend cottage in Kersko, about an hour's drive east of Prague. From then until his death in 1997, he divided his time between Prague and Kersko, where he wrote and tended to a community of cats. Over the years, his relationship with them grew deeper, becoming a measure of the pressures, both private and public, that impinged on his life as a writer. *All My Cats*, written in 1983 after a serious car accident, is the chronicle of a cat lover who becomes overwhelmed by his cats and his life and is driven to the brink of madness by the dilemmas his indulgent love for the animals has created.

<https://www.penguin.com.au/books/all-my-cats-9780241422199>



Langston, Nancy (2021) *Climate Ghosts: migratory species in the anthropocene*, Brandeis University Press

Environmental historian Nancy Langston explores three “ghost species” in the Great Lakes watershed—woodland caribou, common loons, and lake sturgeon. Ghost species are those that have not gone completely extinct, although they may be extirpated from a particular area.

Their traces are still present, whether in DNA, in small fragmented populations, in lone individuals roaming a desolate landscape in search of a mate. We can still restore them if we make the hard choices necessary for them to survive. In this meticulously researched book, Langston delves into how climate change and human impact affected these now ghost species.

*Climate Ghosts* covers one of the key issues of our time.

<https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/C/bo122975291.html>

## RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST CONT.



Morizot, Baptiste (2021) *On the Animal Trail*, tr. Andrew Brown, Polity

From the forests of Yellowstone to the steppes of the Haut-Var, the French philosopher and environmentalist Baptiste Morizot invites us to develop a different relationship to nature: to become detectives of nature and to follow the footprints of the many wonderful and extraordinary animals with which we share the Earth. By deciphering and interpreting an animal's footprints and other signs, we gradually discover not only which animal it is, but the animal's motives too. Through this kind of 'philosophical tracking', we come to see the world from the animal's point of view, to learn to live in this world from the perspective of another species. We begin to let go of our anthropocentric point of view and to recapture the kind of perspective that our ancestors once had when they had no choice but to adopt an animal point of view if they wanted to survive. In short, by following animal trails, we learn how to pay increased attention to the living world around us and how to cohabit this world with others, thereby enriching our understanding of other species, of the world we share with them and of ourselves.

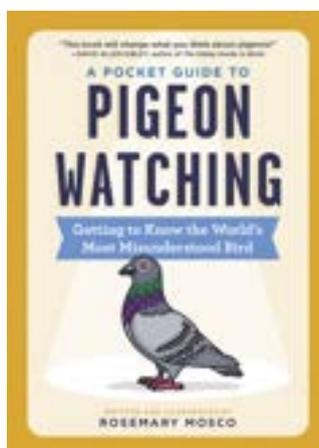
[https://www.politybooks.com/bookdetail?book\\_slug=on-the-animal-trail--9781509547173](https://www.politybooks.com/bookdetail?book_slug=on-the-animal-trail--9781509547173)

Mosco, Rosemary (2016) *A Pocket Guide to Pigeon Watching: getting to know the world's most misunderstood bird*, Workman

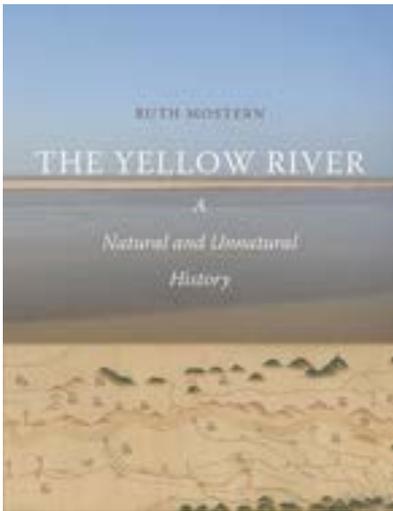
Pigeons are amazing, and until recently, humans adored them. We've kept them as pets, held pigeon beauty contests, raced them, used them to carry messages over battlefields, harvested their poop to fertilize our crops—and cooked them in gourmet dishes. With this book readers can rediscover the wonder. Equal parts illustrated field guide and quirky history, it covers behavior: why they coo; how they flock; how they preen, kiss, and mate (monogamously); and how they raise their young (on chunky pigeon milk). Anatomy and identification, from Birmingham

Roller to the American Giant Runt to the Scandaroon. Birder issues, like what to do if you find a baby pigeon stranded in the park. And our lively shared story, including all the things we've taught them—Ping-Pong, for example. 'Rats with wings?' Think again.

<https://www.workman.com/products/a-pocket-guide-to-pigeon-watching/paperback>



## RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST CONT.



Mostern, Ruth (2021) *The Yellow River: a natural and unnatural history*, Yale University Press

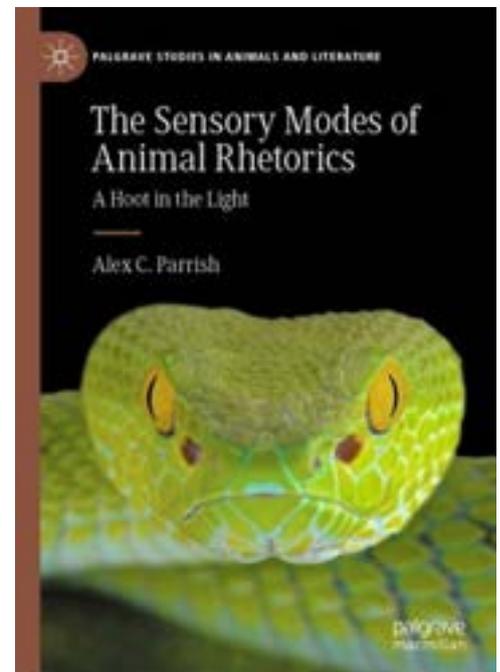
From Neolithic times to the present day, the Yellow River and its watershed have both shaped and been shaped by human society. Using the Yellow River to illustrate the long-term effects of environmentally significant human activity, Ruth Mostern unravels the long history of the human relationship with water and soil, and the consequences – at times disastrous – of ecological transformations that resulted from human decisions. As Mostern follows the Yellow River through three millennia of history, she underlines how governments consistently ignored the dynamic interrelationships of the river’s varied ecosystems—grasslands, riparian forests, wetlands, and deserts—and the ecological and cultural impacts of their policies. With an interdisciplinary approach informed by archival research and GIS (geographical information system) records, this groundbreaking volume provides unique insight into patterns, transformations, and devastating ruptures throughout ecological history and offers profound conclusions about the way we continue to affect the natural systems upon which we depend.

<https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300238334/yellow-river>

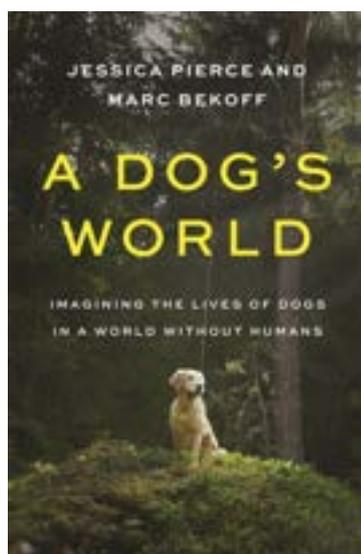
Parrish, Alex C. (2021) *The Sensory Modes of Animal Rhetorics: a hoot in the light*, Springer

This book presents the latest research in animal perception and cognition in the context of rhetorical theory. Alex C. Parrish explores the science of animal signaling that shows human and nonhuman animals share similar rhetorical strategies—such as communicating to manipulate or persuade—which suggests the vast impact sensory modalities have on communication in nature. The book demonstrates new ways of seeing humans and how we have separated ourselves from, and subjectified, the animal rhetor. This type of cross-species study allows us to trace the origins of our own persuasive behaviours, providing a deeper and more inclusive history of rhetoric than ever before.

<https://www.springer.com/us/book/9783030767112>



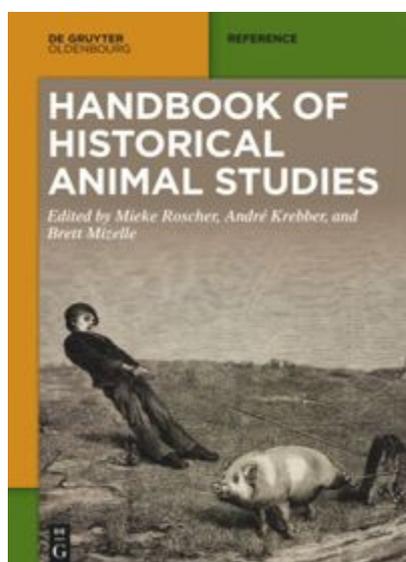
## RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST CONT.



Pierce, Jessica and Bekoff, Marc (2021) *A Dog's World: imagining the lives of dogs in a world without humans*, Princeton University Press

This book imagines a posthuman future for dogs, revealing how dogs would survive—and possibly even thrive—and explaining how this new and revolutionary perspective can guide how we interact with dogs now. Drawing on biology, ecology, and the latest findings on the lives and behavior of dogs and their wild relatives, Jessica Pierce and Marc Bekoff explore who dogs might become without direct human intervention into breeding, arranged playdates at the dog park, regular feedings, and veterinary care. Pierce and Bekoff show how dogs are quick learners who are highly adaptable and opportunistic, and they offer compelling evidence that dogs already do survive on their own—and could do so in a world without us. Challenging the notion that dogs would be helpless without their human counterparts, *A Dog's World* enables us to understand these independent and remarkably intelligent animals on their own terms.

<https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691196183/a-dogs-world>



Roscher, Mieke, Krebber, André and Mizelle, Brett (eds) (2021) *Handbook of Historical Animal Studies*, DeGruyter

The handbook provides a comprehensive evaluation of approaches, topics and research areas of the rapidly developing field of Historical Animal Studies. The so called 'animal turn' specifically inspired new takes on writing history. This upsurge in research has led to immense amounts of new empirical studies as well as approaches to historiography, which this handbook aims to systemise.

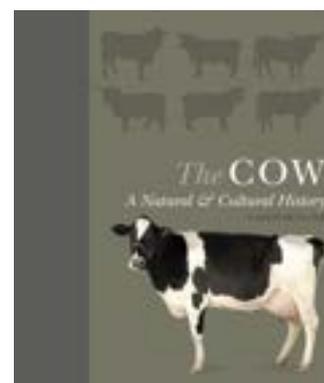
<https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783110536553/html?lang=en>

## RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST CONT.

Rutland, Catrin (2021) *The Cow: a natural and cultural history*, Princeton University Press

*The Cow* is a comprehensive guide to help us understand these important animals, offering a wealth of information about their anatomy and behaviors, breed varieties, and place in human culture past and present. Exploring the cow's livestock credentials and beyond, this book combines engaging and informative text, beautiful photographs, and explanatory diagrams to examine the cow's fascinating biology, its hard-wired behaviors, and its relationship with humankind. This book provides an in-depth look at the evolution of the cow, its role in agriculture, and the development of breeds; includes chapters on anatomy and biology, society and behavior, and cattle and people; and features a photographic directory of forty global cattle breeds.

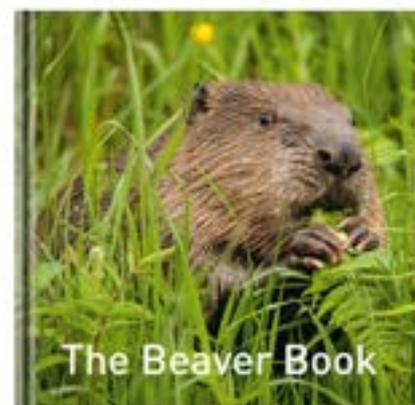
<https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691198705/the-cow>



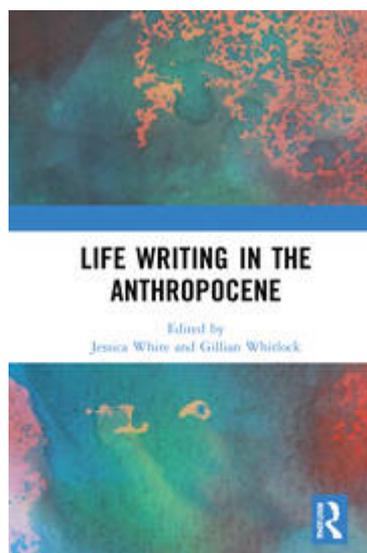
Warwick, Hugh (2021) *The Beaver Book*, Graffeg

With their building prowess and distinctive features, beavers are a rare, but wonderful, sight in UK waters following their extinction and reintroduction. This book is an ideal guide, beautifully illustrated throughout with photography and artwork. Sections include: What is a Beaver? Beaver Life, Beaver Engineering, People and Beavers, Beaver Reintroductions, Beaver Trust, Myths and Legends, Art, Literature and Advertising. The timing for *The Beaver Book* could not be more apt with beavers making a comeback across the UK and several other countries. They have already been released into the wild in Scotland and within enclosed river sections in England. Ecosystem recovery, increased biodiversity, flood protection and improved water quality are some of the upsides of having beavers around.

<https://graffeg.com/blogs/news/the-beaver-book-by-hugh-warwick>



## RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST CONT.



White, Jessica and Whitlock, Gillian (2021) *Life Writing in the Anthropocene*, Routledge

Contributions to this collection question what constitutes a life, how that life is narrated, and what lives matter in autobiography studies in the Anthropocene, an era characterised by the geoengineering impacts of humans, which threaten the rights of humans and other-than-humans to just and sustainable lives. Contributions articulate innovative literary forms such as ecobiography (the representation of a human subject's entwinement with their environment), phytography (writing the lives of plants), and ethological poetics (the study of nonhuman poetic forms), providing scholars and writers with innovative tools to think and write about our strange new world. The creative and critical essays in this book by a number of Antipodean authors bear witness to a multitude of lives and deaths. The chapters in this book were originally published as a special issue of *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*.

<https://www.routledge.com/Life-Writing-in-the-Anthropocene/White-Whitlock/p/book/9780367704339>

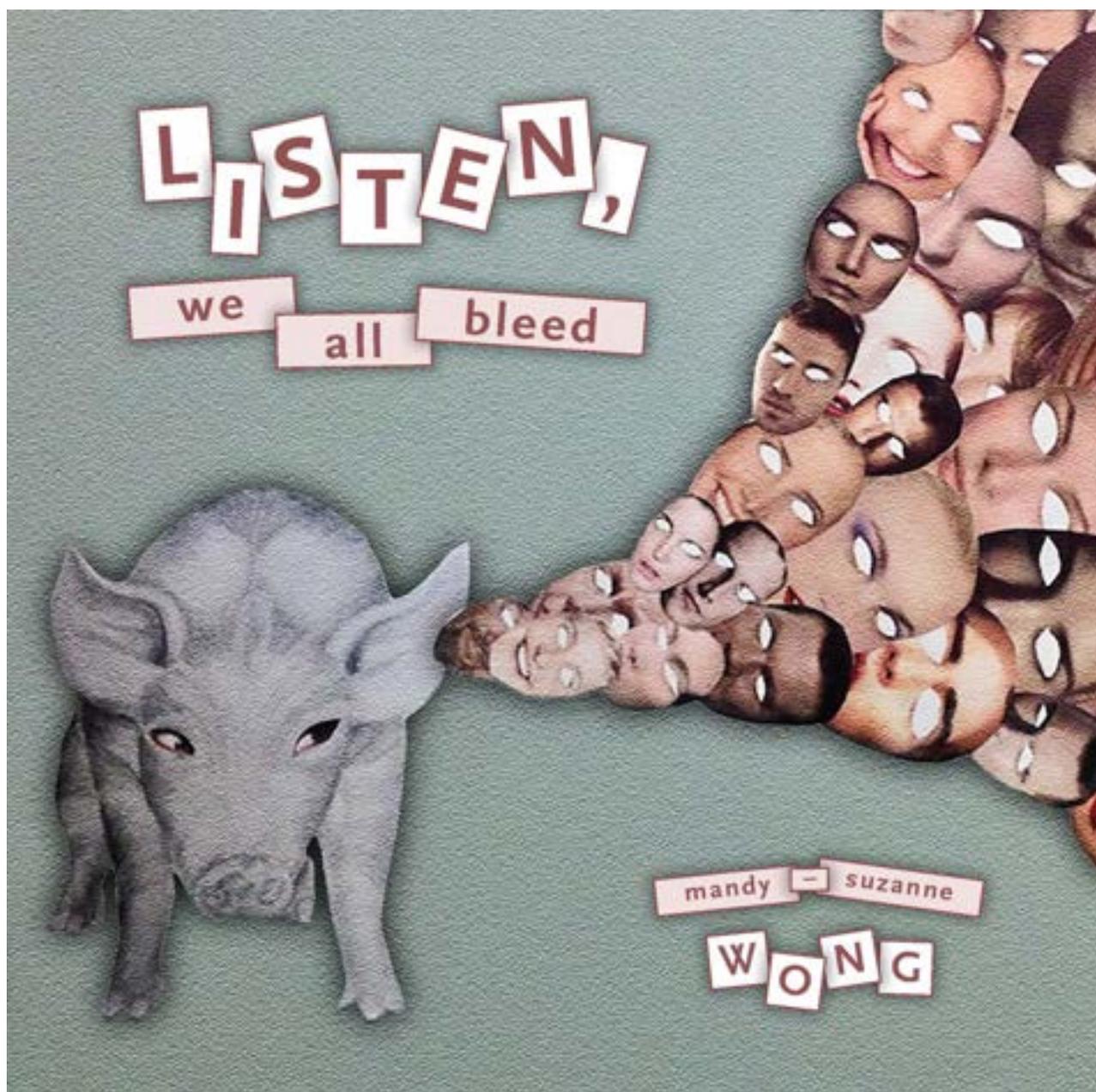
Weil, Kari (2020) *Precarious Partners: horses and their humans in nineteenth-century France*, Chicago University Press

Weil traces the evolving partnerships between French citizens and their horses in a time when horse ownership became an attainable dream not just for soldiers but also for middle-class children; when natural historians argued about animal intelligence; when the prevalence of horse beatings led to the first animal protection laws; and when the combined magnificence and abuse of these animals inspired artists, writers, and riders. Moving between literature, painting, natural philosophy, popular cartoons, sports manuals, and tracts of public hygiene, this book traces the changing social, political, and emotional relations with these charismatic creatures who straddled conceptions of pet and livestock in nineteenth-century France.

<https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/P/bo48408293.html>



## RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST CONT.



Wong, Mandy-Suzanne (2021) *Listen, we all bleed*, New Rivers Press

Mandy-Suzanne Wong gives voices to those who cannot speak through the use of art and exhibition, specifically those whose art has subverted the narrative of human dominance over the animal kingdom. A collection of heartfelt and explorative essays that give the reader a view of the world through the eyes of a non-human.

<https://www.newriverspress.com/shop/nonfiction/listen-we-all-bleed/>