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Human-Animal Studies Newsletter

March, 2017

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to this issue of the Animals & Society Institute's Human-Animal Studies e-newsletter. I hope that this issue has information that is of use to you. Please let me know what you'd like to see! For future editions of this newsletter, please send submissions to margo@animalsandsociety.org.

To open this month's newsletter, I wanted to share a quote that Jenny Vermilya, an HAS fellow in 2010, just shared on Facebook, as it demonstrates, in a paragraph, what we here at ASI are trying to accomplish in our human-animal studies program:

"My professional life is extremely busy. Which is why I rarely get to reflect on what has happened over the past couple of years. Yesterday I had one of these rare moments in which I got to watch my life as if it were a movie playing in front of me. And what I realized is that I am living the dream I had for myself about 13 years ago. And roughly 13 years ago, I did not even know if it was possible. At that time, I was pursuing veterinary medicine but was noticing things that my peers weren't. And then I took a class in college at UGA in Georgia that was outside of animal health and in the department of sociology. A class called "Animals & Us." Everything felt right. I completely switched disciplinary tracks and started to pursue the social sciences. I
asked around about how to make a career out of this interest. I ultimately applied to a doctoral program in sociology at CU in Colorado, having found a sociologist there who did this type of work. I moved, I worked, I learned. I was drawn in through human-animal studies, but fell in love with sociology as a whole. I met amazing people who felt the same way. I have friends now from all over the world and have been able to have diverse experiences and consequently a different worldview than before. I researched, I wrote, I earned a Ph.D. and became a sociologist. I got an academic position as a professor and moved, of all places, back home. I now teach an Animals & Society class of my own at my university, UNG in Georgia. Among other animal-related topics, I teach on my own research on, you guessed it, veterinary medicine. Yesterday, as one of my amazing colleagues from New York came to guest speak in this class, I was able to sit in the back row. And listen. And remember. I was once a student in a class like this. And it changed my life. Classes can do that - that is why I teach. Books can do that - that is why I research and write. Have you ever been able to look around and say, "My dream happened"? Yesterday I could. And it was a moment I'll hold on to and try to frequently remember. Especially when I get so busy."

That we can help students (now professors!) like Jenny to accomplish their career goals and to spread awareness about human-animal relationships, is something that we are very proud of here.

**ASI News**

ASI is working on collecting information on the impact of human-animal studies/animal studies/anthrozoology courses on a student's attitudes towards animals. This anonymous survey, using Hal Herzog's Animal Attitudes Scale, will help ASI acquire that information. Professors are asked to give out the following links to their students; the first should be given out at the very beginning of the course, while the second link should be given out at the end of the course. Thank you for your assistance with this project!

We have accepted 33 participants for the first annual Human-Animal Studies Summer Institute program for advanced graduate students and early career scholars, held in partnership with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We will be announcing the participants soon!

**HAS News**

We have information on two new positions in human-animal studies! The first is a new PhD position at the University of Oslo on biopolitics, disability, and animality studies while the second is information on a Visiting Professor job posting at Lewis & Clark.

Returning to St. Catharine's College, University of Cambridge, Courses On Animal Welfare Science, Ethics And Law will take place between September 10-22 2017. Aimed at veterinarians, veterinary nurses (working in practice or for government or animal charities), animal welfare researchers, animal science researchers, FE, HE, Masters or PhD students and animal charity workers/campaigners, the four Courses are designed to give all a solid background in animal welfare science, ethics and law. Delegates can choose to attend as many Courses as they wish, all being taught and priced individually. A total of 15 experts in the field of animal welfare, all eminent academics and professionals, are involved in delivering the material over the two weeks, through a combination of lectures, videos and discussions. Historically, the
course has attracted students from over 25 countries world-wide. Early Bird Fees (valid until April 30th) vary from £400 to £980 per Course, and some grants are available via the Douglas Houghton Memorial Fund. We take online registrations only for all four Courses. Find out more including fees and available grants on www.cawsel.com

Earlybird registrations, the call for papers and accommodation recommendation are now open for the fourth Minding Animals Conference. The conference is to be held between January 17-24, 2018, inclusive, at the Royal Pedregal Hotel in Ciudad de México. The conference attracts hundreds of academics, activists, artists and government representatives all dedicated to the better protection of nonhuman animals. Please visit the Minding Animals website to register, lodge your abstract and reserve your accommodation. Check out the latest Minding Animals Bulletin 39 that has all the relevant information and links.

The 300-acre Camp Muse at Shin Pond, Maine, is the site of a Summer Retreat Program for writers, scholars, artists, educators, and other cultural producers and knowledge workers focusing on animals and/or their humane treatment, and/or on environmental trends or threats relevant to animals and their well-being (habitat loss, climate change, land conservation, environmental degradation, inter alia). The program, operated by The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), invites all interested parties to apply for a residency at the property, which is open between July 1 and October 3, 2017. Camp Muse, a wooded retreat at the edge of a pristine and peaceful pond just ten miles from the northern entrance to Baxter State Park, offers an idyllic atmosphere for research, contemplation, writing, and other creative work. The purpose of the program, operated through the generosity of longtime HSUS board member K. William Wiseman (1921-2014) and his wife Madge, is to encourage scholarly, cultural, and practical projects relating to animals, and to provide a site for enhanced productivity on such projects. Applications for use of the Shin Pond property are evaluated by an ad hoc committee at The HSUS. There is no application form to submit, but the applicant must present: a statement of interest that includes information on the project he/she will pursue; a statement concerning the likely value or benefit of such a project to the work and mission of The HSUS and/or its affiliates; the specific work product that will be produced during the retreat period; details of the likely outcome or application of the work undertaken at the retreat; any applicable scheduling concerns or scheduling preferences; and two professional references. Applicants may be asked to submit copies of prior publications. If approved, the applicant is expected to cover the costs of transportation to and from Shin Pond, local transportation while staying there, food, beverages, entertainment, recreational activities (including admission to nearby Baxter State Park), long distance telephone services, and all other costs connected with the applicant’s use of the property. The HSUS will, however, pay for local telephone service, electrical utilities, and routine maintenance. Participants may take up to three household members (including spouses, significant others, and children) with them. Please note that because Camp Muse is a Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust-protected wildlife sanctuary, companion animals require specific prior approval and applicants may not be permitted to bring them. In all events, approved cats will need to remain indoors and dogs must be leashed at all times. Requests for use of the property for periods less than two weeks will be given lower priority. The property is generally available for brief stays, e.g., an overnight or weekend visit. Applications should be sent to Dr. Bernard Unti at The Humane Society of the United States, by mail to 1255 23rd Street, NW, Suite 450, Washington, DC 20037; by fax to 301-258-3077; or by email to bunti@humanesociety.org. Applications will be received on an ongoing basis.

The Tufts Institute for Human-Animal Interaction (TIHAI) is currently accepting proposals for the 2017 TIHAI Student Scholars Program. Projects may be geared towards activities that benefit people, animals, or both, although activities that benefit both will be given priority, and proposals that involve harm or stress to animals will not be considered. Topics may be related to any area of HAI, such as science and engineering education, pet ownership, animal-assisted therapy, and others. Funding will be considered for individual students or a group of students,
though all applications require a Tufts University faculty or staff mentor. Applications for graduate or undergraduate student projects are welcomed. Please submit all application materials via email to hai@tufts.edu by 5:00pm on April 1.

New Books

Following are some of the books coming out this month that we are excited about!

King, B.J. (2017). *Personalities on the Plate: The Lives and Minds of Animals We Eat*. Chicago. In recent years, scientific advances in our understanding of animal minds have led to major changes in how we think about, and treat, animals in zoos and aquariums. The general public, it seems, is slowly coming to understand that animals like apes, elephants, and dolphins have not just brains, but complicated inner and social lives, and that we need to act accordingly. Yet that realization hasn't yet made its presence felt to any great degree in our most intimate relationship with animals: at the dinner table. Sure, there are vegetarians and vegans all over, but at the same time, meat consumption is up, and meat remains a central part of the culinary and dining experience for the majority of people in the developed world. With Personalities on the Plate, Barbara King asks us to think hard about our meat eating—and how we might reduce it. But this isn't a polemic intended to convert readers to veganism. What she is interested in is why we've not drawn food animals into our concern and just what we do know about the minds and lives of chickens, cows, octopuses, fish, and more. Rooted in the latest science, and built on a mix of firsthand experience (including entomophagy, which, yes, is what you think it is) and close engagement with the work of scientists, farmers, vets, and chefs, Personalities on the Plate is an unforgettable journey through the world of animals we eat. Knowing what we know—and what we may yet learn—what is the proper ethical stance toward eating meat? What are the consequences for the planet? How can we live an ethically and ecologically sound life through our food choices?

Torosyan, G. F., & Lowe, B. M. (2017). *Nobody Wants to Eat Them Alive: Ethical Dilemmas and Media Narratives on Domestic Rabbits as Pets and Commodity*. iUniverse. For centuries, rabbits have been used as a food commodity. And yet even today when there are millions of families keeping rabbits as domestic companions, the parallel perception of those prey animals as commodity remains equally dominant in public discourse. In Nobody Wants to Eat Them Alive, authors Gayane Torosyan and Brian Lowe use semiotic analysis to explore the changes occurring in societal perception of rabbits as commodity animals as juxtaposed to their increasing popularity as domestic companions. The study is based on a preliminary hypothesis that rabbits are increasingly perceived and portrayed in the media as domestic pets similar to cats and guinea pigs, which challenges the parallel narrative that views rabbits as farm animals for their meat and fur, or as subjects of medical tests. Operating within a theoretical framework that considers news media as both a socially constructed reflection of reality and recorder history, the study examines the dynamics of change in numbers of coded new narratives drawn as a convenience sample of one thousand published articles from a database of news and features published worldwide between 1990 and 2011. From commodity to companion, a shift in perspective can herald a dramatic shift in progressive ethical treatment. Thus for rabbits, such a shift signals a trend toward more humane practices and a decline in exploitative practices such as slaughter and laboratory experiments—and perhaps points toward the promising trend of a more humane society in general.

Barcz, A. (2017). *Animal Narratives and Culture: Vulnerable Realism*. Cambridge. The term "vulnerable realism" can imply two different understandings: one presenting weak realism as incomplete, and mixed with other literary styles; the other bringing realistic vulnerable experience into narration. The second is the key concern of this work, though it does not
exclude the first, as it asks questions about realism as such, entering into a polemic with the
tradition of literary realism. Realism, then, is not primarily understood as a narrative style, but as
a narration that tests the probability of nonhuman vulnerable experience and makes it real. The
book consists of three parts. The first presents examples of how realism has been redefined in
trauma studies and how it may refer to animal experience. The second explores what is added to
the narrative by literature, including the animal perspective (the zoonarrative) and how it is
conducted (zoocriticism). The third analyses cultural texts, such as painting, circuses, and
memorials, which realistically generate animal vulnerability and provide non-anthropocentric
frameworks, anchoring our knowledge in the experience of fragile historical reality.

Penn State Press. In this study of the relationship between men and their horses in seventeenth-
and eighteenth-century England, Monica Mattfeld explores the experience of horsemanship and
how it defined one's gendered and political positions within society. Men of the period used
horses to transform themselves, via the image of the centaur, into something other—something
powerful, awe-inspiring, and mythical. Focusing on the manuals, memoirs, satires, images, and
ephemera produced by some of the period's most influential equestrians, Mattfeld examines how
the concepts and practices of horse husbandry evolved in relation to social, cultural, and political
life. She looks closely at the role of horses in the world of Thomas Hobbes and William
Cavendish; the changes in human social behavior and horse handling ushered in by elite riding
houses such as Angelo’s Academy and Mr. Carter’s; and the public perception of equestrian
endeavors, from performances at places such as Astley's Amphitheatre to the satire of Henry
William Bunbury. Throughout, Mattfeld shows how horses aided the performance of idealized
masculinity among communities of riders, in turn influencing how men were perceived in regard
to status, reputation, and gender. Drawing on human-animal studies, gender studies, and
historical studies, *Becoming Centaur* offers a new account of masculinity that reaches beyond
anthropocentrism to consider the role of animals in shaping man.

(All summaries taken from publishers' websites.)

**New Research**

Following are some of the latest research articles in the field of human-animal studies:

of their pets' emotions, intellect, and mutual relationship: cats and dogs compared. Behavioural
Processes.

Arbel, B. (2017). The beginnings of comparative anatomy and Renaissance reflections on the
human-animal divide. Renaissance Studies, 31(2), 201-222.

Hypertension, 35(4), 718-720.

British "Animals in War" Memorial. History and Memory, 29(1), 104-133.

cat personality, as perceived by 416 owners, suggests six dimensions. Behavioural Processes.


DEERING, B. (2017). 'A SEAGULL JUST STOLE MY DOUGHNUT': HUMANS VERSUS HERRING GULLS IN THE FIGHT FOR FOOD.


Journals

The editors of a special edition of the Animal Studies Journal on animal sanctuaries, edited by Elan Abrell, seek articles that consider animal sanctuaries as unique sites of human-animal interaction that both influence and are influenced by the way animals are treated and understood.
in larger contexts. How do animal sanctuaries contribute to the broader animal protection movement, what limits and challenges do they face, and what sorts of new models for living with and caring for captive animals might they provide? Submissions due by April 21. Please see guidelines and submit online at http://ro.uow.edu.au/asi/

*Animals*, Volume 7, Issue 3 (March 2017), a special issue on *Applied Ethology and Welfare of Animals*, is now out.

Between the Species will publish a special journal issue in honor of *Tom Regan*. Please consider submitting a paper that is related to Tom Regan's work. The deadline is July 1, 2017. Here are the submission guidelines. When submitting a manuscript, indicate that you'd like your paper to be considered for this special issue.

*ANTENNAE: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture* is seeking submissions for a special issue titled, 'Post-truth Age.' As more literally than ever, all that is solid melts into the air, there never has been quite as much at stake in the very notion of truth. While apocalyptic visions of the Anthropocene appear closer than ever before, we might ask 'what is the role played by visual media, art, and communication in supporting, informing, and driving creative forms of viable resistance?' 'How is the complicated relationship between art and science impacted by these cultural turns?' And 'how might contested notions of truth shape essential research questions and methodologies?' Abstracts due April 1 (Please submit a 350 words abstract along with a CV). Please email any questions to: Giovanni Alo: Editor in Chief of 'Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture' antennarpoject@gmail.com

### Upcoming Meetings

**Northern Animals.** March 31. University of Sheffield.

Dogs in Southern African Literatures. April 11-12, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study. For more information, email DogsConference2017@gmail.com

**Decolonizing Nature: Resistance, Resilience, Revitalization.** April 19-22, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

**Building Connections: Children, Animals and Healthy Families.** April 28-29, Brewster, NY.

Labour, Working Animals, and Environment in the Indian Ocean World. May 4-5, Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC) McGill University, Montréal, Canada. For any questions, contact either Dr. Yoshina Hurgobin (yoshina.hurgobin@mail.mcgill.ca) or Dr. Zozan Pehlivan (zozan.pehlivan@mail.mcgill.ca).

Workshop on Animal Agriculture from the Middle East to Asia. May 11-12, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA. Please direct any questions to ALPP@law.harvard.edu.

**Human and Nonhuman Animals: Minds and Morals.** May 11-13, University of Connecticut, Storrs

**Hearing: A British Animal Studies Network meeting.** May 19-20, University of Strathclyde in Glasgow

Empathy, Animals. June 20, Film University of Basel.

ISAZ. June 22-27, University of California, Davis.

Australasian Animal Studies Association Conference 2017. July 3-5, University of Adelaide

More-than-human geographies of empathy. August 29-September 1. Royal Geographical Society, London. Email Megan Donald (m.donald.2@research.gla.ac.uk) for more information.

7th International Conference on the Assessment of Animal Welfare at Farm and Group Level. September 5-8, Wagingen, Netherlands.


First International Canine Science Conference. Arizona State University, October 6-8, Tempe, AZ.


Calls for Papers: Conferences

The Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals (SSEA) invites abstracts for a day-long workshop on August 9, 2017 at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Abstracts on any topic relating to animal ethics are welcome. This preconference event is being held in conjunction with the 10th Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, which takes place at CU Boulder from August 10-13. The SSEA is pleased to announce that David DeGrazia will offer the keynote address at the workshop, thanks to generous support from CU Philosophy Department's Center for Values and Social Policy. Abstracts that engage with DeGrazia's work are especially welcome. Abstracts are due on March 31. Please submit abstracts to Bob Fischer (fischer@txstate.edu).

TAXIDERMIC FORMS AND FICTIONS: Call for Papers for SLSA Conference, November 9 - 12th, 2017, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona. In our exploration of taxidermic forms and fictions, we will develop methods, frameworks, and paradigms that enable us to contextualize taxidermic practice in the wake of the anthropocene, an era of unparalleled species loss. How can thinking through the flesh - both human and nonhuman - initiate creative possibilities for an alternative present? How are literature, film, poetics, and art responding to the history of natural science, which has so meticulously recreated a microcosm of the world by preserving species that stand in as exceptional prototypes? What is the impact of the decay of these forms in the natural history museum? And even more pressing: what are the ethics of cutting and flaying animal bodies and fetishizing their forms? Can we attribute agency and subjectivity to the taxidermic animal? What would an ethical repurposing of taxidermy look like? Ruminating on these (and related) research questions, this panel will serve as a response to the recent flux of critical and creative work being produced on the subject of the taxidermy. The roundtable will consist of a panel of 20-minute presentations followed by a discussion period.
Students and scholars of all disciplines are invited to participate. Please email 250-word abstracts to Susan McHugh and Sarah Bezan at smchugh@une.edu and bezan@ualberta.ca by April 15.

**Workshop: Empathy, Animals, Film With Prof. Lori Gruen.** June 20, University of Basel. The workshop provides a forum to explore concepts of empathy with regard to animals and especially animals on film. Empathy is a key concept in contemporary studies focussing on animals e.g. in Animal Ethics or research on Animal Minds. Humans and other animals engage with each other by means of empathy. The understanding thereby ranges from a cognitive ability to put oneself into the shoes of the other to more basic forms of immediate affective resonance. In our workshop, we are particularly keen to discuss Lori Gruen's idea of 'Entangled Empathy'. The aim is to bring together the thinking about entangled empathy and cinematic images of animals. In which ways do films contribute to empathetic engagement, respectively might refuse to do so? In a critique of traditional ethic theory, Gruen emphasizes how important the idea of particular animals, cases and contexts is for an alternative model of ethics. Accordingly, we would like to explore the transformative power of particular animals that become visible on film, as well as possible limits of the filmic medium. PhD candidates and early postdocs from fields including, but not limited to, philosophy, anthropology, human-animal-studies, cultural studies, film studies and media studies are encouraged to participate. To apply for participation, please submit both a short CV and a short letter of motivation. Participants who wish to discuss their own work are encouraged to submit a short abstract of their presentation (1 page). Be prepared to give a 15-min presentation. The organizers invite submissions concerning the work of Lori Gruen (e.g. discussions of the concept of entangled empathy and related topics) and/or the topic of animals in visual media. The conference language is English. Please hand in all documents electronically to Friederike Zenker: The deadline for submissions is **April 30**. For questions or further information please contact Friederike Zenker friedereike.zenker@unibas.ch

**Calls for Papers: Books**

Since its origins in the mid nineteenth century, detective fiction has been populated by a huge array of beasts. This volume will be the first to engage thoroughly with the manifold animal lives in this enduringly popular and continually morphing literary form. We are interested in essays that investigate the portrayal of animals in the detective fiction of any period and any region. It is anticipated that the volume will include essays that explore the genre's most celebrated figures (Poe, Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers, Raymond Chandler, Georges Simenon, Hammett, Walter Mosley etc), alongside less well-known authors. The editors particularly welcome essays which combine questions of genre with attention to broader ethical and political concerns regarding the representation of animals, encompassing relevant theoretical developments in, for example, animal studies, posthumanism and ecocriticism. The volume is intended to form part of Palgrave Studies in Animals and Literature, edited by Susan McHugh, Robert McKay and John Miller. Please email abstracts of no more than 300 words along with a short biographical statement to Ruth Hawthorn (rhawthorn@lincoln.ac.uk) and John Miller (John.Miller@sheffield.ac.uk) by **March 31**.

La revue Ethica lance un appel à collaboration pour son numéro de l'hiver 2018 dont le dossier principal portera sur l'éthique animale. Ce dossier sera dirigé par Angela Martin (Université de Fribourg, Suisse) et François Jaquet (Université de Genève, Suisse). Depuis la parution, en 1975, de La Libération animale de Peter Singer, l'éthique animale - qui étudie les obligations que nous avons à l'égard des animaux - s'est établie comme un champ de recherche philosophique à part entière. Pouvons-nous utiliser les animaux pour notre consommation
(viande, vêtements), pour la recherche (expérimentation animale), pour nous divertir (cirques, zoos) et, le cas échéant, à quelles conditions? Jusque récemment, l'éthique animale a surtout appliqué les théories classiques de l'éthique normative à ces questions. En outre, elle a généralement fondé le statut moral des animaux sur leurs propriétés intrinsèques, telles que leur sentience. Mais cet état de choses a changé, principalement grâce à deux publications - Animal Ethics in Context de Clare Palmer et Zoopolis de Sue Donaldson et Will Kymlicka - qui soulignent toutes deux l'importance morale des relations. D'après Palmer, nos devoirs moraux varient selon les relations que nous entretenons avec les animaux concernés : nous avons des devoirs moraux positifs envers les animaux domestiques (qui dépendent de nous) et un devoir négatif, de laisser faire, vis-à-vis des animaux sauvages (qui ne dépendent pas de nous). Donaldson et Kymlicka souscrivent à cette théorie, à un détail près. Ils considèrent que nous avons à l'égard des animaux des devoirs politiques : les animaux domestiques devraient se voir accorder un statut de citoyens, tandis que les animaux sauvages auraient un droit de non-intervention similaire à celui des États souverains. Ces thématiques ne sont que des suggestions. Les auteurs peuvent proposer d'autres sujets en lien avec la problématique abordée dans ce numéro. Ethica étant une revue interdisciplinaire, les contributions des différentes disciplines des sciences et des sciences humaines et sociales sont souhaitées et bienvenues. Deadline: April 30.

Please Support our Human-Animal Studies Efforts

As you can see, there is a tremendous amount of activity and progress going on today in the field of human-animal studies, and we always invite your input and participation. Your donation to the Animals & Society Institute will enable us to continue to expand the field in many more ways and work in conjunction with others around the world who share these goals.

Thank you for supporting our Human-Animal Studies efforts!

Margo DeMello
Human-Animal Studies Program Director