HAS Opportunities Fact Sheet

Human-Animal Studies (HAS) is a rapidly growing interdisciplinary field that examines the complex and multidimensional relationships between humans and other animals. HAS comprises work in several disciplines in the social sciences (sociology, anthropology, psychology, political science) the humanities (history, literary criticism, philosophy, geography), and the natural sciences (ethology, veterinary medicine, animal welfare science, and comparative psychology).

ASI provides leadership in the HAS field by working with scholars and other interested parties to develop programs, events and publications and other resources that expand the availability of courses and resources in institutions of higher learning, and to provide students with the information to find an educational path in the field that suits them.

Since the publication of Peter Singer’s *Animal Liberation* in 1975, followed in a few years by Tom Regan’s *The Case for Animal Rights*, which arguably kicked off the field of human-animal studies, we have seen exponential growth in the field.

- There are now almost 4 dozen college programs in HAS or a related field in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Italy, Austria, Spain, Australia and New Zealand, as well as about a dozen veterinary-based college programs, animal-assisted therapy college programs, and animal law programs. ASI’s International Development Award Program is increasing this number by providing colleges around the world (including Italy, Greece and Austria so far) the opportunity to build their own human-animal studies program.

- Several listservs, including ASI’s Human-Animal Studies listserv, provide virtual networking for the growing community of HAS scholars and students.

- Including ASI’s own *Society & Animals*, which began in 1992, there are now two dozen print or online journals serving the field.

- In a 2002 article in *Society & Animals*, the authors surveyed the dissertations produced in the field of human-animal studies from 1980-1999, and found 259 dissertations in total. Since then, ASI has surveyed the field, and found 379 dissertations in the next 15 years (from 2000-2015) with 46 published in 2015 alone, which demonstrates the skyrocketing number of graduates in the field in recent years.
• There are now over two dozen publishers which regularly publish, or have a series devoted to, books on human-animal studies. Each year sees more books come out in the field; there were almost four dozen published in 2015 alone. The number of journal articles in human-animal studies has also exploded, with over 350 such articles published in 2015.

• There are dozens of academic conferences held in human-animal studies per year, on topics ranging from animals and the law to animals and death to animals in film to animal-computer interaction.

• There are now hundreds of courses offered in HAS or related fields, in almost three different disciplines ranging from agricultural science to veterinary science. The courses are being taught in Europe (Poland, Spain, Portugal, Netherlands, France, Italy, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Switzerland and Austria), the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Hong Kong, and Latin America.

For more information on how ASI is helping this field to grow, or to find out about opportunities and resources that you can use, please visit the Human-Animal Studies section of our website.

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