

Helping Graduate Students through the Human-Animal Studies Summer Institute

Forty years ago, there was no such thing as Human-Animal Studies (HAS). For students who cared about animals and wanted to study in a field related to them, their options were limited to studying animal behavior or veterinary science.

Thirty years ago, the field began to emerge, with the first journal, first courses, and first books, offering new, but limited, options to students with an interest in animals.

Ten years ago, there still were no programs to help nurture graduate students in the field—students who will someday be the future scholars of Human-Animal Studies.

In 2007, however, the Animals & Society Institute launched the Human-Animal Studies Fellowship, an annual program that ran from 2007-2016, which offered students and more senior scholars the opportunity to work on a project in HAS for six weeks.

In 2017, we further refined that program, and as a result, launched the Human-Animal Studies Summer Institute, held in partnership with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Through this new program, which allows from 20-30 graduate students and early career scholars to attend an intensive 7-day Institute, we can help more students than ever before, offering them the support and guidance of mentors from a variety of disciplines within HAS. In the 2017 Institute, directors, mentors, and guest speakers included:

- Una Chaudhuri, Professor of English and Drama, NYU
- Margo DeMello, HAS Program Director, Animals & Society Institute
- Jane Desmond, Professor of Anthropology and Gender/Women's Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Leesa Fawcett, Professor of Environmental Studies, York University
- Agustin Fuentes, Professor of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame
- Chris Green, Executive Director of the Animal Law & Policy Program, Harvard University
- Leslie Irvine, Professor of Sociology, University of Colorado at Boulder
- Jamie Jones, Assistant Professor of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Kim Marra, Professor of Theatre and Performance History, University of Iowa
- Nigel Rothfels, Professor of History, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
- Kenneth Shapiro, President of the Board, Animals & Society Institute
- Deke Weaver, Associate Professor of Theater and New Media, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The program will continue to run annually, offering students the support that many of them need to complete their PhDs and gain employment in the field. [Click here](#) for details about the upcoming 2018 Human-Animal Studies Summer Institute.

