

Summer Institute: A Unique Opportunity for HAS Students

The Animals & Society Institute (ASI) is committed to advancing the field of Human-Animal Studies (HAS) and giving students new opportunities to network and be mentored by leaders in the field. Sadly, there are all too few opportunities for this type of collaboration and interdisciplinary conversation. That's why ASI started the Human-Animal Studies Fellowship program over a decade ago.

In 2017, we launched the Human-Animal Studies Summer Institute, held in partnership with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The program gives graduate students and early career scholars the opportunity to attend an intensive week-long Institute with a focus on sharing research, promoting dialogue, and providing the guidance of mentors from a variety of disciplines within HAS.

In 2018, 19 students participated in the Institute, and we were delighted to be able to offer scholarships to three students who otherwise would not have been able to attend. The feedback has been overwhelming. Here's what this year's participants had to say:

- "I had a profoundly positive experience at the Institute."
- "My network of research colleagues has expanded tremendously, as has my vision for potential opportunities in the future. I left the institute inspired and reinvigorated."
- "The ASI Summer Institute was a great and inspiring experience. I received valuable comments for my project and met wonderful people. I highly recommend applying for this event!"

- “When I came here, I was nervous and did not know what to expect. This turned out to be the most exciting week of my PhD program, so thank you very much for being you, for organizing this institute so well, and for giving us all time to find our voice, our contribution, and ‘our people.’”
- “The Animals & Society Summer Institute was an incredible opportunity to share my doctoral research with an interdisciplinary group of exceptional emerging and established scholars - all of whom were passionate about animals, and actively contributing to the field of animal studies from unique perspectives. Emphatically encouraged by the more-than-generous directors of the institute to listen and learn from one another, I left the summer institute inspired by the many keynote speakers, excited about potential professional opportunities, and equipped with a more nuanced understanding of the diversity present within the field. Perhaps most importantly, I departed the institute feeling reinvigorated and connected to a network of international researchers who valued one another.”

The program will continue to run annually, offering students much-needed support to complete their PhDs and gain employment in the field. Check back [here](#) for updates on the 2019 application process!

