



Letter From The Chair: Michelle Proctor



Hello fellow Animals & Society Section members!

I hope the fall semester is treating you well. I am very excited to be serving as Chair of our Section this year.

I would like to thank Lisa Jean Moore for her work as Chair this past year, especially for organizing our paper sessions, our award nominations and recipients, and for composing and submitting our Section Annual Report.

This year, our council is striving to increase our membership. The good news is that our membership has remained relatively stable, and we are down only one member. So, our primary goal for the year is that of recruitment. For the past few years, our section has focused on recruiting graduate student members, as they represent a significant area of long-term growth for the section. Increased membership will bring with it advantages such as the possibility of having more sessions, more resources to offer section members, and we would like to continue a mentoring program for graduate students and younger faculty conducting research and teaching in the area of animals and society.

In the future, We would like to conduct a survey of faculty teaching courses in this area in order to provide

information and resources for those considering proposing Animals & Society courses to their respective institutions. Our Section has done this in the past, and we would like to update or database.

Through these survey and course promotion efforts, we aim to recruit more faculty members to the section as well.

Those of you who know me know that I am an applied sociologist. Most of my work is done in the field, and is less pure academic as some of your work.



I will, therefore, be relying upon membership whose work provides them with more opportunities to network with scholars in the field. This networking will also serve us in our membership in that we may be able to reach out to members in other sections whose work entails intersectionality with that of our own.

One of the primary ways you can contribute to the life of the section is by presenting at and attending our paper sessions.

The Call for Papers will be coming out very soon on

November 1st! This year, the annual meeting will be held August 12-15, 2017 in Montreal. Our section will have sessions on the first day, Saturday

August 12th, so you can start thinking about your papers and travel plans now. The 2017 cycle allows us two sessions: One paper panel session and another open roundtable session.

The Section Council has worked together on the following theme for the paper panel session: "Animals and the Environment." It is hoped that we can collaborate more closely with members who are doing work in this area. The roundtable session will be open topic. As usual, the paper submission deadline will be in January.

Please consider running for Section positions. More information will be forthcoming. We are also working on assembling an awards committee, and you will be notified when that occurs.

(continued on page 2)

Letter from the Chair (*cont.*) - Note From The Editor



Finally, I would like to thank Susan Lunn for compiling and editing the newsletter, Loredana Loy for running our social media sites, and Larry and Helene Lawson for assisting with the new webpage design.

Volunteers to head up committees or assist with any activity is most welcomed! Please feel free to call upon me to offer suggestions (mproctor@madonna.edu). I very much look forward to working with you all!

Michelle Proctor, Chair

Hi there, fellow Animals & Society section members!

For those of you who do not recognize my name, don't worry - we haven't met before! I am currently a graduate student at Madonna University, earning my degree in Humane Studies: Criminal Justice. I cannot highly recommend this program enough and would be happy to answer any questions you have about my experiences in this program.

I have greatly enjoyed working on this newsletter, and look forward to the next newsletter. Please forward any section announcements, publications, or requests directly to me for the next publication at my school email: slunn@my.madonna.edu .

I look forward to hearing from you soon! Thank you to everyone who submitted for this issue for their patience as I learned the ropes of the newsletter.



-Susan Lunn, graduate student

Amy Fitzgerald, associate professor in Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology at the University of Windsor, has been awarded a grant to establish the Animal and Interpersonal Abuse Research Group (A.I.A.R.G.) at the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada.

Congratulations, Amy!



Section Announcements (Awards)

2016 Teacher Award Recipient: Keri Brandt

“After nearly a decade, in the fall of 2015 I was able to teach an “Animals and Society” course as a special topics course in my department. As I prepared for the course, I made the decision to spend more time getting students out of the classroom and into settings where humans are embedded with animals in a variety of contexts. Together we journeyed out on numerous fieldtrips, from the slaughter house to the wolf refuge and in between, and we were able to explore a range of issues that shape the lives of animals. Coincidentally, Temple Grandin’s book, *Thinking in Pictures*, was the campus wide reading book for that same semester. Given this, I wove into my syllabus a greater emphasis on animals in agriculture. Reading Dr. Grandin’s book, listening to her speak when she came to campus, and touring a small slaughterhouse facility created a fertile ground to investigate questions related to animals in agriculture. These questions can indeed be emotionally charged, especially when there is a diversity of views in one classroom. A central goal of the course is to help students understand the complexity of animals lives and encourage them to develop greater sense of empathy for all animals. Additionally, I encouraged us all to challenge some of the dualistic, right/wrong thinking that often frames conversations related to animals in agriculture. Through many invigorating and sometimes hard discussions, throughout the semester we were able to delve deeply into the contradictory relationships, both indirect and direct, that often shape the intersection of animal and human lives. What emerged was one of the most rewarding teaching experiences of my career and I am happy to say that this course is now officially “on the books” and will be a regularly taught course at the college for years to come. Our department Chair, Becky Clausen, nominated this class for the award. It was a complete surprise and more importantly a great honor to be chosen as this year’s recipient.”



-Keri Brandt, 2016 Award Recipient



Bio: Keri Brandt is an associate professor of Sociology and Gender/Women’s Studies at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. Her research has primarily focused on human-horse relationships; more recently, she has been exploring human-animal relationships in the context of cattle ranching, as well as the lived experience of animals in agriculture.



Section Announcements (Awards)

2016 Jane Goodall Award for Graduate Student Scholarship Recipient Andrea Laurent-Simpson

Andrea's manuscript "Extending Identity Theory: Parenting and Identity Formation in the Context of Human-Animal Relationships" uses in-depth interviews of companion animal owner, both with and without human children, to examine the existence of a parent identity that is based in cultural scripts, yet idiosyncratic in nature because it is counter to the non-human animal rather than a human child. She argues that the formation of role identity in human actors does not necessarily occur only in the context of other humans. Rather, depending on context and human perception, role identity can be formed as a result of meaningful social interaction with the companion animal. Indeed, she finds that both childfree and childless companion animal guardian narratives demonstrate the presence of substantial behavioral output that is strongly aligned with cultural expectations in the United States for the status of parent. This suggests that a parent identity is internalized for many childless and childfree participants that perceive their animals as surrogate children. It also highlights the need to consider human-animal interaction as a possible source of role identity development beyond the human-human interaction currently theorized in identity theory for the formation of role identities.



-Andrea Laurent-Simpson

Bio: Andrea Laurent-Simpson is a doctoral candidate in Sociology at Texas Woman's University with areas of specialization in social psychology and stratification. She has research and teaching interests in symbolic interaction, family and fertility, gender, risk society, and theory. Her dissertation considers identity theory, family structure and fertility, and human-animal bonding. In it, she explores companion animals as a source of identity formation for child free and childless people. She also uses this data to explore the function of external support from significant others in allowing the enactment of this identity in a society that stigmatizes not only childlessness but also "pet" parents. Finally, she considers the effect that this identity has on both household structure as well as future fertility intentions in the childfree. Several papers have evolved from this work and are currently under review or in the revise and resubmit period with peer-reviewed journals. Currently, she is co-investigator on a project that examines the social construction of Zika virus on social media and the implications that this has for Gidden's conceptualization of risk society.



Section Announcements - Recent Publications



Books

***Culture and Activism: Animal Rights in France and the United States* by Elizabeth Cherry**

This book offers a comparison of the animal rights movements in the U.S. and France, drawing on ethnographic and interview material gathered amongst activists in both countries. Investigating the ways in which culture affects the outcomes of the two movements, the author examines its role as a constraining and enabling structure in both contexts, showing how cultural beliefs, values, and practices at the international, national, and organizational levels shape the strategic and tactical choices available to activists, and shedding light on the reasons for which activists make the choices that they do.

With attention to the different emphases placed by the respective movements on ideological purity and pragmatism, this volume provides an account of why their achievements differ in spite of their shared ultimate goals, offering policy recommendations and suggestions for activists working in a variety of cultures. Informed by the work of Giddens and Bourdieu, *Culture and Activism: Animal Rights in France and the United States* constitutes an empirically grounded, comparative study of activism that will appeal to scholars of sociology, anthropology, political science, and cultural geography with interests in social movements and social problems.

NEW BOOK SERIES:

Palgrave Studies in Animals and Social Problems

Series editor: Leslie Irvine

leslie.irvine@colorado.edu

This series focuses on how animals matter in social problems. Because animals are incorporated into the economic, sociological, emotional, and moral fabric of society, their roles in social problems have wide-ranging implications. Cruelty to animals, animal fighting, pet prohibitions in rental housing, animal hoarding, wildlife crimes, the illegal traffic in endangered species, and zoonotic disease transmission represent just a few examples of social problems that this series might address.

Contact Leslie Irvine if you would like to propose a book for the series.



Section Announcements - Recent Publications (*cont. from page 5*)



Articles

Alexander Simon, associate professor of sociology at Utah Valley University, has published an article in *Monthly Review* entitled “Against Trophy Hunting: A Marxian-Leopoldian Critique”.

Jennifer Sinski, a fourth-year doctoral student in Sociology at University of Louisville, has co-authored a paper to appear in the October issue of *Anthrozoos* entitled “Putting (Big) Black Dog Syndrome to the Test: Evidence from a Large Metropolitan Shelter”.

Jessica Greenebaum, a professor of Sociology at Central Connecticut State University, has a forthcoming article entitled “Questioning the Concept of Vegan Privilege: A Commentary” *Humanity & Society*. pre-print: first published on April 13, 2016 as DOI: 10.1177/0160597616640308

Loredana Loy, Ph.D. student at Cornell University, has recently published “Media Activism and Advocacy: What’s Film Got to Do with it?” In Almiron, Nuria, Mathew Cole and Carrie Packwood-Freeman (Eds). *Critical Animal and Media Studies*. London: Routledge.

Want to see your publication featured? Please reach out to the editor at slunn@my.madonna.edu for submissions to the next, Winter newsletter!





Organization Highlight: Caring for Cats, Michigan



Organization Highlight

Please join us in participating in a new series highlighting organizations involved in the welfare of animals. The first in our series is Caring for Cats. Caring for Cats is a Michigan-based charity with a 501 (c) 3 status. Their mission is to care for as well as spay and neuter homeless felines in the greater Detroit area. They are a no-kill organization.

The majority of the cats rescued are feral. If they are adoptable, they are taken in and fostered. The rescue also does trap and release for those that are not deemed adoptable, and members ensure that they receive street veterinary care, food and shelter. They care for approximately 30 cats in the Detroit area.

Those that are deemed a fit for rehabilitation are fostered in members' homes. Therefore, there is very little capacity and tremendous need. The organization also takes in surrenders.

The largest challenges for the organization, not surprisingly, is the need for funding and volunteer involvement. According to Dr. Andrew Domzalski, Director of Caring for Cats, "You cannot help animals without relationship building. Cooperation from local residents (and animal control) as well as wiliness of those who are able to help in any way be it monetary, offering up room in their homes for fostering, helping with trapping and releasing, feeding and providing adequate shelter for those cats that are living on the streets are all crucial needs. Whenever we come across adoptable cats and kittens, we foster them until we find loving homes for them."

The organization is provided free veterinary care from one its members who is a veterinarian. In addition, the organization receives assistance from university students.

You can help by volunteering or making tax-deductible donations.

E-mail: CaringForCatsMichigan@Gmail.com

Website: <http://awos.petfinder.com/shelters/caringcats.html>

Like them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Caring-For-Cats-134141686650016/>



Social Media



Stay up-to-date with animals and society related information! If you haven't yet, please join our section on Facebook! Here is a sample of the type of stories we share on our page.

From New York Magazine: The Four Ways People Rationalize Eating Meat:
<http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2015/06/4-ways-people-rationalize-eating-meat.html>

From Green Is The New Red: Exposing Cruelty in Nursing Homes, Factory Farms, Day-cares Now a Crime in North Carolina:
<http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/north-carolina-ag-gag-override/8388/>

From NPR: Why Do We Care About Some Animals More Than Others?
<http://www.npr.org/2014/08/15/338900449/why-do-we-care-about-some-animals-more-than-others>

Join us on Facebook!

Like our page at <https://www.facebook.com/AnimalsAndSocietyASA/>

Solving Social Problems

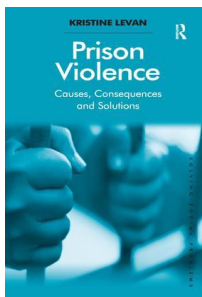
Series Editor: Bonnie Berry

www.routledge.com/Solving-Social-Problems/book-series/ASHSER1354

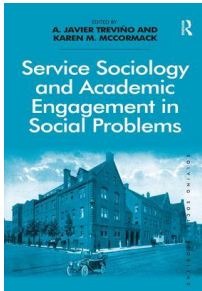
Solving Social Problems provides a forum for the description and measurement of social problems, with a keen focus on the concrete remedies proposed for their solution. The series takes an international perspective, exploring social problems in various parts of the world, with the central concern being always their possible remedy. As such, work is welcomed on subjects as diverse as environmental damage, terrorism, economic disparities and economic devastation, poverty, inequalities, domestic assaults and sexual abuse, health care, natural disasters, labour inequality, animal abuse, crime, and mental illness and its treatment. In addition to recommending solutions to social problems, the books in this series are theoretically sophisticated, exploring previous discussions of the issues in question, examining other attempts to resolve them, and adopting and discussing methodologies that are commonly used to measure social problems. Proposed solutions may be framed as changes in policy, practice, or more broadly, social change and social movement. Solutions may be reflective of ideology, but are always pragmatic and detailed, explaining the means by which the suggested solutions might be achieved.

Call for proposals

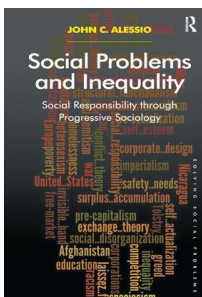
To submit a proposal for the series, please contact the Series Editor at solving@socialproblems.org or the Commissioning Editor Neil Jordan: Neil.Jordan@tandf.co.uk



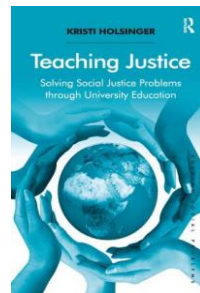
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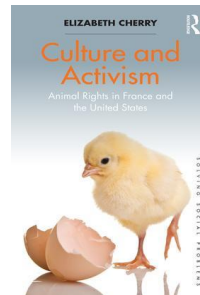


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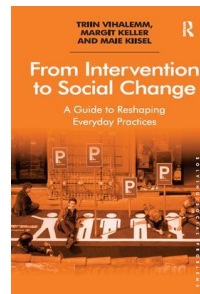


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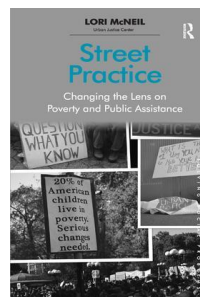
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