

Animals and Society



American Sociological Association

ISSUE 17

ANIMALS & SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JAN/FEB 2013

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR – ANGELA MERTIG

Hello! I hope everyone's new year is off to a great start.

We have some exciting things planned for the upcoming ASA meetings in New York in August. Our section day will be Saturday, August 10. We will have a section paper session entitled "Social Inequality and Animals" on that day. Traditionally, the council and business meetings are held on this day as well. We have planned to do something a little different this year. In lieu of our scheduled council meeting (which we will hold at a different time and place, to be announced), we will have an invited panel session entitled "Animals and the Environment: Exploring Sociological Connections." Immediately following the 1-hour panel session, we will hold our business meeting (open to all members). The panel session focuses on exploring the potential for cross-collaboration between the sub-fields of environmental sociology and that of animals and society. The panelists will be: Tom Dietz, Colin Jerolmack, Linda Kalof and David Nibert.

As a nice complement to the panel noted above, we will be having a joint reception with the environment and technology section. As always, we will have lots of vegan food options. The reception will be onsite on Monday, August 12. So please hold this date, as well as the date of August 10 for our sessions.

Additionally, Tom Dietz is organizing a regular session for the ASA program committee entitled "Human-Animal Interaction." Animals will figure prominently in the ASA meeting this year—I hope you can attend!

Please renew your membership in the section if you haven't done so already. I would also encourage you to recruit (or even sponsor) others to join our section. This is an exciting and growing area of teaching and research—so we need even stronger representation in the ASA!

Thanks to Justin Goodman for putting the newsletter together again—this is his last time doing so. He has done an excellent job with the newsletter and should be thanked for all of his hard work. Loredana Loy (NYU) has agreed to take on the editing of the newsletter beginning with the next issue. Welcome, Loredana!

Here's to a wonderful year!

Angela G. Mertig
Section Chair



Facebook.com/AnimalsAndSocietyASA



Twitter.com/Animals_Society

2013 SECTION AWARD NOMINATIONS

Award for Distinguished Graduate Student Scholarship

The Animals & Society section announces its 2013 Award for Distinguished Graduate Student Scholarship. Papers may be empirical or theoretical, and they may be on any aspect of animals and society. To be eligible, a paper may not be published, accepted for publication, or under review for publication. Papers which have been presented at a professional meeting or which have been submitted for presentation at a professional conference are eligible. Jointly authored works are eligible, as long as all authors have student status. Papers must be no longer than 25 pages, including all notes, references, and tables. When submitting your paper, please include a brief letter from your adviser certifying your graduate student status.

Papers must be emailed by **February 1st, 2013** to amertig@mtsu.edu.

Award for Distinguished Scholarship

The 2013 award will be given for distinguished scholarship in the form of an article to an author(s) whose work makes a significant empirical or theoretical contribution to the sociological understanding of animals and society. The work must have been published within the calendar years of 2010, 2011 or 2012. To nominate an article (self-nominations are acceptable), please provide full bibliographic information (the author(s), year of publication, title of the article, title and volume of the journal, page numbers of article) as well as a two page letter outlining why you believe this work is a substantial contribution to the field.

The deadline for nominations is **February 1st, 2013** and should be sent to amertig@mtsu.edu.

The Clifton Bryant Animals & Society Course Award

The ASA Section on Animals & Society seeks nominations for the 2013 Award for Outstanding Course on Animals & Society. To place a name in nomination, please send a letter to the Section Chair indicating the name of the nominee (self nominations are permitted), current curriculum vitae, a copy of the course syllabus and a discussion of the nominee's distinguished contributions to undergraduate or graduate understandings of animals & society. Please indicate the mailing address, E-mail address and telephone number where both you and the nominee may be contacted.

Eligibility: Nominees must be members of the American Sociological Association and the Section on Animals & Society.

Please send your nomination letter as soon as possible, but no later than **February 1, 2013**. Application portfolios must be received by **March 31, 2013**. Please send all materials to amertig@mtsu.edu.

NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM MEMBERS

- Gala, Shalin G., Justin R. Goodman, Michael P. Murphy and Marion J. Balsam. 2012. "[Use of Animals by NATO Countries in Military Medical Training Exercises: An International Survey.](#)" *Military Medicine* 177(8): 907-10.
- Goodman, Justin R., Casey A. Borch, and Elizabeth Cherry. 2012. "[Mounting Opposition to Vivisection.](#)" *Contexts* 11: 68-69.
- Irvine, Leslie. 2013. [My Dog Always Eats First: Homeless People and their Animals.](#) Boulder CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers
- Irvine, Leslie. 2013. "[Animals as Lifechangers and Lifesavers: Pets in the Redemption Narratives of Homeless People.](#)" *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 42: 3-30.
- Irvine, Leslie. 2012. "[Sociology and Anthrozoology: Symbolic Interactionist Contributions.](#)" *Anthrozoös* 25 (supplement):123-137
- Irvine, Leslie, Kristina N. Kahl, and Jesse M. Smith. 2012. "[Confrontations and Donations: Encounters between Homeless Pet Owners and the Public..](#)" *The Sociological Quarterly* 53: 25–43.
- Jerolmack, Colin. 2013. [The Global Pigeon](#) Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Nibert, David, Corey Wrenn, and Carol Glasser. 2012. "[Animal Exploration.](#)" *American Sociological Association Footnotes* 40 (5): 14.
- Thompson, Carol Y. 2012. "[The Contested Meaning of Feral Cats in the Workplace.](#)" *Journal for Critical Animal Studies* 10 (4): 78-108.
- Wrenn, Corey Lee. 2012. "[The Abolitionist Approach: Critical Comparisons and Challenges within the Animal Rights Movement.](#)" *Interface: A Journal for and about Social Movements* 4 (2): 438-458.
- Wrenn, Corey Lee. 2012. "[Applying Social Movement Theory to Nonhuman Rights Mobilization and the Importance of Faction Hierarchies.](#)" *Peace Studies Journal* 5 (3): 27-44.
- York, Richard and Philip Mancus. 2013. "The Invisible Animal: Anthrozoology and Macrosociology." *Sociological Theory* 31(1).

NEW RESOURCES

The Animals and Society Institute has launched **Student Animals and Society Institute (SASI) chapters** that are student groups—either undergraduate, graduate, or both—that are affiliated with the ASI and share its mission of helping animals by promoting human-animal studies in colleges and universities.

If you are an undergraduate or graduate student interested in forming a Student Animals and Society Institute (SASI) chapter, please visit the ASI [page on how to start an SASI chapter](#).

NEW BOOKS

Animals and Society: An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies

Margo DeMello

Columbia University Press

Considering that much of human society is structured through its interaction with non-human animals, and since human society relies heavily on the exploitation of animals to serve human needs, human-animal studies has become a rapidly expanding field of research, featuring a number of distinct positions, perspectives, and theories that require nuanced explanation and contextualization.

The first book to provide a full overview of human-animal studies, this volume focuses on the conceptual construction of animals in American culture and the way in which it reinforces and perpetuates hierarchical human relationships rooted in racism, sexism, and class privilege. Margo DeMello considers interactions between humans and animals within the family, the law, the religious and political system, and other major social institutions, and she unpacks the different identities humans fashion for themselves and for others through animals. Essays also cover speciesism and evolutionary continuities; the role and preservation of animals in the wild; the debate over zoos and the use of animals in sports; domestication; agricultural practices such as factory farming; vivisection; animal cruelty; animal activism; the representation of animals in literature and film; and animal ethics. Sidebars highlight contemporary controversies and issues, with recommendations for additional reading, educational films, and related websites. DeMello concludes with an analysis of major philosophical positions on human social policy and the future of human-animal relations. [Click here for more information](#)

Animal Rights Without Liberation

Alasdair Cochrane

Columbia University Press

Alasdair Cochrane introduces an entirely new theory of animal rights grounded in their interests as sentient beings. He then applies this theory to different and underexplored policy areas, such as genetic engineering, pet-keeping, indigenous hunting, and religious slaughter. In contrast to other proponents of animal rights, Cochrane claims that because most sentient animals are not autonomous agents, they have no intrinsic interest in liberty. As such, he argues that our obligations to animals lie in ending practices that cause their suffering and death and do not require the liberation of animals.

Cochrane's "interest-based rights approach" weighs the interests of animals to determine which is sufficient to impose strict duties on humans. In so doing, Cochrane acknowledges that sentient animals have a clear and discernable right not to be made to suffer and not to be killed, but he argues that they do not have a prima facie right to liberty. Because most animals possess no interest in leading freely chosen lives, humans have no moral obligation to liberate them. Moving beyond theory to the practical aspects of applied ethics, this pragmatic volume provides much-needed perspective on the realities and responsibilities of the human-animal relationship. [Click here](#) for more information.

NEW BOOKS

Defiant Daughters: 21 Women on Art, Activism, Animals, and the Sexual Politics of Meat

Foreword by Carol J. Adams

Lantern Books

When *The Sexual Politics of Meat: A Feminist-Vegetarian Critical Theory* by Carol J. Adams was published more than twenty years ago, it caused a immediate stir among writers and thinkers, feminists and animal rights activists alike. Never before had the relationship between patriarchy and meat eating been drawn so clearly, the idea that there lies a strong connection between the consumption of women and animals so plainly asserted.

But, as the 21 personal stories in this anthology show, the impact of this provocative, groundbreaking text on women's lives continues to this day, and it is as diverse as it is revelatory. One writer attempts to reconcile her feminist-vegan beliefs with her Muslim upbringing; a second makes the connection between animal abuse and her own self-destructive tendencies. A new mother discusses the sexual politics of breastfeeding, while another pens a letter to her young son about all she wishes for him in the future. Many others recall how the book inspired them to start careers in the music business, animal advocacy, and food. No matter whether they first read it in college or later in life, whether they are in their late teens or early forties, these writers all credit *The Sexual Politics of Meat* in some way with the awakening of their identities as feminists, activists, and women.

Including a foreword from Carol J. Adams herself, this collection of fresh, bold voices defy expectations and bring *The Sexual Politics of Meat* into the context of an entirely new generation. Even if you haven't read the original work, you're sure to think differently about the representation of women and the eating of animals, and how the two of them are irrevocably intertwined. [Click here](#) for more information.

Without Offending Humans: A Critique of Animal Rights

Élisabeth de Fontenay

Translated by Will Bishop

University of Minnesota Press

Élisabeth de Fontenay describes philosophy's ongoing indifference to animal life—shading into savagery, underpinned by denial—and explains how attempts to exclude the animal from ethical systems have demeaned humanity. *Without Offending Humans* reveals a careful and emotionally sensitive thinker who explores the unfolding of humans' assessments of their relationship to animals—and the consequences for how we define ourselves. For more information, including the table of contents, visit the book's webpage:

<http://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/without-offending-humans>.

Worm Work: Recasting Romanticism

Janelle A. Schwartz

University of Minnesota Press

Rehabilitating the lowly worm into a powerful aesthetic trope, Janelle A. Schwartz proposes a framework for understanding such a strangely animate nature. Offering the worm as an archetypal figure to recast the evolution of a literary order alongside questions of taxonomy from 1740 to 1820 and on, Schwartz unearths Romanticism as a rich humus of natural historical investigation and literary creation. For more information, including the table of contents, visit the book's webpage: <http://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/worm-work>

CONFERENCES

1st Annual Conference of Students for Critical Animal Studies

Theme: Social Justice, Students and Animals”

February 1-3, 2013

Vassar College

This conference aims to raise consciousness and prompt conversation among current students about the oppression of non-human animals. This will be achieved through examination of intersections between the domination of other animals and the domination of certain social groups. The conference will emphasize direct action strategies for both animal liberation and other social change movements, incorporating academic theory and praxis. Finally, this conference will launch “Students for Critical Animal Studies” — a new group with the goal of organizing student activists committed to animal rights into a larger community with formal ties — therefore aiming to strengthen bonds between student activists through social events and facilitated collaboration. [Click here](#) for more information and contact studentsforcas@gmail.com with any questions or comments.

Living With Animals conference

March 21 –23, 2013

Eastern Kentucky University

EKU will host "Living with Animals," including the subthemes, "Teaching with Animals" and "Living with Horses." This conference has special relevance to the venue. Eastern Kentucky University, located in Richmond just south of Lexington, ‘The Horse Capital of the World’, began offering the first undergraduate degree in Animal Studies in 2010. [Click here](#) for more information.

The Human-Animal Bond Symposium and Service Award Dinner

May 3, 2013

Virginia Tech University

The VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's Center for Animal Human Relationships (CENTAUR) presents a one-day symposium, The Animal-Human Experience: Exploring the Bond. Experts from multidisciplinary fields will gather to explore the benefits and challenges of human-animal interactions, service and therapies. This symposium will be followed by the Booker Willoughby Service Award Ceremony and Dinner. This event recognizes excellence in training, utilizing and caring for service animals, and awardees are selected via application through the efforts of Omega Tau Sigma (OTS) Veterinary Fraternity and a panel of experts in the field. Applications are accepted in the categories of educational programs, service animal programs and medical care programs.

For more information and to register please visit: www.cpe.vt.edu/hab/

22nd Annual Conference of the International Society of Anthrozoology

Theme: Evidence-based Approaches to the Study of Human-Animal Interactions

July 18-19, 2013

The 22nd Annual ISAZ Conference will focus on the general theme of evidence-based approaches to the study of human-animal interactions. For more information, [click here](#).

CALLS FOR PAPERS

22nd Annual Conference of the International Society for Anthrozoology

July 18-19, 2013 – Chicago IL, USA

Evidence-based Approaches to the Study of Human-Animal Interactions: Past, Current, and Future Research Directions

The International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ) invites submission of both oral (15 minutes total) and poster abstracts for its 22nd Annual Conference which will be held in Chicago, IL, USA on July 18-19th, 2013. The Conference will focus on the general theme of evidence-based approaches to the study of human-animal interactions, although free papers on other relevant topics are also encouraged.

Abstracts must be in English, can be no longer than 300 words, and should be concise, informative and explicit. All abstracts should be prepared in MS Word format and state clearly whether an oral or poster presentation is preferred. Abstracts for oral presentations that are not selected may be eligible for presentation as posters. A sample abstract is provided for reference below. Submissions should be sent by email only to: James Serpell at: serpell@vet.upenn.edu. Further abstract submission details and information about ISAZ 2013 are available on the ISAZ website: <http://www.isaz.net/conferences.html>. **Deadline for abstract submission: January 31st, 2013.**

TRIVIA: Voices of Feminism

Theme Issue: Animal Instincts

Issue Editors: Lisa Jean Moore and Breanne Fahs

The editors of *TRIVIA: Voices of Feminism* invite you to consider the theme of “animal instincts,” focused on the intersections of animals, feminisms, sexualities, and women’s lives. This issue considers, engages with, and challenges longstanding distinctions constructed between “human” animals and “non-human” animals – a vexing concern for feminism, especially given women’s historical equation with animality.

TRIVIA: Voices of Feminism seeks writing and visual art, in any genre, that creatively takes up the theme of animal instincts in ways consistent with our mission. For information about suggested topics, [click here](#). Submissions should be **completed** (not in abstract or draft form). Word limits: Fiction, creative nonfiction, and essays: 5000 words; Interviews: 1000 words; Poetry: As negotiated with editors. We also welcome visual art.

The deadline for all “Animal Instinct” submissions is **July 1, 2013**, for a launch date of October 1, 2013. Please use our online submission system, Submittable. If you have trouble with this system, use our contact page to email us.

Second Annual Animal Ethics Workshop

Emory University's Center for Ethics

April 5th, 2013

This year's theme is Bestly Morality. We welcome project proposals at any stage of development from any discipline that investigate the implications of the increasing evidence that other species also judge actions against standards of right and wrong, good and bad, and adjust their behaviors accordingly. For more information on submitting proposals, and about the event, [click here](#). **Proposals are due no later than February 1st, 2013** to: jonathan.k.crane@emory.edu.

FAREWELL LETTER FROM PAST-CHAIR

Dear Section Members,

My term as Chair of the Animals & Society Section ended this past summer. Angela Mertig took over for me at the Annual Meeting in Denver and she is already doing an excellent job.

Along with a new chair, Elizabeth Cherry (Manhattanville College) is the new Chair-elect. Colter Ellis (Center for Rural Studies at Sam Houston State University) is the secretary/treasurer, Ivy Collier (National Wildlife Federation) is the new council member and Nicole Owens (University of Central Florida) is the new student representative. Please join me in congratulating all of them.

The newsletter, as always, showcases some of the accomplishment of our section's members. While we may be a small group, it is clear from what is published here and presented at our annual meetings that our hard work is expanding across the discipline.

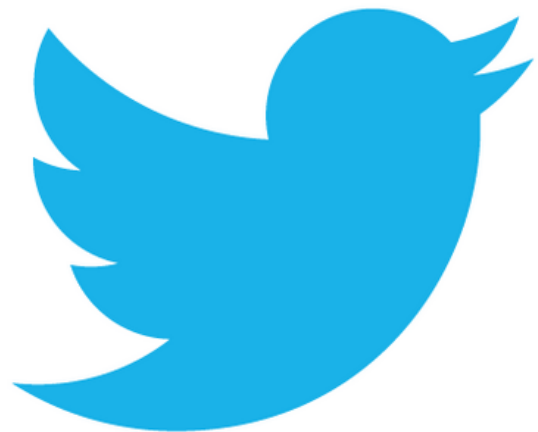
Thank you all for your contributions to this important field.

Jessica Greenebaum
Past-Chair

***FOLLOW US FOR NEWS, CALLS FOR PAPERS,
SECTION UPDATES AND MORE***



[Facebook.com/AnimalsAndSocietyASA](https://www.facebook.com/AnimalsAndSocietyASA)



[Twitter.com/Animals_Society](https://twitter.com/Animals_Society)

Animals and Society



American Sociological Association

COUNCIL MEMBERS & TERMS

Thomas Dietz (2013)
Michigan State University
tdietzvt@gmail.com

Michael Ramirez (2013)
Texas A&M, Corpus Christi
michael.ramirez@tamucc.edu

Justin Goodman (2014)
Marymount University/PETA
justinrossgoodman@gmail.com

David Nibert (2014)
Wittenberg University
dnibert@wittenberg.edu

Ivy Collier (2015)
National Wildlife Federation
collier.ivy@gmail.com

Student Representative

Nicole Owens(2015)
University of Central Florida
owens.nicole.ucf@knights.ucf.edu

Animals & Society Section Officers

Chair (2012-2013)

Angela Mertig
Middle Tennessee State University
amertig@mtsu.edu

Chair-Elect (2012-2013)

Elizabeth Cherry
Manhattanville College
Elizabeth.cherry@mville.edu

Past Chair

Jessica Greenebaum
Central Connecticut State University
greenebaumj@ccsu.edu

Secretary-Treasurer

Colter Ellis
Sam Houston State University
colter.ellis@shsu.edu

Newsletter Editor

Loredana Loy
New York University
Loredana.loy@nyu.edu

Webmaster

Helene and Larry Lawson
lawson@pitt.edu