



ANIMALS & SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2006

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS ISSUE:

**ANNUAL MEETING—
CALL FOR PAPERS** 2

**JANE GOODALL
AWARD RECIPIENTS** 3

**“JUST A DOG:
UNDERSTANDING
ANIMAL CRUELTY
AND OURSELVES” BY
ARNOLD ARLUKE** 3

**PICTURES FROM THE
2006 ANIMALS &
SOCIETY RECEPTION** 4

**NEW ANIMAL/HUMAN
STUDIES GROUP** 6

**CALL FOR PAPERS—
SPECIAL ISSUE OF
HUMANITY AND
SOCIETY** 7

**THINKING ABOUT
ANIMALS
CONFERENCE** 8

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

Animals and Society, the official publication of the American Sociological Association Section on Animals and Society, is edited by Tracey Smith-Harris, Department of Anthropology & Sociology, Cape Breton University, PO Box 5300, Sydney, NS B1P 6L2, Fax: (902) 563-1247, Email: tracey_smith@cbu.ca

Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome.

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR—LESLIE IRVINE

I want to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and a great New Year. Please remember to renew your membership in the Association and the Section before the end of the year. We are a small section but our numbers have remained steady. We still need you! Now is also a good time to reward an outstanding student with a section membership.

Once the grading is finished, we can turn our attention to those papers we intend to submit for presentation at the 2007 ASA meetings. In addition to filling our section session, I hope you'll contribute your work on animals and society to panels in other sections, as well. By presenting our work to other specialty areas, we'll help spread the word that sociology's picture of the world is incomplete without non-human animals.

I'll be in regular contact via the listserv. As always, please share your news and notes related to human-animal studies with me so I can send them to the members.

Regards to all,

Leslie Irvine

AWARDS FOR DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP & GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Award for Distinguished Scholarship

The Animals & Society Section announces its 2007 Award for Distinguished Scholarship. This year the award will be given to the author(s) of a book that makes a significant empirical or theoretical contribution to the sociological understanding of animals and society. The book must have been published between the 2004 through 2006 calendar years, and must be a treatise as the committee will not consider textbooks, edited volumes, or articles for this award. To nominate such a work (self-nominations are acceptable), please provide the author(s), the title of the book, the publisher, the publication date in a letter (maximum 2 pages) outlining why you believe this work is a substantial contribution to the field. A book may be nominated more than once as long as its publication date falls within the appropriate time frame. The deadline for nominations is February 1st, 2007. A copy of the book should be sent with the letter to Dr. Janet M. Alger, 720 Western Avenue, Albany, NY 12203. The author(s) of the selected work will be honored at the Animals & Society reception at the 2007 annual meeting of ASA.

Award for Distinguished Graduate Student Scholarship

The Animals & Society Section announces its 2007 Award for Distinguished Graduate Scholarship. Papers may be empirical or theoretical and they may be on any aspect of animals and society. To be eligible, a paper must 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 advisor certifying your graduate student status. Papers must be postmarked by March 15th, 2007 and winners will be honored at the Animals & Society reception at the 2007 annual meeting of ASA. One hard copy of the paper should be sent to Dr. Janet M. Alger, 720 Western Avenue, Albany, NY 12203. One e-mailed copy should be sent as a word document to alger@siena.edu or janet.alger@verizon.net

ASA ANNUAL MEETING, AUGUST 11-14, NEW YORK CITY— ANIMALS & SOCIETY SESSION CALL FOR PAPERS

The section of Animals & Society will have one session at the upcoming ASA Annual meeting in New York City. The session is called "Bridging the Divide: Connecting Human-Animal Studies to Other Research Areas" and will be held on Monday, August 13th. Human-Animal Studies offers the promise for expanding our understanding of the social world. This session will explore the connections between human-animal studies and fields of study such as social psychology, gender studies, environmental sociology, science and technology, occupations, and others. The goal of this session is to highlight the numerous roles that animals play in various social phenomena

Organizer: Keri Brandt, Fort Lewis College

The 2007 Call for Papers submissions process is entirely online. Papers submitted directly to session organizers (by mail, fax, or other forms of transmission) outside of the online system are not considered viable submissions. Authors who are considering making a submission to this year's Call for Papers process are strongly encouraged to review the policies and procedures prior to submitting their paper(s).

The Online Submission System is now open! Below you will find all the resources needed to submit to this year's Call for Papers. All submission policies and criteria are outlined below. You may also view the roster of topics that are available this year. Please review the materials below in preparation for making your submission(s). **The deadline for submitting your paper is January 17, 2007.**

WINNERS OF THE 2006 JANE GOODALL FELLOWSHIP**Winners of the 2007 Jane Goodall Fellowships**

Congratulations to Laura Lynes (Royal Roads University, Victoria, BC, Canada) and Michael Ramirez (University of Georgia), who will receive Jane Goodall Fellowships for 2007. Laura's research examines interaction between humans and bears in Alberta's Bow Valley. Her work has potential application for the implementation of bear management strategies in communities where humans and bears co-exist, as does the potential for conflict with life-threatening consequences. Michael's work focuses on guardians' "identity work" with dogs. In particular, he examines how guardians construct gendered identities for their dogs and, in doing so, maintain and/or enhance their own self-concepts. His paper, "My Dog's Just Like Me" Dog Ownership as Gender Display," appears in the most recent issue of *Symbolic Interaction*.

You can reach Laura at lslynes@telus.net, and Michael at mramirez@uga.edu

These annual Fellowships honor Jane Goodall's work in broadening our awareness of the capacities of non-human animals. The awards pay for membership fees in the ASA and the Animals & Society Section for one year. Fellows contribute a research note on their own work or a short book review on an appropriate volume for publication in the Section newsletter.

**NEW BOOK BY SECTION MEMBER ARNOLD ARLUKE**

[Just a Dog: Understanding Animal Cruelty and Ourselves](#) (2006, Temple University Press)

Psychiatrists define cruelty to animals as a psychological problem or personality disorder. Legally, animal cruelty is described by a list of behaviors. In *Just a Dog*, Arnold Arluke argues that our current constructs of animal cruelty are decontextualized—imposed without regard to the experience of the groups committing the act. Yet those who engage in animal cruelty have their own understandings of their actions and of themselves as actors. In this fascinating book, Arluke probes those understandings and reveals the surprising complexities of our relationships with animals. *Just a Dog* draws from interviews with more than 250 people, including humane agents who enforce cruelty laws, college students who tell stories of childhood abuse of animals, hoarders who chronically neglect the welfare of many animals, shelter workers who cope with the ethics of euthanizing animals, and public relations experts who use incidents of animal cruelty for fundraising purposes. Through these case studies, Arluke shows how the meaning of "cruelty" reflects and helps to create identities and ideologies.

ANIMALS & SOCIETY RECEPTION—ASA 2006 ANNUAL MEETING

Pictures from the Animals & Society section reception this past August in Montreal. Thanks to Helene Lawson for taking the photos.



CALL FOR PAPERS—HUMAN-ANIMAL STUDIES SESSION AT THE SSSP

The theme of the 2007 Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting (New York City, August 10-12, 2007) is "Research Matters: Creating Knowledge, Policy and Justice". Fittingly, a session entitled "Linking the Cycles of Violence: Research on Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence" is being organized by Lisa Zilney. For more information on how to submit a proposal, go to www.sssp1.org
For more information on the session, contact Lisa Zilney at lisa.zilney@montclair.edu

2006 JANE GOODALL AWARD RECIPIENT—TORI BYINGTON

First, let me thank the members of the Animals and Society section of the American Sociological Association for selecting me as a recipient of the 2006 Jane Goodall Fellowship. This recognition by the section and the personal note from Dr. Goodall was very poignant for me. Growing up on a farm, and later working as a veterinary virologist, offered me many opportunities to reflect on Dr. Goodall's work. A force behind my own research is a concern that the current educational training practices in the sciences, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines discourages individuals with unique perspectives and experiences, not unlike Dr. Goodall, from pursuing careers in these fields.

With this in mind I designed my dissertation research to explore how social resources shape women's and men's decisions to pursue advanced graduate training in STEM fields. While there are many different kinds of social resources, research conducted in educational and occupational settings suggests that social ties with mentors may be especially influential. I utilized a multilevel design to examine how third year veterinary medical students at 23 of the 27 US colleges of veterinary medicine differ in their pursuit of graduate training—in particular I examined: (1) how individual characteristics influence women and men's career intentions, (2) gender differences in students' access to mentors, and (3) how features of the larger organizational context such as size, resources, and demographics shape and condition the effects of mentoring.

I chose to study Veterinary Medicine in part because it has long been associated with male practitioners and male educators and in part because of the speed at which it is feminizing. Veterinary programs in the United States accepted female students only rarely in the first half of the twentieth century (Association for Women Veterinarians, 1997). It was not until the 1970's that the number of female veterinary medical students began to increase. Approximately 11,700 students are currently enrolled at the 27 accredited colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States, 74% of which are female (AAVMC, 2005). By 2015, the American Veterinary Medical Association predicts that women will make up 78% of the professional student population (Brown & Silverman, 1999). This increase in female enrollment is due to a number of factors including the construction of several new colleges of veterinary medicine, increased class size at existing schools, and the passage of the Title IX Legislation in 1972. In addition, fewer men are applying for admission.

My research shows that sex differences in mentoring does occur. Female students are less likely than male students to have a mentor and to have a mentor their same sex. In addition, the sex composition of the relationship affected mentoring characteristics and outcomes. Furthermore, female students with faculty mentors who were primarily researchers were more likely to have plans to seek graduate training than were male students or female students with other mentor types. The percent of female students and percent of tenured female faculty at a college was also shown to significantly influence female students' educational and career decisions.

In closing, these findings have implications for understanding the complexity underlying women's participation in STEM and for policies and practices that support mentoring in STEM disciplines. Because veterinary medicine is a rapidly feminizing field it may offer us a preview of the processes of feminization that may occur in other traditionally masculine disciplines such as physics and engineering.

REFERENCES

- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. (2005). *Comparative data report*. Washington, DC: AAVMC.
- Association for Women Veterinarians. (1997). *Our history of women in veterinary medicine: Gumption, race, grit, and good humor*. Madison, WI: Omnipress.
- Brown, J.P., & Silverman, J.D. (1999). The current and future market for veterinarians and veterinary medical services in the United States. *Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association*, 215, 161-183.

BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION—ANIMAL/HUMAN STUDIES GROUP (AHSG)**Background**

The study of animal-human relations within the social sciences is an increasingly important, vibrant and burgeoning field. The formation of the BSA Animal/Human Studies Group in June 2006 is therefore an important step towards addressing what Bryant (1979) has called the 'zoological connection', whereby sociologists need to recognize that people *co-exist* and interact not only with humans but *with non-human animals too*. For example, animals are increasingly utilized and involved in biotechnology and genomics; animal experimentation; the production and slaughter of food animals; companion animal-human type relationships and the therapeutic use of animals. Moreover, additional animal-related issues that have attracted attention by researchers are: the potential links between animal abuse and domestic violence; the nature of animal-animal interaction; potential links between women, nature and animals; bestiality; human-wildlife interactions; and human responses to companion animal death/euthanasia. Sociologists have much to offer this emerging area of study and are well placed to engage with the multifaceted, ambiguous and challenging nature of the animal-human interface in everyday life.

The BSA Animal/Human Studies Group will enable both current and future sociologists to put non-human animals on to the specialist and mainstream sociological research agenda, thus ensuring that animal-human studies becomes a viable and significant area of sociological study. [References](#)

Aims and Objectives

- To develop a sociological forum whereby animals and their relations with humans can be studied from a variety of sociological (and cognate) viewpoints, and to provide a specialist research forum for academics, researchers and students who share a professional interest in incorporating non-human animals into the discipline of sociology.
- To create a research database of animal-related research projects (including PhDs) carried out by sociologists initially in the UK. If you know of any such work please contact Rebecca.Tipper@manchester.ac.uk who will be overseeing this particular project.
- To identify gaps in the emerging animal-human studies research agenda.
- To create opportunities for networking and research collaboration with colleagues from other social science disciplines (such as anthropology, cultural studies, gender studies, geographers, historians, law, philosophy, and psychology) who are interested in and actively researching animal-human related issues.

Joining the Group

Membership of the AHSG is **free** for all BSA members, students and unwaged, but non-BSA members with institutional support are asked to pay a one-off joining fee of £27.00. All members of the study group will automatically receive a quarterly e-mail newsletter and be registered on the study group's e-mailing list to be kept fully informed of the study group's activities. To join, **complete the membership form** by either (a) saving the form to your PC, complete it, save it and email or (b) complete online, print a copy and post. Please send completed forms to the group's convenor, Dr Rhoda Wilkie - all contact details are on the form & also below.

Contributions to the AHSG e-Newsletter

If you have any information and/or news items to be included in the AHSG e-newsletter please contact Dr Rebekah Fox at Rebekah.Fox@rhul.ac.uk

Contact the convenor:

Dr Rhoda Wilkie, Department of Sociology, School of Social Science, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, AB24 3QY, Email: r.m.wilkie@abdn.ac.uk

Tel: 01224-274353

CALL FOR PAPERS—HUMANITY & SOCIETY SPECIAL ISSUE

Humanity & Society invites submissions for a Special Issue dedicated to the exploration of connections between the oppression of animals and broader issues of social injustice. Scholars who study the role of animals in society often point out that human domination over animals manifests the same abuse of power seen in sexism, racism, heterosexism, and other forms of oppression. Some argue that the practices used in enslavement of other human beings originated in the treatment of non-human animals. A substantial body of research investigates the link between abuse of animals and violence directed at humans.

Some might fear that comparisons of human and animal oppression devalue the notion of human rights. However, as philosopher Steven Best has argued, including animal rights in the discussion “redeems the prevailing humanist notions of rights from an arbitrary and prejudicial limitation of their meaning and scope.” The exploitation of animals negatively affects humans. Workable solutions to numerous social problems entail rethinking our relationship to animals and the natural environment.

This special issue, titled “Social Justice and the Animal Question” and edited by Leslie Irvine, will frame debates about animals and their centrality to broader issues of power and oppression. A range of papers that thoughtfully examine the moral landscape of human-animal relations is encouraged. Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- Portrayals of humans and non-human animals in scientific and political discourse
- Speciesism, racism, and sexism: oppression in language
- Objectification of humans and non-human animals
- Consequences of factory farming and the animal industrial complex
- Links between animal liberation and other radical democratic projects
- Links between animal liberation and feminism

Manuscripts should not exceed 30 double-spaced pages of text, plus notes and references, and should follow the “Notice to Contributors” guidelines supplied at <http://www.humanistsociology.org>. Authors should include both an Abstract and a Reflexive Statement explaining his or her commitment to and personal involvement in efforts to alleviate the form of injustice addressed in the manuscript. Articles using a conventional scholarly format as well as personal essays and policy “think” pieces are welcome.

Papers should be submitted via email to Ann Goetting, the Executive Editor, at humanityandsociety@wku.edu. Identify submissions with the keyword: Animals. Address queries to Leslie Irvine at irvine@colorado.edu. Deadline for submission is **July 1, 2007**.

CALL FOR PAPERS—THINKING ABOUT ANIMALS CONFERENCE**Call for Papers****Thinking About Animals: Domination, Captivity, Liberation****Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada****March 15-16, 2007****Submissions: January 15, 2007**

To celebrate the creation of a new Concentration and Minor in Critical Animal Studies, and as part of our commitment to engaged scholarship directed towards social justice, the Department of Sociology at Brock University is organizing a conference on the theme of "Domination, Captivity, Liberation" to be held at Brock campus on March 15-16, 2007. We are pleased to co-sponsor this event with Niagara Action for Animals, a local non-profit, all-volunteer charity devoted to ending all forms of animal cruelty through education, direct action and legitimate protest.

We are all at a critical moment. The existing order of global capitalism and industrialization is unsustainable, directly linked with global warming and massive extinction of species. New social movements offer an alternative future and require a different consciousness about our place in the world. The animal liberation movement, once dismissed as a "single-issue" cause is increasingly recognized as the logical next step in a broader emancipatory struggle. As Steve Best states in his essay "The New Abolitionism: Capitalism, Slavery and Human Emancipation."

Animal liberation is not an alien concept to modern culture; rather it builds on the most progressive ethical and political values Westerners have devised in the last two hundred years —those of equality, democracy, and rights — as it carries them to their logical conclusion. The next great step in moral evolution is to abolish the last acceptable form of slavery that subjugates the vast majority of species on this planet to the violent whim of one. Moral advance today involves sending human supremacy to the same refuse bin that society earlier discarded much male supremacy and white supremacy. Animal liberation requires that people transcend the complacent boundaries of humanism in order to make a qualitative leap in ethical consideration, thereby moving the moral bar from reason and language to sentience and subjectivity. (http://www.drstevebest.org/papers/vegenvani/new_abolitionism.php)

While Best and others recognize animal advocacy as a social movement that should be seen in the context of other challenges to corporate globalization and struggles for social justice, a growing number of universities have been adding courses that explore various dimensions of our relationships with other animals. At the same time, deep divisions have developed within the animal liberation movement itself, as outlined in Gary Francione's *Rain Without Thunder*. Many of those in the animal rights movement, such as Peter Singer, whose *Animal Liberation* is widely credited as a key text in the movement, have moved to reformist positions that embrace "humane slaughter" while People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals applauds McDonald's hamburger corporation and kills pound animals. Meanwhile, the animal exploitation industries and government have imposed new laws such as the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act in the USA.

This conference is intended as a opportunity for discussion of these developments. The conference is open to all and we invite participation from academics and activists. Those who register in advance will have the option of purchasing vegan meals.

Proposals for papers and panels are invited and activist groups may request a table for display of their material. Deadline for proposals: January 15, 2007

Proposals will be reviewed by the organizing committee and those whose abstracts have been accepted will be notified by email. Please indicate any special needs and/or equipment requests well in advance.

Please submit an abstract of approximately 500 words to: animalconference@brocku.ca

JOB OPENING—BROCK UNIVERSITY

Word is that the area is open but the position could go to somebody with an interest in animal rights, and that person could take up a permanent position in Sociology afterwards, as Sociology is creating a concentration in Critical Animal Studies.

Canada Research Chair - Tier II - Social Justice

Posting #: F 33/2006

Posted: Aug 29, 2006

Employment Status: Assistant or Associate Professor

Start: 2007-07-01

Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences

Department: Multidisciplinary Research Collaboration - Faculty of Social Sciences

Responsibilities:

Brock University seeks an outstanding scholar for a Tier II Canada Research Chair in SOCIAL JUSTICE. The purpose of this appointment is to enhance multidisciplinary research collaboration among centres and departments within the Faculty of Social Sciences with a focus on analyzing local, national, and global processes related to struggles for equality and recognition.

The successful candidate will be appointed to a centre or department in the Faculty of Social Sciences (Child and Youth Studies; Communications, Popular Culture and Film; Economics; Geography; Labour Studies; Political Science; Psychology; Sociology; Tourism and Environment; Women's Studies). The successful applicant may also participate in a range of the Faculty's departmental and interdisciplinary graduate programs (Applied Disabilities Studies, Popular Culture, Social Justice and Equity Studies). The appointment will be at the Assistant or Associate Professor level and will commence July 1, 2007. This is a permanent tenure-stream position. The appointment may be made on either a tenured or probationary basis. The position has research and teaching responsibilities, but carries a reduced teaching load as a reflection of expectations about research.

Qualifications:

The successful candidate must have a demonstrated ability to attract SSHRC or similar research funds as well as clear potential to be a leader in the field of social justice, and a strong (emerging) national and international scholarly presence, and the potential for an excellent teaching and graduate supervision record. The position comes with additional funding through the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) for equipment. Located at the centre of Canada's beautiful Niagara Peninsula in Ontario, one hour from Toronto, Brock offers strong undergraduate, graduate and interdisciplinary degree programs that include co-op and other experiential learning opportunities to a student population of over 16,000. The Niagara region offers many cultural and recreational opportunities in a mixture of urban and rural settings.

Submit curriculum vitae, statement of research interests and plans, statement of teaching interests, and list of potential referees to: David Siegel, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Brock University, 500 Glenridge Avenue, St. Catharines, Ontario L2S 3A1. Consideration of applications will begin on December 1, 2006, but the competition will remain open until a suitable candidate is identified. Applicants and nominations from Canada and elsewhere are encouraged. Brock University hires on the basis of merit and is committed to the principle of equity in employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified candidates but strongly encourage applications from women, persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons.

Application Deadline: Dec 31, 2006

Animals & Society

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Amy J. Fitzgerald & Nicole R. Pallotta

2 Year Council

Jessica Greenebaum & Helene Lawson

3 Year Council

Rebecca Plante & Tracey Smith-Harris

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CALL FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The next issue of the Animals & Society newsletter will be published in the spring, 2007.

Please send material to Tracey Smith-Harris.

Via email: tracey_smith@cbu.ca

By fax: 902-563-1247

Regular mail: Department of Anthropology & Sociology,

Cape Breton University, PO Box 5300, Sydney, Nova Scotia,

Canada, B1P 6L2