

Animals and Society



American Sociological Association

ISSUE 14

# ANIMALS & SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NOV/DEC 2010

## NOTE FROM THE CHAIR – TRACEY HARRIS

Dear Section Members,

At the Annual Meeting in Atlanta we had a thought-provoking session on “Cutting-Edge Research on Animals & Society”. This panel was well attended and it was great to see many familiar faces as well as some potential recruits. I hope that the turnout at our sessions in Chicago will be even higher. Please consider submitting a paper for our Section Session on “Human Consumptive Practices and the Exploitation of Other Animals” and plan to attend the exciting Thematic Session on “Human/Animal Conflict: Sociological Considerations” that has been organized by Janet and Steven Alger and features presentations by several section members.

The strength of a section is often measured by its membership roster, attendance at annual meeting section events, the membership’s willingness to run for elected positions, and the number of nominations for section awards. We remain strong in many of these areas but certainly should continue to strive to increase our numbers, perhaps by encouraging other ASA members to join our section. The more members we have, the more sessions we are guaranteed at the Annual Meeting and the more we can draw attention to the significant work being done by our members. Please remember to renew your membership by the December 31st deadline. The link to the ASA online membership system: <http://www.asanet.org/members/join.cfm>.

Related to the important strengths of this section, please consider running for an elected position and/or nominating someone for one of our section awards. This year we are looking for nominations for the Distinguished Scholarship Award, Distinguished Graduate Student Scholarship Award, and our new teaching award. The Clifton Bryant Animals & Society Course Award is a tribute to the achievements of Clifton Bryant who passed away in September. This award honors the important contribution that he made to the area of human-animal studies. Please consider nominating someone who demonstrates this same commitment to human-animal studies through their teaching at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Finally, I would like to thank Justin Goodman our new newsletter editor. I think that you will all agree that the newsletter looks amazing!

Wishing you peace and happiness during this holiday season and in the coming year,

Tracey Harris  
Section Chair

**ASA ANNUAL MEETING IN CHICAGO, IL— AUG 13-16, 2011**

The 2011 Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago, Illinois from August 13-16, 2011. Please consider submitting a paper to be considered for the Animals and Society Section Session, entitled “Human Consumptive Practices and the Exploitation of Other Animals” being held during the Annual Meeting of the ASA . All submissions must be made through the ASA online submission system. This system opens on **December 1, 2010 and closes on January 13, 2011 at 3pmEST.** If you have any questions about the session, please contact Tracey Harris [[tracey\\_harris@cbu.ca](mailto:tracey_harris@cbu.ca)].

**ANNUAL AWARDS FOR DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP**Award for Distinguished Graduate Student Scholarship

The Animals & Society section announces its 2011 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, 2011** to: Tracey Harris, [tracey\\_harris@cbu.ca](mailto:tracey_harris@cbu.ca)

Award for Distinguished Scholarship

The 2011 award will be given for distinguished scholarship in the form of a book 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 2009 or 2010 calendar year. To nominate a book (self-nominations are acceptable), please provide the author(s), the title of the book, the relevant book information, the publication date, and a two page letter outlining why you believe this work is a substantial contribution to the field.

The deadline for nominations is **February 1st, 2011** and should be sent to Tracey Harris, [tracey\\_harris@cbu.ca](mailto:tracey_harris@cbu.ca)

The Clifton Bryant Animals & Society Course Award

The ASA Section on Animals & Society seeks nominations for the 2011 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 **January 31, 2011**. Application portfolios must be received by March 31, 2011. Nominations should be send to Tracey Harris ([tracey\\_harris@cbu.ca](mailto:tracey_harris@cbu.ca)).

**SECTION ELECTIONS**

Elections for ASA sections are upon us; the Animals and Society section is seeking nomination for a Chair-Elect (for 2012-13) and for one Council Member (three year term). If you would like to run for one of these positions, please send your name, contact information, and a brief biographical statement to the Nominations Officer (Brian Lowe): [lowebm@oneonta.edu](mailto:lowebm@oneonta.edu)

N.B.: ONLY regular members may run; ASA rules prevent Associate members from running for offices. Please submit these materials by **10 December 2010.**

## MEMBER'S NEWS

- In the September 2010 issue of *Sociological Forum*, section member **Elizabeth Cherry** published an [article](#) called, "Shifting Symbolic Boundaries: Cultural Strategies of the Animal Rights Movement."
- In the Summer 2010 issue of *Contexts*, section member **Arnold Arluke** examines the importance of animals in our everyday lives in an [article](#) called, "Our Animals, Ourselves."
- The Summer 2010 issue of *Contexts* also covered section members **Jenny Vermilya** and **Leslie Irvine's** [research](#) on why women choose careers in veterinary medicine.
- The *Toronto Star* interviewed section member **Amy Fitzgerald** about her [research](#) showing the link between the number of slaughterhouses in a community and increases in crime.

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

### Thinking About Animals Conference 2011

The Department of Sociology at Brock University is issuing a Call for Papers for a conference on "Thinking About Animals" to be held March 31 and April 1, 2011 at Brock University in Ontario, Canada. This two-day conference will explore a variety of issues concerning the current and historical situation of animals and interactions with humans. This conference is being hosted in association with the Institute of Critical Animal Studies.

More information on submitting proposals and potential topics can be found at: <http://www.brocku.ca/node/13260>. Deadline for submissions: January 15, 2011

### 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Australian Animal Studies Group conference

The Call for Papers for the 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Australian Animal Studies Group conference-"Animals, People - a Shared Environment"-is now open and Abstracts can be uploaded via the dedicated AASG 2011 website (<http://www.aasg2011.com.au/>). AASG 2011 Topic Streams include Animal Law, Ethics & Welfare, History, Anthropology & Cultural Studies, Animal Behavior, Animals in the Environment, Animals & Tourism and Others. The conference will be held July 10-13, 2011 at Griffith University, Brisbane, AUS.

Authors are invited to submit abstracts of approximately 250 words in length to express their interest in the Conference. Please visit the AASG 2011 conference website and follow the instructions for uploading your abstract submission. The deadline for all abstract submissions is the 17th December 2010.

For further information on the 4th Australian Animal Studies Group 2011 Conference, please contact the AASG Secretariat ([aasg@hievents.com.au](mailto:aasg@hievents.com.au)) or visit the dedicated AASG website.

### Tamkang Review: Special issue—"Cetacean Nations"

For this special issue of Tamkang Review, the co-editors seek abstracts of papers that would explore representations of cetaceans (including whales, dolphins, and porpoises) in contemporary literary and cultural texts, focusing on nations and cultures surrounding the North Pacific Ocean: Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Russia, Canada, the U.S., and many other countries equally concerned with the issue of cetaceans. Critical work from a variety of fields will be welcome, including animal and animality studies, ethnic studies, ecocriticism, Native American studies, postcolonial theory, transnational cultural studies, and critical theory.

Please send an abstract (less than 500 words) and a c.v. to both Sun-chieh Liang ([sunchieh.liang@gmail.com](mailto:sunchieh.liang@gmail.com)) and Michael Lundblad ([Michael.Lundblad@ColoState.Edu](mailto:Michael.Lundblad@ColoState.Edu)) by January 15, 2011. If your abstract is accepted, your essay would need to be completed by June 15, 2011. This special issue of Tamkang Review will be published in December 2011. Inquiries welcome.

## CALLS FOR PAPERS, CONTINUED

### New Ashgate Book Series: Solving Social Problems

*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. 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 or practice, or more broadly as 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.

If you would like to submit a proposal for this series, please email: Series Editor, Bonnie Berry: [solving@socialproblems.org](mailto:solving@socialproblems.org) or Commissioning Editor, Neil Jordan: [njordan@ashgatepublishing.com](mailto:njordan@ashgatepublishing.com)

### SSSP Agenda for Social Justice 2012

The SSSP and the Justice 21 Committee are beginning work on the **Agenda for Social Justice 2012**. This publication is designed to inform the public-at-large about the nation's most pressing social problems and to propose a public policy response to those problems. This report will be an "agenda for social justice," in that it will contain recommendations for action by elected officials, policy makers, and the public at large. The report will be distributed as widely as possible to policy makers, those in progressive media, and academics.

The quadrennial report will be a product of the most valid and reliable knowledge we have about social problems and it will be a joint effort of the members and Divisions of SSSP. They are currently accepting 1-2 pp chapter proposals for the 2012 publication identifying a social problem of concern to members of SSSP, and respond to the questions: *What do we know?*, *How do we know it?* And *What is to be done?*

The volume is tentatively to be produced and distributed by the Edwin Mellen Press. Please submit a copy of your proposal to each of the members of the committee by March 1, 2011. Final manuscripts will be due near the end of 2011, and will appear in print prior to the 2012 SSSP annual meetings in August 2012.

Glenn Muschert (chair), Miami University, [muschegw@muohio.edu](mailto:muschegw@muohio.edu)  
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### 8th World Congress on Alternatives in the Life Sciences

The 8th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences is now accepting submissions for papers and posters to be presented at this year's event, which will be held August 21-25, 2011 in Montreal, Canada. The conference seeks contributions covering a wide range of topics related to the use of animals in science. The deadline for submissions is April 10, 2010. More information can be found at [http://www.wc8.ccac.ca/pages/call\\_for\\_papers](http://www.wc8.ccac.ca/pages/call_for_papers) and <http://www.wc8.ccac.ca/programs>.

## ANIMALS AND SOCIETY ISSUES IN THE NEWS

- Researchers at Kansas State University and Purdue University found that consumer demand for all meat drops when media attention is given to farmed animal welfare issues: [http://www.farmgate.illinois.edu/archive/2010/09consumers\\_spend.html](http://www.farmgate.illinois.edu/archive/2010/09consumers_spend.html)
- Two recent studies from researchers at Northwestern University found that human-centered (anthropocentric) reasoning is not innate, but is learned through socialization at an early age: <http://www.northwestern.edu/newscenter/stories/2010/05/waxman2.html> & <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/05/100510132203.htm>
- Terrorism charges were dropped against animal rights activists accused of involvement in a non-violent antivivisection campaign (<http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/aeta-4-case-thrown-out-dismissed/3015/>) and a University of Minnesota Department of Sociology graduate student after he refused to cooperate with a grand jury investigating a break-in at a University of Iowa laboratory: <http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/scott-demuth-pleads-guilty/3123/>
- A study from the University of Kent's Centre for Research on Social Climate found that people who eat meat deny some animals' capacity to suffer in order to mitigate the cognitive dissonance caused by not wanting to harm animals yet allowing them to be killed for food: <http://www.kent.ac.uk/news/stories/meat-eaters-study/2010>
- New research from the Center for Food Integrity shows most consumers are twice as likely to believe the Humane Society of the United States and People for The Ethical Treatment of Animals over farm organizations when it comes to humane treatment of farmed animals: <http://fbactinsider.org/article.jsf?postId=7660>
- NYU alumni donates \$1 million to alma mater to create the Animal Studies Initiative for the study of the roles animals play in the environment, agriculture, medicine, philosophy, ethics, arts and literature: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703882404575520183934345178.html>
- National Public Radio covered Hal Herzog's new book on humans' complex relationship with animals, "Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard to Think Straight About Animals": <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=130892795>
- CNN covered Duke University research how dogs' relationship's with humans have shaped their cognitive abilities: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/LIVING/11/18/intelligent.dog.psychology/index.html>

## BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS

**James William Gibson's** work on the cultural reenchantment of nature, *A Reenchanted World*, was released in paperback this spring by Metropolitan/Henry Holt. Much of Gibson's book concerns the development of symbolic or totemic kinship ties with wild animals in popular culture, and the ways in which even scientific disciplines now create a "hybrid" discourse interweaving science with poetic language. It's a cross-over book suitable for both academics and the literate public, even students. For links to excerpts see [www.jameswilliamgibson.com](http://www.jameswilliamgibson.com)

Syracuse University Press has released *Beauty and the Beast: Human-Animal Relations as Revealed in Real Photo Postcards, 1905-1935* by **Arnold Arluke and Robert Bogdan**. From fairy tales to photography, nowhere is the complexity of human-animal relationships more apparent than in the creative arts. Art illuminates the nature and significance of animals in modern, Western thought, capturing the complicated union that has long existed between the animal kingdom and us. In *Beauty and the Beast*, authors Arluke and Bogdan explore this relationship through the unique lens of photo postcards. This visual medium offers an enormous and relatively untapped archive to compellingly document their subject. Arluke and Bogdan use these postcards to tell the story of human-animal relations in the United States from approximately 1905 to 1935. During these years, Americans experienced profound changes that altered their connection with animals and influenced perceptions and treatment of them today. With over 350 illustrations, this book presents a vivid chronicle of the deep cultural ambivalence that characterized human-animal relations in the early twentieth century and that continues today. For more information: <http://www.syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu/fall-2010/beauty-beast.html>

## OBITUARIES

**Clifton Dow Bryant**, professor emeritus of sociology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University who wrote extensively about various facets of human-animal relations, died quietly on Monday, September 13, 2010, at Heritage Hall Nursing Home in Blacksburg, Va. He was 77.

## CONFERENCES

### **Sex, Gender and Species Conference at Wesleyan University | February 25 and 26, 2011**

The growing field of animal studies has turned critical attention to the real conditions and stakes of human-animal relations. It has also become a new and important focus for debates over identity and difference that have embroiled academic theory over the past quarter century. Recent scholarship on animal otherness as well as discussions of how to traverse boundaries of difference often draws upon a history of feminist theory and practice even as this borrowing remains unacknowledged. The purpose of this conference is to foreground the relations between feminist and animal studies and to examine the real and theoretical problems that are central to both fields of inquiry.. For more information: <http://sexgenderspecies.conference.wesleyan.edu/conference-program/>

### **Thinking About Animals Conference at Brock University | March 31 and April 1, 2011**

The "Thinking About Animals" conference will be held March 31 and April 1, 2011 at Brock University in Ontario, Canada. This two-day conference will explore a variety of issues concerning the current and historical situation of animals and interactions with humans. This conference is being hosted in association with the Institute of Critical Animal Studies. For more information: <http://www.brocku.ca/node/13260>

## GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **NIH Grant for the Study of Human-Animal Interaction**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking applications from institutions/organizations that propose to study the impact of human-animal interaction (HAI) on children's health and development and to test the efficacy of therapeutic uses of HAI with children. In 2008, NICHD and The WALTHAM® Centre for Pet Nutrition, a division of Mars, Incorporated, entered into a public-private partnership to explore the interaction between humans and animals. The partnership encourages research on Human-Animal Interaction (HAI), especially as it relates to child development, health, and the therapeutic use of animals with children and adolescents. The purpose of this grant is to build an empirical research base on how children perceive, relate to and think about animals; how pets in the home impact children's social and emotional development and health (e.g., allergies, the immune system, asthma, mitigation of obesity); and whether and under what conditions therapeutic uses of animals are safe and effective. **Deadline for applications is December 21, 2010.** For more information: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-12-105.html>

## REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

### **ASA Task Force on Sociology and Global Climate Change**

The ASA Task Force on Sociology and Global Climate Change is interested in learning what issues regarding climate change are of interest to Animals and Society Section members, and what perspectives within our field might be valuable in addressing these issues.

Send any feedback you wish to provide to: [asacctaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:asacctaskforce@gmail.com)

**JOB LISTINGS****NYU Animal Studies: Initiative: Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow**

The New York University Animal Studies Initiative invites applications for the position of Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow. The appointment will be for one year beginning September 1, 2011, renewable annually for a maximum of three years, pending administrative and budgetary approval. The successful applicant will contribute to the education of undergraduates minoring in Animal Studies, teaching three courses per year. In addition, the successful candidate will actively participate in an initiative directed towards developing Animal Studies as a rigorous field of academic inquiry.

We welcome candidates from various academic backgrounds. We have special interests in ethics and animals, and animals in science. Primary academic training need not be in Animal Studies, but there must be demonstrable evidence of a sincere and substantive commitment to working in this field. Applicants must have completed their Ph.D. no more than three years before the application date.

NYU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. **Review of applications will begin on November 1, 2010**, and will continue until the search is complete. To apply, go to [www.nyuopsearch.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=50651](http://www.nyuopsearch.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=50651)

**Summer Apprenticeship Program at Chimpanzee & Human Communication Institute**

The Chimpanzee & Human Communication Institute (CHCI) is currently taking applications for our Summer Apprenticeship Program. Graduates, undergraduates, and post-graduates from various academic backgrounds (e.g. Anthropology, Biology, Psychology, Linguistics, Philosophy, etc.) and all nationalities are encouraged to apply. The dates of the program are June 26 to August 19, 2011.

The research at CHCI involves a group of chimpanzees who use the signs of American Sign Language (ASL). Apprentices are at the institute daily – cleaning enclosures, preparing meals and enrichment, making observations of the chimpanzees, and participating in one or more research projects. The first week is intensive training in laboratory jobs and chimpanzee behaviors. After several weeks each apprentice becomes more autonomous and has responsibilities in research and husbandry. The philosophy of CHCI is that the needs of the chimpanzees come first. Apprentices are trained in humane care and research techniques.

The program fee is \$1900 and there is a non-refundable \$25 application processing fee. The costs do not include housing and transportation. Inexpensive housing is available on campus. A course in ASL is highly recommended but not required. For more information on the program and the application please see our web page at <http://www.cwu.edu/~cwuchci/apprentice.html> or contact Dr. Mary Lee Jensvold, CHCI, CWU, Ellensburg, WA 98926 [jensvold@cwu.edu](mailto:jensvold@cwu.edu). **The deadline to apply is February 18, 2011.**

**Animals and Society Institute Fellowship Program at Wesleyan University**

The Animals and Society Institute and [Wesleyan Animal Studies](#) invites applications for the fifth annual summer fellowship program for scholars pursuing research in Human-Animal Studies. Beginning in the summer of 2011 and going forward, this interdisciplinary program will enable 6-8 fellows to pursue research in residence at [Wesleyan University](#) at the [College of the Environment](#). The fellowship will be hosted by Wesleyan faculty Lori Gruen and Kari Weil and is open to scholars from any discipline investigating a topic related to human-animal relationships.

The fellowship is designed to support recipients' individual research through mentorship, guest lectures, and scholarly exchange among fellows and opportunities to contribute to the intellectual life of the host institution. All fellows must be in continuous residence for the duration of the program, May 23 – July 1, inclusive.

**Application deadline: January 15, 2011**

Amount of Award. Scholars selected to participate in the fellowship program will be awarded a stipend of \$3,000 to help cover travel costs, housing, living expenses, books and other research expenses. The Wesleyan hosts will help coordinate housing for the fellows.

For more information and eligibility requirements visit: <http://www.animalsandsociety.org/content/index.php?pid=101>

# Animals and Society



American Sociological Association

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