



American Sociological Association

**ANIMALS & SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**

JUNE 2007

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM
THIS ISSUE:**

**ANIMAL & SOCIETY
SESSION AT ASA 2**

**SECTION ELECTION
RESULTS 3**

**2007
DISTINGUISHED
SCHOLARSHIP
AWARD & GRADUATE
STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIP
AWARD 3**

**SSSP SESSION
EXPLORES
VIOLENCE LINK 4**

**STUDENT
RECOGNIZED FOR
WORK HELPING
ANIMALS 6**

**NOMINATIONS FOR
ANIMALS &
SOCIETY COURSE
AWARDS 7**

**NEWSLETTER
CONTRIBUTIONS ARE MOST
WELCOME**

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR – LESLIE IRVINE

Hi everyone,

My year as chair of the section is winding to a close. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to sit at the helm of such a vital group of scholars. I look forward to an intriguing panel of papers at the annual meeting in August, and I hope to see many of you there. Lisa Anne Zilney will take over as chair at that time, and I know she will do a terrific job.

I continue to believe that the future of human-animal studies and our section depends on our efforts on two fronts. First, I place a great deal of importance on the visibility of our work. I want to encourage and challenge all of you to send your best work to the mainstream sociological journals. It is terrific that we can speak to an audience of like-minded scholars by publishing in *Society & Animals* and *Anthrozoös*. They are both great journals that I always look forward to reading. However, if even a few of us can place our work in *ASR*, *AJS*, *Gender & Society*, and other journals that reach a wider sociological audience, then we can more effectively demonstrate the importance of animals in general sociological phenomena. I know it is a daunting task, but it is the only way to publicize the idea that the social world is not a uniquely human world.

The other hope for our future is in our students, particularly PhD students who will go on to academic jobs. If we can train the next generation of scholars to include animals in their research agendas, we can change the way sociology characterizes what it means to be social. Not all of us work in settings that train graduate students. Nevertheless, you can spark interest in bright undergrads, who will then go on to study animals in their graduate work. We must encourage our students to include animals in more general fields of sociological study. They can then get jobs in criminology, gender, social psychology, occupations, and organizations while focusing on animal-related topics.

These two efforts are intertwined. The students must see that human-animal studies constitutes a legitimate field of study, which means that we must increase its legitimacy by placing it in the best journals. Visibility depends on a critical mass of scholars, which depends on a steady supply of graduate students. I hope you will join me in doing all you can to accomplish both of these goals.

See you in the Big Apple!

Leslie Irvine

Chair, Animals and Society

ASA ANNUAL MEETING 2007—ANIMALS & SOCIETY SESSIONS

The 2007 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting is being held in New York City from August 11-14. Our section will have one paper session scheduled for Monday, August 13th from 2:30-4:10pm. The section will hold its council and business meetings on August 13th from 4:30-6:10pm. The section reception will be held on Monday, August 13th from 6:30-8pm.

Pre-registration for the annual meeting is available online until July 11th: <http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftav/meeting/2007>

Section on Animals in Society Paper Session — “Bridging the Divide: Connecting Human-Animal Studies to Other Research Areas” — Monday, August 13, 2:30-4:10pm

Session Organizer: Keri Jacqueline Brandt (Fort Lewis College)

Presider: Keri Jacqueline Brandt (Fort Lewis College)

“For Animals: Motives and Accounts of Animal Rights Activists in Defense of Militant Direct Action”, Justin Goodman (University of Connecticut)

“Learning to Dispense Death: Veterinary Interns Consider the Practical Impact of their Early Euthanasia Training”, Patricia Hope Morris (Northeastern University), Justin C. Betz (Northeastern University), Amy Lubitow (Northeastern University)

“Negotiating Contradiction: Human-Animal Relationships in Cattle Ranching”, Colter Ellis (University of Colorado)

“Spill-Over from ‘The Jungle’ into the Larger Community: Slaughterhouses and Increased Crime Rates”, Amy Jean Fitzgerald (University of Windsor)

ROUNDTABLE EXPLORES INTERACTIONS BETWEEN HUMANS & OTHER ANIMALS

A refereed roundtable entitled “Interactions between Humans and Non-human Animals” will be held at the ASA Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 11th from 10:30-12:10pm.

Referred Roundtable — Interactions between Human and Non-human Animals — Saturday, August 11, 10:30am-12:10pm

Session Organizer: Viviane Brachet-Marquez (El Colegio De Mexico)

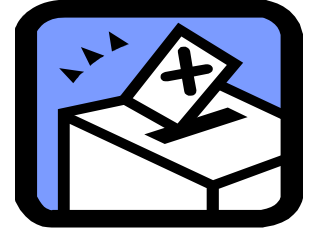
“Animal Meanings: Understanding the Determinants of Dog Owners’ Attitudes toward and Treatment of Dogs”, David D. Blouin (Indiana University)

“Walking the Dog: Pet Ownership, Human Health, and Health Behaviors”, Rebecca L. Utz (University of Utah), Salvador Rivas (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Sapna Swaroop (University of Chicago), T. Nigel Gannon (University of Chicago)

“The New Totemism: Nature Writing and the Consecration of Animals as Sacred Beings”, James William Gibson (California State University)

SECTION ELECTION RESULTS

The election results for the Animals & Society Section are in and congratulations go out to all of our newly elected officers. Brian Lowe (SUNY Oneonta) is our Chair-Elect, to succeed Lisa Anne Zilney (Montclair State University). Helene Lawson (University of Pittsburgh) and Angela Mertig (Middle Tennessee State University) have been elected to the Animals & Society Council and Colin Jerolmack (CUNY Graduate Center) is our Student Representative to Council.



Thanks to everyone who was willing to serve on the Animals & Society Section.

2007 DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP & GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The 2007 Graduate Student Paper Award goes to Colter Ellis (University of Colorado) for "Negotiating Contradictions: Human-Nonhuman Animal Relationships in Cattle Ranching." The Distinguished Scholarship Award goes to Leslie Irvine (University of Colorado) for *If You Tame Me: Understanding our Connection with Animals* (2004; Temple University Press). Thanks to Janet Alger, Jessica Greenebaum, and Helene Lawson for serving on the Awards Committee. Please help us congratulate both deserving recipients at the Animals & Society Section reception on Monday, August 13th from 6:30-8pm.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND HUMAN VIOLENCE EXPLORED AT UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

A one day international conference on the relationship between animal abuse and human violence will be held on September 18, 2007 at Keble College in Oxford, England. The list of speakers includes section member Clifton Flynn as well as many others, including Frank Ascione, Andrew Linzey, and Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson. For more information or for registration details please go to the conference homepage : <http://www.oxfordanimaethics.com>



CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS— TEMPLE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The **Animals, Culture, and Society** series published by Temple University Press is interested in receiving book proposals and manuscripts. Proposed or completed works should represent sociological, anthropological, historical, or other social scientific discussions of some aspect of human interaction with nonhuman animals. Proposed manuscripts should have sufficiently broad appeal to attract an audience outside, as well as within, academe. Please contact the co-editor: Clinton R. Sanders, Department of Sociology, Box U-2068, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269 (clinton.sanders@uconn.edu)

SSSP SESSION ON THE LINK BETWEEN VIOLENCE AGAINST HUMANS AND ANIMALS

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) meets overlapping the ASA, so please join us for this session revolving around the link between violence against humans and animals!

Title of Session: Linking the Cycles of Violence: Research on Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence

Organizer: Lisa Anne Zilney, Ph.D., Montclair State University

Papers:

Links between Animal Abuse, Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, and Elder Abuse: A Cross-Cultural Perspective by Mika Maruyama, Portland State University

The Human-Animal-Violence-Link and Veterinary Medicine by Debbie Stoewen, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph

Moral Panics: Past (satanic) and Present (links) ~ A Cautionary Tale by Heather Piper, Manchester Metropolitan University

Cisco's Kids: A Behavioral Intervention Program by Gary P. Cournoyer, Newport County Community Mental Health Center & Clarrisa M. Uttley, University of Rhode Island

Animal Cruelty in Childhood and Adolescent Development: A Review of the Literature by Ann C. Eckardt, Hofstra University

The Benefits of Animal Assisted Therapy with Children that are Survivors of Abuse by Holly Hargreaves, Marymount University

Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence Link: Does the Law Account for It? by Sue Cote, California State University, Sacramento

Are Pets a Conduit for Social Capital and a Protective Factor Against Community Violence? A Preliminary Inquiry by Phil Arkow, Interim Director, Human-Animal Bond, American Humane Association AND Chair, Animal Abuse & Family Violence Prevention Project, The Latham Foundation

Animal Abuse and Partner Violence: Identifying Risk Factors for Prediction and Prevention by Maya Gupta, Magi-Cat Adoption Network, Inc.

Cruelty has no Boundaries: Exploring the Human-Animal Link in Ontario, Canada by Mary Zilney, Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region & Lisa Anne Zilney, Montclair State University

THREE GREAT APES COAUTHOR SCIENTIFIC STUDY ABOUT LIFE IN CAPTIVITY

FOR RELEASE May 29, 2007

Contact: Kenneth Shapiro, PhD

Executive Director, Animals and Society Institute

(301) 963-4751

www.animalsandsociety.org

Ann Arbor, MI –To underscore the plight of captive great apes, three bonobos (also known as pygmy chimpanzees) have coauthored a scientific article in a peer-reviewed academic journal that addresses society's treatment of animals. Together with Sue Savage-Rumbaugh, a leading primatologist at the Great Ape Trust of Iowa, bonobos Kanzi Wamba, Panbanisha Wamba, and Nyota Wamba are credited as authors of "Welfare of Apes in Captive Environments: Comments On, and By, a Specific Group of Apes," which appears in the current *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science (JAAWS)*, released in May. The purpose of the article is to examine and challenge the conditions under which apes are kept captive in both laboratory and zoo environments.

This is the first time nonhuman primates have accomplished this sophisticated feat. Savage-Rumbaugh has spent many years teaching Matata, Kanzi and Nyota to communicate with each other and with human beings using such technologies as lexigrams and a keyboard that synthesizes speech. Capitalizing on these abilities and their long-term relationship of trust, the foursome collaborated in studying the welfare of the lives of the group of bonobos living at the Great Ape Trust. The bonobos answered Savage-Rumbaugh's questions related to their physical, social and emotional well-being. The chimpanzees indicated that they value having fresh food, being able to explore, maintaining lifelong contact with loved ones, teaching their children, and living free from the fear of humans attacking them, among other things.

There is ample precedent of scientific authors fulfilling the dual role of investigator and investigated. Savage-Rumbaugh explains in the journal article that "if the participation of human beings [in such a study] had been equal to that of the bonobos, no one would object to the sharing of authorship. It therefore seems proper to recognize not only the bonobos' contribution to this article but also their right to have a legitimate voice – their own voice – in determining the adequacy of the environments in which they reside."

This admittedly provocative inclusion of apes as authors is timely in the broader context of the growing consensus among scholars that great apes have remarkable abilities and a heightened sense of self. JAAWS co-editor Kenneth Shapiro, Ph.D., executive director of the Animals and Society Institute stated, "Cognitive psychology, ethology, legal scholarship and recent legislation converge on the view that these apes – our evolutionary cousins, our 'next of kin' – have extraordinary psychological, sociological, and even cultural capabilities. Moral philosophy and legal precedent conclude that these abilities constitute personhood and agency. So why not authorship?"

The Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science is a joint project of Animals and Society Institute and The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and is published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, a division of Taylor and Francis Group. In its 10th year, JAAWS is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes articles and commentaries on methods of experimentation, husbandry, and care that demonstrably enhance the welfare of nonhuman animals. The scope is inclusive of all animals.

FERAL CATS SPARK DEBATE IN BRADFORD, PA

By Helene Lawson

Here is a photo of a house I passed in my home town. It clearly points out the problematic nature of human-animal interactions. What should we do about feral cats? Some people want to feed them, others to capture, neuter and re-release them, others to institutionalize them and/or euthanize them. Literature says they kill off wildlife in large numbers, but Bradfordians are only concerned about starving cats vs. damaged lawns and overturned garbage cans.



Feeding feral cats has sparked an ongoing controversy in Bradford, PA that has gone so far as to affect the mayoral race. A group of neighbors have protested that a group of "cat lovers" routinely feed feral cats from their homes. The neighbors have argued in the town council meetings that the practice should be prohibited because it attracts feral cats in large numbers. These cats are accused of knocking over garbage cans and defecating on lawns. In their defense the "cat lovers" put signs on a house in a highly visible location (East Main Street) some blocks away from the feeding site to air their side of the argument. The signs read (left to right): "Abandon abuse. Starve or kill any cat or dog, go to jail and do not collect \$200 at least not from me." "City of Bradford mandates cruelty to animals." "Hell will freeze over before I starve an innocent animal." "How much courage does it take to inflict pain suffering and death on the innocent and helpless?" "Why does the City of Bradford refuse to go after real criminals?" "If we starve the city Fat Cats, do you think they will tear up your garbage?"

STUDENT RECOGNIZED FOR GRASSROOTS WORK TO HELP ANIMALS

Congratulations are extended to Justin Goodman (University of Connecticut) as he has been recognized for his grassroots animal rights activism that resulted in the termination of a nonhuman primate vivisection lab at the University of Connecticut Health Center. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has selected him as the recipient of the 2007 Nanci Alexander Activist of the year award.



NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2007 ANIMALS AND SOCIETY COURSE AWARDS

The Center for Respect of Life and Environment and the Humane Society of the United States are currently accepting nominations from college and university faculty members for the 2007 Animals and Society Course Awards. The awards recognize academic excellence in the design and delivery of courses that address issues such as the interaction between humans and animals, human obligations toward animals, and perspectives on the status of animals.

The awards are intended to help foster the availability of high-quality instruction in a wide variety of relevant academic fields, such as animal science, anthropology, archeology, art, biology, communications, culture studies, education, environmental studies, ethology (the science of animal behavior), history, law, medicine, philosophy, political science, psychology, religion, sociology and veterinary medicine.

Three Animals and Society Awards will be presented for college and university undergraduate and graduate courses worldwide. The first award is for an established course currently taught at an institution. The second award is for a new course scheduled for instruction at an institution. Each award carries a prize of \$1,500 and has been offered since the award program's inception in 1999. The third award, carrying a prize of \$500, was instituted in 2003 to give special recognition to short, novel, or otherwise innovative courses. For more details on this final award, please go to http://www.crlle.org/prog_course_awards.asp.

Nominees may apply for one or more of the awards. The prize money will be given to the institution and the institution's department in which the winning course is taught.

Nominations must include:

- a cover letter from the faculty member, noting the type of award(s) for which the course is being nominated
- a course outline or syllabus
- a one paragraph description of how the prize money will be used
- student evaluations for the previous two years the course was offered, where appropriate

a letter of recommendation from the relevant department chairperson

The deadline is **September 15, 2007**. No special forms are necessary. Send nominations to:

Animals and Society Course Awards, c/o Ellen Truong, Center for Respect of Life and Environment,
2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037

RECIPIENTS OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL ANIMALS AND SOCIETY COURSE AWARDS

The Humane Society of the United States recognized the following professors and courses with the eighth annual Animals and Society Course Awards. Distinguished Established Course was awarded to Kari Weil ("Animal Subjects"), Associate Professor of Critical Studies and Writing and Literature, Critical Studies Program, California College of the Arts. Distinguished New Course Award went to Maneesha Deckha ("Animals, Culture and the Law"), Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria. The award for Innovation in the Study of Animals and Humans went to Robbie Pfeufer Kahn ("Sociology of Animals and Society"), Sociology Department, University of Vermont. The awards recognize academic excellence in courses focusing on the relationship between humans and animals.

Animals & Society

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