



**ANIMALS & SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER**

JULY 2009

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**NOTE FROM THE CHAIR – BRIAN M. LOWE**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

As we approach another ASA annual meeting, it is appropriate to take stock of our section. On the one hand, we are exceptionally fortunate to have dynamic scholars from a variety of institutions – research-oriented universities, undergraduate colleges, non-profit advocacy organizations—engaged in animals and society-based research. We are all lucky to have dedicated supporters to run for and fill our offices (without compensation, and very often without course reductions or similar accommodations from their employers) and to bring attention to our milieu in numerous areas, including this year’s section winners for publications and scholarship at the graduate level. While our section struggles to maintain its numbers – a condition aggravated by ASA rules which strongly discourage smaller sections from collaborating and holding joint ASA paper sessions as a means of promoting avenues of research – the wider media landscape presents a constant flow of animal-related news stories. In the United States this week, the Obama administration is calling for a wholesale reworking of food safety laws, echoing many concerns evoked by Proposition 2 passed in California in November 2008, contending that we all have a stake in how nonhuman animals are treated by our food industries. Recent documentaries like *Food, Inc.* are also highlighting the interconnections between the locations of animals and a variety of other societal phenomena. In Canada, journalists like Eric Reguly have argued that an apparent decline in “the Canadian myth” that once perpetuated a very positive view of Canada, has begun to erode in Europe in part because of negative public opinion (and a 2009 European Union ban on related products) of the Canadian seal hunt. In short, while our parent organization does little to bolster small and innovative sections like ours, the social world seems determined to emphasize that increasingly, if one hopes to be an effective social scientist, one must be considering animals and society. With that in mind, I encourage all of you to continue your teaching and research in the field of animals and society, continue to promote how this multi-faceted area impacts many other more familiar and “traditional” areas of sociological research with your colleagues, and to continue to work to strengthen our section.

Best wishes,

Brian

**ANIMALS & SOCIETY SESSION, MEETING, AND RECEPTION –  
ASA ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco from August 8-11th. We will have one section session on Saturday, August 8 from 2:30-4:10 pm at the Hilton San Francisco.

Title: The Animal Question: Social Theory, Nonhuman Animals and their Intersection:

From its beginning, social theory has addressed central aspects of social life, including the transition from the rural to urban, the relationship between economic and social life and transformations of the cultural. However, all of the aforementioned and other aspects of social life also feature the relationships between humans and nonhuman animals—as commodities, expressions of familial patterns, and as contested and undefined objects and subjects. This session intends to address how social theory has neglected or marginalized the significance of relationships with nonhuman animals in central societal institutions and phenomena, and how reconsidering the roles and social positioning of nonhuman animals may serve to produce theories with more explanatory potential.

Session Participants:

Organizers: Amy J. Fitzgerald, University of Windsor and Brian M. Lowe, State University of New York – Oneonta

Presider: Amy J. Fitzgerald, University of Windsor

Presenters:

- “In Relation to Animals, All People are Nazis: Holocaust/Slavery Analogies in the Animal Movement”, Claire Jean Kim, University of California-Irvine
- “Chosen Dangers? Social Differences in Norms about Potentially Lethal Wildlife According to Context and Species”, Mariah Debra Evans, University of Nevada-Reno
- “From “Stray Beasts” to “Companions”: Historical Trends in US Animal Laws”, Eun young Song, Korea Social Service Policy Institute
- “Focusing on Cultural Variances of Dog Ownership in Los Angeles and Community Identity”, Elizabeth Jefferis Terrien, University of Chicago
- “Inter-species and Intra-species Appearance Bias: Social Learning, Interactionism, and Other Sociological Interpretations, Bonnie Berry, Social Problems Research Group

In addition to the section session, the Animals and Society council and business meetings will also be held on Saturday, August 8 from 4:30-6:10 pm at the Hilton San Francisco. Following the meetings, please join us for the section reception from 6:30-8:10 pm also at the Hilton. There will be vegetarian snacks and the awards will be given out for the Distinguished Graduate Student Scholarship and Distinguished Scholarship. Please see page three for details on both award recipients.

## **ANIMALS AND SOCIETY AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP & DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP**

The winner of this year's Outstanding Graduate Student Paper is Ben Merriman (University of Chicago) for "The Biological and Historical Animal: Toward a Usable Marx."

The winner of this year's Section Award for Distinguished Scholarship is Arnold Arluke (Northeastern University) for *Just a Dog: Understanding Animal Cruelty and Ourselves* (2006, Temple University Press).

Both of these scholars and their works will be recognized at the Animals and Society section reception at the ASA annual meeting in San Francisco on 8 August 2009, 6:30-8:10 pm at the Hilton San Francisco.

In addition to thanking all those who were kind enough to submit their own work for consideration for these prizes, a big thanks also goes out to the Award for Distinguished Graduate Student Scholarship committee (Keri Brandt and Leslie Irvine, Chair) and the Section Award for Distinguished Scholarship Committee (Jessica Greenebaum, Lisa Anne Zilney, and Brian Lowe, Chair).

## **ANIMALS & SOCIETY SECTION ELECTION RESULTS**

The results of the 2009 ASA elections are now in. Please join us in thanking all of the members who ran and extend a warm congratulations to those elected for our section:

Chair-Elect (2010-11):

Tracey Harris (Cape Breton University)

Secretary-Treasurer:

Leslie Irvine (University of Colorado)

Council Member:

Colter Ellis (University of Colorado)

## **CHECK OUT THE ANIMALS & SOCIETY SECTION WEBSITE**

Our Animals & Society Section website contains information on upcoming conferences, relevant syllabi, recent publications by section members, and section newsletters. Please send information for the site to Helene and Larry Lawson (lawson@pitt.edu). The address for the section homepage is [www2.asanet.org/sectionanimals/index.html](http://www2.asanet.org/sectionanimals/index.html).



**NEW BOOK — FILLING THE ARK: ANIMAL WELFARE IN DISASTERS  
BY LESLIE IRVINE**

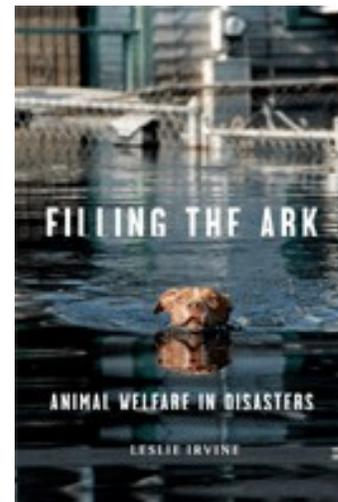
Leslie Irvine, University of Colorado recently published her new book “Filling the Ark: Animal Welfare in Disasters”, Temple University Press. It is based on her extensive research on animal welfare and rescue after disasters.

From the Temple University website:

“When disasters strike, people are not the only victims. Hurricane Katrina raised public attention about how disasters affect dogs, cats, and other animals considered members of the human family. In this short but powerful book, noted sociologist Leslie Irvine goes beyond Katrina to examine how disasters like oil spills, fires, and other calamities affect various animal populations—on factory farms, in research facilities, and in the wild.

*Filling the Ark* argues that humans cause most of the risks faced by animals and urges for better decisions about the treatment of animals in disasters. Furthermore, it makes a broad appeal for the ethical necessity of better planning to keep animals out of jeopardy. Irvine not only offers policy recommendations and practical advice for evacuating animals, she also makes a strong case for rethinking our use of animals, suggesting ways to create more secure conditions” ([http://www.temple.edu/tempresstitles/1977\\_reg.html](http://www.temple.edu/tempresstitles/1977_reg.html)).

To read more about this important book or to order a copy, please go to [http://www.temple.edu/tempresstitles/1977\\_reg.html](http://www.temple.edu/tempresstitles/1977_reg.html)

**UPCOMING SESSION ON ANIMALS IN THE WORKPLACE, SSSI,  
SAN FRANCISCO, AUGUST 10**

The Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction (SSSI) will be holding its Annual Summer Meetings from August 9-11 in San Francisco. The conference will take place at the Villa Florence Hotel, 225 Powell Street. The following session will be of special interest to our section members as several of our members are involved and the theme is on animals in the workplace.

The session will take place on Monday, August 10 from 10:10-11:40 am in the Caruso Room of the Villa Florence Hotel.

Chair: Arnold Arluke, Northeastern University

Presenters:

- “Working out Back: The Veterinary Technician and Dirty Work”, Clinton Sanders, University of Connecticut
- “Strange Intimacy: Comforting Bereaved Clients in Veterinary Euthanasia Encounters”, Patricia Morris, Drury University
- “Are Those Your Cats? The Meaning of Feral Cats on a College Campus”, Carol Thompson, Texas Christian University
- “The Meaning of Animal Workers in a Capitalist World”, Bonnie Berry, Social Problems Research Group

**MEMBER'S NEWS**

- Kathy Gerbasi, Niagara County Community College was awarded the SUNY (State University of New York) Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities for her research in Anthrozoology.
- Andrei S. Markovits was awarded the Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship at the University of Michigan for excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentorship.
- Andrei S. Markovits, University of Michigan and Robin Queen, University of Michigan have an upcoming publication in the October 2009 issue of *Society and Animals*. The article is entitled "Women in the World of Rescue: A Case Study of the State of Michigan."
- George Floro, Adjunct Professor of Sociology at Sul Ross State University, continues his collaborative and sociological practice role with goat raisers in the Big Bend region of West Texas. Presentations in 2008 were made in paper and poster sessions at the 9th International Goat Association conference held in September at Queretaro, Mexico. Three handouts (a synopsis, a review, and an essay on sociological imagination as craft) were prepared for the poster presentation at the IGA conference and later at the Annual Conference of the Wisconsin Sociological Association. Other exhibits of the poster were at the Annual Conference of the Southern Rural Sociological Association, and a local presentation of the poster at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. Title of one of the papers presented in 2008 was: "Under What Circumstances Participatory Research has a Chance to Succeed." The title of the poster was: "Leadership that utilizes Contributions in Passion and Craft." The 2008 issue of the BBPG Goat Bulletin includes sections taken from the poster and all three of the handouts. These are available @ <http://www.corch.net/bbpg>

**HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTION: IMPACTING MULTIPLE SPECIES CONFERENCES, OCTOBER 20-25, 2009**

Two sequential conferences are being sponsored by the International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ), the University of Missouri, and the Research Center for Human-Animal Interaction (ReCHAI). The International Society for Anthrozoology 18th Annual Conference will be held from October 20-23, 2009 and the Research Center for Human-Animal Interaction (ReCHAI) 1st Human Animal Interaction Conference, October 22-25. Both will be held in Kansas City, Missouri.



The conference website states that both "conferences will provide an exciting opportunity for those working in HAI research and practice to share their latest findings and program outcomes. They will serve as a source of renewal for those who have been working in the field for some time, and as a source or inspiration for those newly joining or contemplating entry into the field."



For more details on the conference or to get registration details, please go to [http://rechai.missouri.edu/isaz\\_hai09.htm](http://rechai.missouri.edu/isaz_hai09.htm)

# Animals & Society

## COUNCIL MEMBERS & TERMS

Rebecca Plante (2006-09)

Tracey Harris (2006-09)

Angela Mertig (2007-2010)

Colin Jerolmack (2007-2010)

Helene Lawson (2007-2010)

Elizabeth Cherry (2008-2011)

Animals and Society



American Sociological Association

## Animals & Society Section Officers

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Amy Fitzgerald

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Clifton Flynn

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Angela Mertig

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Lisa Anne Zilney

Webmaster:

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