



ANIMALS & SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2007

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NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS ARE MOST WELCOME

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR – LISA ANNE ZILNEY

Dear Section Members,

Just a quick reminder to renew your membership in ASA and the Animals & Society section specifically prior to the end of the year! As a small section, it is important for us to keep our numbers up, so you may want to reward an outstanding student with a section membership as well!

As the holidays approach, give some thought to submitting your animal-related scholarly work to the sessions we are sponsoring at the 2008 ASA meeting in Boston. In addition, consider contributing your work to other sections at the ASA meeting, and spreading the word about animal issues at other meetings throughout the year. We want to continue to spread the importance of including animals in all sociological concerns!

Finally, please enjoy a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful new year! I will remain in contact via the listserv and do feel free to contact me with any issues or concerns you want distributed to members!

Take care,

Lisa

Chair, Animals & Society Section

ASA ANNUAL MEETING IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

The 2008 Annual Meeting will be held in Boston from August 1-4th. Our section will have two sessions this year.

Leslie Irvine in organizing the session entitled "Human-Animal Interaction" and "Treatment of Animals in Institutional Settings" is being organized by David Nibert.

Deadline for submissions is January 16, 2008 and must proceed through the online submission page on the ASA website.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2008 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP & DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Animal & Society section announces its 2008 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 To be eligible, a paper must not be published, accepted for publication, or under review for publication.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 emailed by February 1st, 2008 to: Brian Lowe, Chair of the Awards Committee (lowebm@oneonta.edu). Winners will be invited to present their paper at one of the sessions organized by the Animals & Society Section at the August 2008 annual meeting.

The 2008 award will be given for distinguished scholarship in the form of a journal 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 2006 or 2007 calendar year. To nominate an article (self-nominations are acceptable), please provide the author(s), the title of the article, the relevant journal information, the publication date, and a two page letter outlining why you believe this work is a substantial contribution to the field.

Please forward with a pdf copy of the nominated article to: Brian Lowe, Chair of the Awards Committee (lowebm@oneonta.edu). The deadline for nominations is February 1st, 2008.

2007 JANE GOODALL AWARD RECIPIENT EXAMINES “CROSSING SPECIES AND DISCIPLINE BOUNDARIES”

Interspecies Communication: a thesis summary from co-recipient of the 2006 Jane Goodall Fellowship, Laura S. Lynes, lslynes@telus.net

I once heard Jane Goodall speak, I was quite young and though I don't remember the details of her talk, the essence of what she spoke remained with me – she became one of my heroes. A few months before learning I was the successful co-fellow of the 2006 Jane Goodall Fellowship I read *Reason for Hope*. I was again reminded of how inspiring Ms. Goodall can be and particularly relevant to my paper was her reflection about the limitation of cultural speciation how it had “hindered freedom of thought, limited our thinking, imprisoned us in the cultures into which we had been born.” Winning the Jane Goodall Fellowship was not only an honor for me because of all that she represents, but also because the work I was doing was being acknowledged despite “who” I was or what categories I might be identified in. Being awarded to a Canadian communication scholar, the fellowship crossed national and discipline boundaries.

The Master of Arts program specializing in intercultural and international communication at Royal Roads University in Victoria, British Columbia challenged me to explore the concepts of communication and culture. It became quite apparent to me that the definition of communication may include cultures and contexts other than language, but communication scholars have yet to extend the boundaries of the term to include interspecies communication. My master thesis, *Communicating Across Species Boundaries: how community knowledge and public attitude affect human and bear interspecies relations in Alberta's Bow Valley*, addressed what appears to be a major gap in communication studies by exploring human-bear communication – one small aspect of interspecies communication.



Bears and Humans – a Balancing Act?

Photograph by: Arthur Sevestre, www.project-canada.com. Arthur is a biologist and conservationist from the Netherlands. He developed “Project Canada” to raise awareness of the natural values of the Canadian Rockies. Depicted here is a young grizzly bear on highway 40 in Kananaskis Country, Alberta's Bow Valley. Kananaskis is the gateway to many popular recreation sites in both front and back country wilderness.

2007 JANE GOODALL AWARD RECIPIENT - CONTINUED

Measured by way of survey, I explored how attitudes and knowledge of part- and full-time residents about bears may influence human-bear interspecies relations in the Canadian Rocky Mountain communities known as the “Bow Valley.” Data were reported in context of a greater discussion about interspecies communication and the meanings of the terms “community” and “communication.” By broadening the term “communication” to include interspecies, in this case bears, perhaps we can begin to consider the messages they are sending to us – silent or otherwise - as humans attempt to live in peaceful co-existence with them.

The survey results showed obvious disconnects between what people in the Bow Valley say they want to achieve with bears, how they feel about bears within shared living spaces, and what messages may be being communicated with bears through bear management techniques. The conflicting messages that arose were that people want bears in the Bow Valley, think they are important to nature, but there are parameters to the space they share, absence of adequate knowledge about bears, and fears associated with living with them. People also seem to want to live in peaceful co-existence and are even willing to pay a price for it through increased taxes, but there seems to be little willingness to get involved in the change process themselves.

The artificial borders that define living spaces called “frontcountry,” “backcountry,” “community” and “non-urban areas” are not obvious to the bears of the Bow Valley. The rules that humans have established for living within these defined areas are communicated across species boundaries through bear management techniques – an on-going learning process of what works and what doesn’t. So what messages do we want to send to bears? How would we proceed if bears were another human culture? Are current bear management techniques successful in conveying what people in the Bow Valley want to communicate? These are critical questions for full-and part-time residents to ask as human population increases in the Bow Valley and in other communities sharing space with bears.

The study contributed to the on-going knowledge base of attitudes and knowledge about bears, most relevant to the people and bears living in the Bow Valley and toward a more general discussion about what constitutes community and how we communicate with other species. Findings may also have practical application for multi-stakeholder groups concerned with human-bear relations and consequently the implementation of bear management strategies in communities where humans and bears co-exist, as does the potential for human-bear conflict with life-threatening consequences.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – 2008 JANE GOODALL FELLOWSHIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Section on Animals and Society announces two 2008 Jane Goodall Fellowships for graduate students. The fellowships honor Jane Goodall's work in broadening our awareness of the capacities of non-human animals. The awards will pay the winners' membership fees to ASA and the Animals and Society Section for one year. Those selected as fellows will be asked to contribute a research note on their own work or a short book review on an appropriate volume for publication in the Section newsletter. To apply for these fellowships, the section requests that graduate students submit, preferably via email, a brief letter of application (no longer than one page) describing their interests in the study of animals and society. The student's advisor should send a short message (also email) indicating support for the nomination. Send application materials to Leslie Irvine, irvinel@colorado.edu (Department of Sociology, 219 Ketchum, 327UCB, University of Colorado, Boulder CO 80309-0327). Application materials must be received by December 31, 2007.

CALL FOR PAPERS – ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGY SECTION OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS (SSSP)

CALL FOR PAPERS: Please consider submitting a paper to one of the following sessions sponsored by the Environment & Technology section of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. "The Human Animal Bond: New Directions in Research" or "Legal Issues and the Environment" (co-sponsored with the Law & Society section). Both sessions have been organized by Lisa Anne Zilney who can be reached at Montclair State University (lisa.zilney@montclair.edu) if you have questions about the sessions. A 2-3 page outline/extended abstract of the paper must be submitted via the SSSP's online submission system (<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageId/591>) by midnight on January 31st, 2008. The Society for the Study of Social Problems meeting overlaps the ASA meeting and is scheduled to meet July 31 - August 2, 2008 in Boston, MA.

ISAZ 2008 – THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND: THEORY, RESEARCH & PRACTICE

August 13-15, 2008, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

The area of human-animal studies is characterized by a dynamic tension between interest in theory building and research, on the one hand, and interest in the applications of the human-animal bond on a practical level. The theme of this conference is designed to make explicit links among these three areas. It will encourage researchers and theorists to think about the practical implications of their work, and also to draw in practitioners and encourage them to consider how their work relates to the larger realm of theory and research. The format will include interactive sessions including round table discussions and panel presentations. There will also be a special stream devoted to primates and the human-animal bond. For more information contact the conference organizer at ISAZ2008@oise.utoronto.ca

THE MINDS OF ANIMALS: CONCEPTIONS FROM THE HUMANITIES, SCIENCES AND POPULAR CULTURE

August 12-13, 2008, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

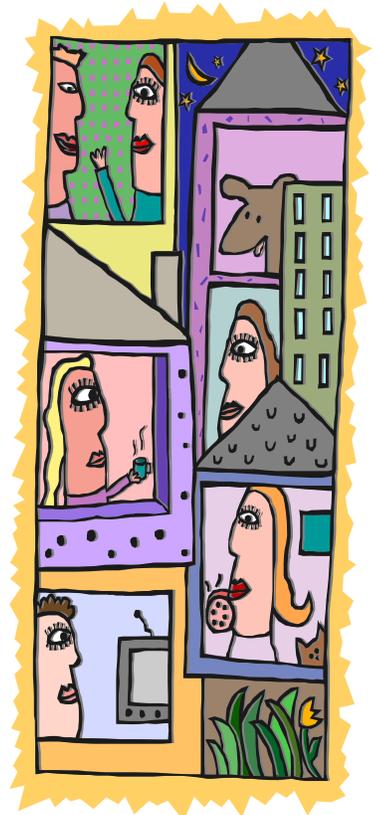
The minds of animals fascinate us. Scientific reports about animal minds receive extensive press coverage. Literature abounds with stories about and from the point of view of animals. And, popular culture elaborates diverse interpretations of the psychological meanings of animal behavior. Theories of animal consciousness inform all academic and public discourse about human ethical responsibility toward animals. We envision having an international symposium on conceptions of animal minds covering two days, with 12 speakers each day. Speakers will cover diverse topics: scientific attempts to understand the minds of animals; historical, literary and artistic representations of the minds of animals; the ways in which the minds of animals are presented in the popular media and by special interest groups; and the working assumptions about animal minds of those who live in close interaction with animals. Each day will consist of three periods of 2.5 hours. During each of these periods, four speakers will discuss their topics for 30 minutes, and this will be followed by a one-half hour discussion. Each 2.5 hour period will be followed by either a coffee or a lunch break. The conference is being organized by Robert W. Mitchell, Psychology, Eastern Kentucky University and Julie A. Smith, Languages and Literatures, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. To apply to be a speaker at the conference, please e-mail a one-page proposal, a short CV or list of relevant publications or activities to Robert.Mitchell@eku.edu and smithj@uww.edu.

The deadline for proposals is **December 15**. There will likely be a modest registration fee for coffee, lunch, and miscellaneous conference expenses.

MEMBER'S NEWS

Thomas Dietz, Director, Environmental Science and Policy Program & Assistant Vice President for Environmental Research, Michigan State University forwarded the following exciting initiatives at MSU:

- A graduate specialization (a minor for any master's or PhD) is under review for approval.
- The Animal Studies Institute Summer Fellowship Program will be held at MSU (application process is underway).
- A couple of books have been recently published – The Animals Reader edited by Linda Kalof and Amy Fitzgerald. It was reviewed in both the Guardian and the Financial Times <http://www.bergpublishers.com/?tabid=1804>; Looking at Animals in Human History by Linda Kalof <http://www.reaktionbooks.co.uk/book.html?id=297>; and the 6 volume "A Cultural History of Animals is Out" <http://www.palgrave-usa.com/catalog/product.aspx?isbn=1845204964>
- For more information about the animal-studies research going on at MSU, please have a look at the following link <http://animalstudies.msu.edu/>
- In press (Society & Animals) is the first peer reviewed publication on furies, entitled "Furies from A to Z (Anthropomorphism to Zoomorphism)". This article is authored by Kathleen C. Gerbasi (Social Science Division, Psychology, Niagara County Community Collage, Sanborn), Nicholas Paolone, Justin Higner, Laura L. Scaletta (Niagara County Community College, Sanborn), Penny L. Bernstein (Biological Sciences, Kent State University Stark), Samuel Conway (Chairman of Anthrocon, Inc.), and Adam Privitera (State University of New York, Buffalo).
- George Flora published an essay in the 2007 Goat Bulletin by Big Bend People & Goats in which he explores prohibitions on having a favorite goat. A four page review of this issue of the publication can be requested from gkfloro@sulross.edu.



Animals & Society

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Animals and Society



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