



Newsletter

May 2014, Issue 20

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear section members,

As my last note to you as section Chair, I would like to report on some new initiatives and thank a number of people for helping make this a successful year for the section.

First, I would like to thank our incoming Chair, Colter Ellis, and our Council members – Corey Wrenn, Jennifer Sinski, Justin Goodman, David Nibert, Ivy Collier, and Nicole Owens – for their work on several projects. We have continued our work on recruiting new members, taking a special interest in recruiting graduate student members. (Thank you to Jennifer Sinski for crafting

our recruitment letters.) While our graduate student numbers have grown as a percentage of our total section members in this past year, we still want to increase the overall number of section members. Please encourage your colleagues interested in animal issues to join the section. The field is growing, and so should we!

This year, in an effort to attract and retain graduate student members, we are adding a new feature to the section – a mentoring program. In this program, we are pairing graduate students with well-established scholars from different institutions, as a way to provide guidance for new scholars in this growing field. Our inaugural session will include a mentoring lunch at the 2014 annual meeting in San Francisco. You will hear more about the program, including ways to join, on the section listserv. We are looking forward to starting this program and hope to see it grow in the future.

Another primary way we can make the section attractive to potential and current members is by continuing to provide robust paper sessions at the annual meeting, featuring cutting-edge research on a wide variety of topics related to animal issues. Thank you to our section members for submitting a wealth of such papers for this year's meeting (and thank you to Ivy Collier for organizing the roundtables). You can hear more about our members' research at the annual meeting in San Francisco, in our section session and roundtable sessions. These are listed further below in the newsletter.

On that note, I certainly hope to see all of you at our paper sessions, reception, and business meeting. At the reception we will be announcing this year's section award winners and the event is open to everyone. (Thank you to Justin Goodman for organizing the section awards.) The business meeting is open to all members, so please join us to hear more about the work we have accomplished in the past year.

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We will also be introducing our newly elected Chair and Council members and will be discussing our plans for the section, and we would love to hear from you, our section members. (Thank you to Angela Mertig, past Chair, for organizing the elections.) At the annual meeting, Colter Ellis will take over as section Chair. Colter has a number of exciting ideas for the section. We are in good hands!

Last, but not least, special thanks go to those who put forth a public face of the section – Loredana Loy, our newsletter editor, Justin Goodman, our social media coordinator, and Helene and Larry Lawson, our website designers. Also, Loredana is starting in her new PhD program at Cornell University this fall – congratulations, Loredana! – so be on the lookout for her new email address for future newsletter submissions.

Best wishes for the end of the academic year, and I look forward to seeing you all in San Francisco.



Liz Cherry
Section Chair

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello section members,

With this spring/summer edition of our newsletter we are introducing a new interview series. Our first guest is Dr. Leslie Irvine from the University of Colorado Boulder. Many thanks to Dr. Irvine for her time, as well as for her helpful and interesting insights.

Also for future reference, if you would like to share or publicize your work through our social media channels (Facebook and Twitter) please send the information to Justin Goodman at justinrossgoodman@gmail.com.

I hope you enjoy this edition and please send us your feedback at my new email address: mll283@cornell.edu

Thank you!

Loredana Loy
Newsletter Editor

INTERVIEW: Leslie Irvine, Associate Professor, U.C. Boulder

How did you become interested in studying animals and society?

My interest in animals goes back as far as I can remember. If I had not grown up in a time when girls were still being discouraged, subtly or otherwise, from doing science, I would have become a zoologist or a veterinarian. I took a circuitous path to sociology, and when I began to think about topics for my Master's thesis, I told my advisor that I wanted to study people's relationships with their cats. This was in the early 1990s, when very little published sociological work on human-animal interactions existed. Clint Sanders had published a co-authored article on dog park interactions in the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* in 1991, and he would produce a steady stream of publications over the next few years, but his book, *Understanding Dogs*, didn't come out until 1999. *Regarding Animals*, by Clint [Sanders] and Arnie Arluke came out in 1996. Jan & Steve Alger's "Beyond Mead" paper on human-feline interaction came out in 1997. So I arrived a bit early for the party, and my advisor wisely steered me toward studying relationships between people. Doing so gave me a solid background in social psychology, gender, and the sociology of

emotions, areas that have guided my research all along. By 1998, when I had a tenure-track job and had turned my dissertation into my first book, *Codependent Forevermore*, a body of literature on animals and society had developed. I returned to my interest in human-animal relationships and began the research that led to my book, *If You Tame Me*. I will always owe a debt of gratitude to Jan and Steve Alger, Clint Sanders, Arnie Arluke, Clif Flynn, David Nibert, and the late Cliff Bryant, for mapping the territory.



Dr. Irvine and Skipper

Where do you see the field going in the next five to ten years?

Alas, my crystal ball is notoriously unreliable. I can tell you where I would *like* to see it going. I have three ideas on this. First, I would like to see animals

become mainstream within sociology. The proof of this would come when they were incorporated into the texts used to teach. We would look back and ask ourselves how we ever thought we understood this or that topic without considering animals. Animals belong in texts, courses, or units on the family, deviance, culture, the environment, and so many other topics. Second, I hope to see more international work. There are growing opportunities in the area of public health, because many of the same diseases that affect animals also

affect people. Climate change is making the study of disasters increasingly important, and again, events that affect people also affect animals. The international market for animal parts is another area just waiting for study. I have a long list. Third, I would like to see our research become useful to various constituencies. By that, I don't necessarily mean

that I think we should all do applied research. But let's do work that reaches a bigger audience than just the readers of a journal. There are people who can use our work but don't even know we exist. For example, on several occasions, I've sat down with the managers of the local animal shelter and said, "What do you need to know?"

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What problems do you face that might benefit from some research?" Those talks have helped shape some of my projects, and I've then shared the results with the shelter staff. We should be picking the brains of animal stakeholders to see how we can inform their domains and possibly help resolve problems.

What are some crucial issues in the area of animals and society that you think need more attention? What are the challenges of being an animals and society scholar in the mainly human-oriented field of sociology?

The topics I mentioned, such as public health, disaster response, and illegal wildlife trade are just a start. Another area is the role of race and ethnicity in human-animal interactions. The geographer Jennifer Wolch has done terrific work on this, particularly in Los Angeles, and sociologists could make significant contributions. A topic that needs immediate attention has to do with the changing definition of "service animals" and whether "emotional support" animals will have the same access as those trained to provide assistance or alerts.

As for challenges, I think that, as scholars, we could do a better job

of reminding people that we aren't studying animals, per se, but studying society. Animals are involved in many of the phenomena that the field of sociology seeks to understand. We aren't setting ourselves up as animal behaviorists or dog trainers or veterinarians, although some among us might have knowledge in those areas. But our training is in sociology, and our challenge involves demonstrating how non-human animals constitute the social world.

Please tell us about your project "My Dog Always Eats First" and your collaboration with "The National Museum of Animals & Society."

My Dog Always Eats First is a study of people who live on the streets with their animals. Most of them live with dogs, but I also met a good number of people who were caring for cats. The cat owners mostly lived in relatively permanent situations, such as abandoned buildings or junkyards. I conducted the research in five cities. I approached some people individually, but I did the bulk of the research by partnering up with organizations that offer veterinary street clinics for the pets of the homeless. I gained access to a number and variety of people that I never would have been able to

contact on my own. I also got to accompany a veterinarian and her team on "house calls" into homeless camps, where I would not have ever ventured alone. This is another example of the approach I mentioned, where I asked for help gaining access for the research but also asked what the organizations were interested to learn about the populations to which they provided services. I was able to provide them with information on the backgrounds of their clients, which gets omitted from veterinary histories, and I also created a directory of veterinary services for the homeless, which is available to the transient population.



VET SOS check in: Waiting to be seen at the Project Homeless Connect clinic in San Francisco.

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In the book, I analyzed the life-with-my-animal narratives and found that the circumstances of homelessness help shape people's relationships with animals. By this, I mean that a twenty-year-old kid who hops freight trains with his dog will have a very different relationship with his dog than will the recently-evicted woman who lives in her car with her cat. I build on the classic work by Snow and Anderson, *Down on their Luck*, to contribute to the understanding of identity work and stigma management among those on the margins of society.

Some of my favorite stories are "redemption narratives," in which people tell of animals saving them from addiction, jail, prostitution, alcoholism, and even keeping them from committing suicide.

Once the book was published, I received an email from Carolyn Merino Mullin, the president of the National Museum of Animals and Society (NMAS), and Christine Kim, a Los Angeles social worker. Christine was

curating an exhibition entitled "My Dog is My Home," on the experience of human-animal homelessness and she and Carolyn had heard of my work. They invited me to write an essay for the exhibit, and I also donated some interview transcripts and field notes to their permanent collection. The exhibit ran during November 2013, and I was honored to speak at the opening. Several formerly homeless people attended, too, with their dogs. In addition, because homelessness often results from disasters, the exhibit had that component, too. I



Dr. Irvine with Don, who appears in the book, near his camp in San Francisco.

I had worked in Gonzalez, Louisiana, at the sheltering facility for animals rescued from New Orleans post-Katrina, in the research for *Filling the Ark*. I had kept my name badge on a bulletin board since 2005, wondering from time to time what I should do with it. When I learned about that aspect of the exhibit, I found the answer to that question. The badge is now part of the Museum's permanent collection, too. Part of the genius

of NMAS is that, once a physical exhibit ends, it continues in an online version. They also do pop-up exhibits in various locations. Carolyn Mullin is very creative and ambitious, and I would encourage everyone to visit and, if possible, support the effort.

What role does advocacy play in your work and in what ways do you attempt to bridge advocacy and academia?

As I mentioned, I reach out to people and ask them how sociological research might help them do what they do. This extends my work beyond academia. I took this approach with research on animal sheltering, on animal welfare in disasters, and most recently, on homelessness. In addition, my Animals and Society course draws over 100 students each time I teach it, and I see that as a major bridge of this sort. By that, I mean that I provide students with information and skills, and then let them decide how to conduct their lives.

What is your next research project?

I have a few ideas percolating, but I won't commit right now. I need to take some time to think over the summer.

SECTION MEMBERS' NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Besek, Jordan Fox and Julius Alexander McGee. 2014. "Introducing the Ecological Explosion: A Cross-National Analysis of Invasive Species and Economic Development." *International Journal of Sociology* 44(1): 75-93.
- Cherry, Elizabeth. 2014. "Vegetarianism and Veganism." Pp.771-773 in *Encyclopedia of Social Deviance*, edited by Craig J. Forsyth and Heith Copes. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
- Ellis, Colter. 2014. "Boundary Labor and the Production of Emotionless Commodities: The Case of Beef Production in the United States." *The Sociological Quarterly* 55(1): 92-118.
- Ellis, Colter. 2013. "The Symbiotic Ideology: Stewardship, Husbandry, and Dominion in Beef Production." *Rural Sociology* 78(4): 429-449.
Winner of the 2014 Rural Sociology best paper award from the Rural Sociological Association.
- Gunderson, Ryan and Diana Stuart. 2014. "Industrial Animal Agribusiness and Environmental Sociological Theory: Applications and Areas for Development." *International Journal of Sociology* 44(1): 54-74.
- Jerolmack, Colin and Iddo Tavory. 2014. "Molds and Totems: Nonhumans and the Constitution of the Social Self." *Sociological Theory* 32(1): 64-77.
- Knight, Kelly, Colter Ellis, and Sara Simmons. 2014. "Parental Predictors of Children's Animal Abuse: Findings from a National and Intergenerational Sample." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. Published online first April 27, 2014 <http://tinyurl.com/k2ptdzn>
- Wrenn, Corey Lee. 2013. "Nonhuman Animal Rights, Alternative Food Systems, and the Non-Profit Industrial Complex." *Phaenex: Journal of Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture* 8(2): 209-242.
- Wrenn, Corey Lee and Rob Johnson. 2013. "A Critique of Single-Issue Campaigning and the Importance of Comprehensive Abolitionist Vegan Advocacy." *Food, Culture & Society* 16(4): 651-668.

SECTION MEMBERS IN THE MEDIA

Elizabeth Cherry was quoted in a *Pacific Northwest Inlander* article “Between Man and Beast:” <http://www.inlander.com/spokane/between-man-and-beast/Content?oid=2289061>

Colter Ellis was interviewed for ASA Society Pages podcast *Office Hour* regarding the paper “The Symbiotic Ideology: Stewardship, Husbandry, and Dominion in Beef Production” published in *Rural Sociology*: <http://thesocietypages.org/officehours/2014/04/02/colter-ellis-on-the-boundary-labor-of-beef-production/>

Leslie Irvine was interviewed about her book, *My Dog Always Eats First: Homeless People and Their Animals*, on *New Books in Sociology*: <http://newbooksinsociology.com/2014/03/11/leslie-irvine-my-dog-always-eats-first-homeless-people-and-their-animals-lynn-rienner-2013/>

The National Museum of Animals and Society has launched the website for their inaugural exhibit entitled "My Dog is My Home: The Experience of Human-Animal Homelessness." Leslie Irvine spoke at the opening of the Museum last fall. The essay she wrote for the exhibit appears on the site, along with field notes she donated to the Museum's permanent collection. <http://mydogismyhome.com> The Museum also featured an exhibit on disaster response, and you can see Dr. Irvine's name tag from her work in the temporary shelter outside New Orleans, now part of the Museum's collection, along with an excerpt from her notes.

Leslie Irvine was interviewed about her book, *Filling the Ark: Animal Welfare in Disasters*, for *Freedom of Species*, a radio show based in Melbourne, Australia: <http://www.freedomofspecies.org/show/filling-ark-animal-welfare-disasters-dr-leslie-irvine> (The interview begins around the ten-minute mark).

Corey Lee Wrenn's article “The Motivation for No-Kill Shelters” was published by the *Roanoke Times*: http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/article_a3ae1142-6835-11e3-8112-0019bb30f31a.html



ASA 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

The preliminary ASA 2014 Annual Meeting program is up: <http://www.asanet.org/AM2014/am2014.cfm>
Our section's reception is on Saturday, August 16 from 6:30-8:30pm. Our section's day is Sunday, August 17 from 12:30 to 3:30, followed by the business meeting from 3:30-4:10.

1. Paper Session: Inequality and Animals. 12:30-2:10.

Session Organizer and Presider: Elizabeth Cherry, Manhattanville College

Presenters

Demographic Representations in Nonhuman Animal Rights Magazines and the Implications for Mobilization Efforts and Diversity - *Corey Lee Wrenn*, Colorado State University

Ideology, Subjectivity and Mind in Animal Models and Infant Research: A Critical Discourse Analysis - *Jessica Bell*, Michigan State University

Only Natural: Families and the Social Construction of Gender in a City Zoo - *Betsie Garner*, University of Pennsylvania; *David Grazian*, University of Pennsylvania

Social Disorganization in Slaughterhouse Communities - *Jessica Racine Jacques*, University of Central Florida

2. Roundtables. 2:30-3:30.

Table 1: Animals and Culture

Session Organizer and Presider: Ivy Collier, Ocean Conservancy

Presenters

Animal Advocacy and Vivisection: The Long Road to Institutionalization - *Erin Evans*, University of California-Irvine

Rethinking Women's Embodiment in the Context of Human-Horse Relationships - *Keri Jacqueline Brandt*, Fort Lewis College

Viewing Nimrod from the Pew: A Study of the Views of North American Churchgoers on Hunting - *Stephanie Medley-Rath*, Lake Land College; *Lisa M. Leopard*, Georgia State University

Something to See Here: Looking at Road-Killing and Road-Killed Animals - *Stephen Patrick Vrla*, Michigan State University

Table 2: Animals and the Environment

Session Organizer: Ivy Collier, Ocean Conservancy

Table Presider: Elizabeth Cherry, Manhattanville College

Presenters

A Fractured Bond: Exploring the Presence of Animals in Unconventional Energy Development Mass Media Coverage - *Cameron Thomas Whitley*, Michigan State University; *Melanie Bowers*, Michigan State University

Ethical Review, Empirical Work and Veganism - *Kay Peggs*, University of Portsmouth; *Barry Smart*, University of Portsmouth; *Joseph Burriedge*, University of Portsmouth

Science, She-Wolves, and Silence: A Feminist Political Ecology Approach to Evaluating Wolf Management - *Christina M. Leshko*, Michigan State University

The Metabolic Rift and Nature-Based Tourism: An Analysis of the Human-Shark Crisis in Capitalist Production - *Meghan Elizabeth Charters*, Michigan State University



The 2013 ASA Annual Meeting in New York City

OUR SECTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Our section's Facebook page membership has grown since December 2013 from 245 to 300 followers. The Twitter account has also grown from 163 to 253 followers.

The top **10 most viewed Facebook stories** since December 2013 to date are listed below, including links to the articles as posted on Facebook. You need to be signed into your Facebook account to view these links. Many thanks to Justin Goodman, our section's social media administrator, for providing this list.

1. Metal Cats: Hardcore Metal Musicians Pose With Their Cats ([link](#))



2. New study: Speciesist attitudes significantly and positively associated with negative attitudes toward ethnic outgroups ([link](#))

3. Americans Have Fewer Human Babies - But Many More Canine Ones ([link](#))

4. Historic ruling. Fed court says SeaWorld can no longer have trainers in the water with orcas because of inherent dangers to workers ([link](#))

5. Men beaten for drugging and stealing dogs to sell to restaurant in China ([link](#))

6. Apply now for HSUS's summer retreat program for scholars working on human-animal studies projects ([link](#))



7. Japanese cafe seats solo diners with stuffed animals to ward off loneliness ([link](#))

8. Idaho Mountain Express: #AgGag would "trample rights under the 1st Amendment and blindfold consumers" ([link](#))

9. Forbes: How Increased Meat Consumption In China Changes Landscapes Across The Globe ([link](#))

10. Great article on human-animal relations in which our section chair discusses the diminishing divide between humans and other animals ([link](#))

CALL FOR PAPERS

Animal Society Institute and Brill

As of 2014 the Animal Society Institute and Brill are pleased to announce that the books in the *Human Animal Studies* series will be published in three formats: hardback, paperback, and e-book. The paperbacks will be priced with individuals in mind while the hardback and e-books will continue to be aimed at the library market.

Human-Animal Studies (HAS) publishes work on any topic that explores the relation between human and nonhuman animals in any setting, contemporary or historical, from the perspective of various disciplines within both the social sciences (e.g., psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science), humanities (e.g., history, literary criticism), and natural sciences (e.g., ethology, comparative psychology, veterinary medicine). As of 2013, 16 titles have been published.

Among the broad areas included are:

- Applied uses of animals (research, education, medicine, agriculture)
- Animals in the popular culture (entertainment, companion animals, animal symbolism)
- Wildlife and the environment
- Socio-political movements, public policy and the law.

To find more information visit: <http://brill.com/has>.

Edited Volume on Non-native Species

Within a growing literature of animal studies and animal ethics, scholars have critically examined factory farms, zoos, companion animals, and laboratory testing. What remains underexplored are the logics of extermination deployed against feral or non-native species. The existing vocabulary utilized to describe non-native species often represents these animals as pests that wreak havoc on the eco-system, promiscuously over-populate, and spread disease. This rhetorical framing justifies a militarized relationship to these species. Furthermore, the debate over non-native species divides common ground between animal activists and environmentalists. If the world is moving very slowly towards less cruelty in the treatment of animals and a modest increase in awareness about the basic dignity that should be afforded to all creatures, there is a vast slippage in the case of feral and non-native species that merits attention.

We are looking for essays that critically explore the affiliation between humans, non-native species, and the environment. These essays will be part of a submission for an edited volume to be published by an academic press. We are excited to invite scholars from a variety of disciplines and epistemic positions, including thinkers from multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary backgrounds. Abstracts of 300-500 words should be emailed to criticalspecies@gmail.com by June 6, 2014. Please address correspondence to Dr. James Stanescu and Dr. Kevin Cummings. Interviews and reprints from journals will be considered.

CALL FOR PAPERS - Continued from page 11

Topics might include:

- Bridging the gap between environmental ethics and animal ethics
- Rhetorical examination of the tropes of nativity, exoticness, and/or invasion
- Media and mediated accounts of invasive species
- Ecofeminist approaches to overpopulation, fertility, and promiscuity
- Queer critiques of reproductive futurism
- New materialist and speculative realist interventions in non-native species
- Colonialism and critical geographies
- Economic imperatives and wild/pristine spaces
- Defining ecosystem harm and the terminology of equilibrium, balance, and harmony
- Questions of cohabitation and competition with endangered species
- Introducing, re-introducing, and restoration ecology
- Invasivores
- The biopolitics of wildlife management and/or hunting

The British Animal Studies Network: “Smaller than a Mouse”

The meeting of The British Animal Studies Network (BASN) will take place November 14-15, 2014 at the University of Exeter, UK under the direction of Professor Henry Buller. As with all previous BASN meetings, this one takes as its focus a key issue in animal studies that it is hoped will be of interest to scholars from a range of disciplines. If you are interested in giving a paper addressing the topic from whatever disciplinary perspective please submit an abstract of no more than 200 words with a brief biography (also of no more than 200 words). These should be included within your email (i.e. not as attachments). Please send them to h.buller@exeter.ac.uk by June 21, 2014. Presentations will be 20 minutes long, and we hope to include work by individuals at different career stages.

Topics covered at this meeting might include (but are not limited to):

- Insects, small mammals, arachnids, molluscs, worms, (small) fish and amphibians
- Overcoming the mammalian hegemony in animal studies
- Empirical examples of investigating human-small animal relationalities
- Ethical issues associated with working (and living) with the very small
- Intercorporalities and microscopic species interminglings (including microbes and viruses)
- Immunologies, contagions, zoonoses, parasites
- How the study of small and smaller animals contributes to (or challenges) contemporary animal studies

For more information: <http://www.britishanimalstudiesnetwork.org.uk>

SERIES Solving Social Problems



Series Editor: **Bonnie Berry**, Director of the Social Problems Research Group, USA

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. As such, work is welcomed on subjects as diverse as environmental damage, terrorism, economic disparities and economic devastation, poverty, inequalities, domestic assaults and sexual abuse, health care, natural disasters, labour inequality, animal abuse, crime, and mental illness and its treatment. 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, practice, or more broadly, 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.

For More information on this series please visit www.ashgate.com/SSP

Call for Proposals

Proposals should take the form of either:

1. a preliminary letter of inquiry, briefly describing the project; or
2. a formal prospectus including: abstract, brief statement of your critical methodology, table of contents, sample chapter, estimated word count, estimate of the number and type of illustrations to be included and a c.v.

Please send a copy to either:

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OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The International Journal of Sociology just published an issue on environmental sociology and animal studies. Section members Linda Kalof and Cameron Thomas Whitley have a publication in the journal: "Animal Imagery in the Discourse of Climate Change."

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Animal Studies and Environmental Sociology

Animal Studies and Environmental Sociology, Richard York

Animal Imagery in the Discourse of Climate Change, Cameron Thomas Whitley and Linda Kalof

Political-Ecological Dimensions of Silvery Gibbon Conservation Efforts. An Endangered Ape in (and on) the Verge, Nicholas Malone, Megan Selby, and Stefano Longo

Industrial Animal Agribusiness and Environmental Sociological Theory. Applications and Areas for Development, Ryan Gunderson and Diana Stuart

Introducing the Ecological Explosion. A Cross-National Analysis of Invasive Species and Economic Development, Jordan Fox Besek and Julius Alexander McGee

The journal can be accessed here:

<http://mesharpe.metapress.com/openurl.asp?genre=issue&issn=0020-7659&volume=44&issue=1>



This is a publication of the American Sociological Association, Animals & Society Section.

<http://www.asanet.org/sectionanimals/animals.cfm>

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