

# ANIMALS AND SOCIETY

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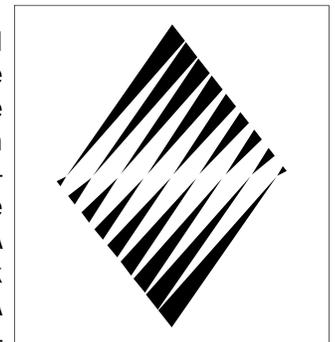
## JOIN THE NEW ANIMALS & SOCIETY SECTION

### Help Build Our New ASA Section

David Nibert

Welcome to the third Animal & Society Newsletter – and the first we have produced as an official section of the ASA! Thanks again to everyone who worked to make this important new section a reality. In order to maintain our section status, we must keep our membership numbers around 300, and the section must continue to be vibrant and productive. So please inform your ASA friends and colleagues about our new section and ask them to join us. And please try to attend the 2003 ASA meetings in Atlanta, where we will have three paper sessions, a business meeting and a reception. At our business meeting in Atlanta (which is always a pleasant, largely social function in which we accomplish a few business-related tasks) we need to elect official section officers and a section council. We will also, for the first time, be able to hold a section reception. Our special guest at our first reception will be Kim Stallwood – longtime editor of the *Animals Agenda*. Please plan to join us!

If you are not a member of the section, we invite you to join us and to participate in the development and expansion of this once neglected area of social scientific inquiry. Membership dues for the section are only \$10.00 per year. Join us!



Send section dues to:  
**American Sociological Association**  
 1307 New York Avenue NW, Suite 700  
 Washington, DC 20005-4701

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**IJSSP PUBLISHES A SPECIAL ISSUE ON ANIMAL STUDIES**

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In the spring of 2003 the International Journal of Sociology & Social Policy published a special issue titled *Animals in the Future of Sociology* (IJSSP, Vol 23 (3) 2003) edited by Janet Alger. **A brief summary of the special issue was written by Janet Alger.**

After several years of effort by sociologists doing research in the area of animals and society, the American Sociological Association granted the group “section-information” status in 2001. In 2002, the animals and society section was granted permanent status when 300 members indicated their support by joining the sec-

tion. This was an important landmark on the road to becoming a legitimate new sub-field in sociology. Thus, the question arises that forms the theme of this special issue of the International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy: What is the role of animals in the future of sociology?

David Nibert, the author of the first article, was instrumental in the pursuit of our section status at ASA. In his article, he focuses on the ways in which the unjust social arrangements that hinder the well-being of humans in society are intertwined with the oppression of non-human animals. This connection has intensified with the advance of global capitalism which exploits disadvantaged humans and animals on a worldwide scale to ensure ever greater profits for stockholders. For instance, agribusiness which provides ever greater amounts of meat to affluent consumers in industrialized countries causes deforestation, soil erosion and increased poverty in less developed countries as well as enormous suffering for animals. Sociologists must come to recognize these interconnections and include animals in their study of oppressed groups. Animals must be included as subjects with personalities and not studied simply in terms of the social positions to which they have been assigned, such as “livestock.”

Arnold Arluke prefers the term “ethnozoology” rather than “animals and society” and explores three issues regarding the place of ethnozoology in sociological theory and research. He asks why a discipline that has embraced all other minority groups has been so slow to explore ethnozoology. He goes on to examine the work that has been done in the new sub-field so far and then explores the future directions the field may take. He makes a strong argument in favor of increasing the emphasis on applied work that would be useful to both those who must make policy that affects humans and animals and to animals themselves. For instance, veterinary students are increasingly uneasy about the use of animals as educational tools in veterinary colleges. This uneasiness affects their relationship with faculty and administration and may put pressure on the latter to alter policy.

The article by Olin E. Myers, Jr. explores the need to study animal-human interaction to inform sociological theory. Animals in fact enter into key processes that shape self and society and the self emerges in a mixed species community. Further, the self is not dependent on only linguistic exchanges and nonverbal nonhumans can contribute to the emergence of a human self. Myers then gives examples of how studies of humans with wild and domestic animals illustrate the potential for a human-animal sociology. Humans can and do extend their powers of understanding when they intensively interact with other species and this effort is reciprocated in other species. The intersubjectivity that is the outcome of such exchanges can be assessed in a variety of ways.

In the next article in the issue, Janet and Steven Alger examine the human-animal relationship as it is presented in introductory sociology textbooks. Like Myers, the Algiers criticize the legacy left by George Herbert Mead and posit a need to go beyond Mead using recently accumulated data on both animals and humans. They find that introductory textbooks have not ventured far beyond Mead and in dealing with issues of animal culture and learning reveal a lack of knowledge of recent research on animals and a strong anthropocentric bias that makes it difficult for the authors to present a coherent picture of animal culture and learning ability. Many authors fail to recognize the existence of animal cultures and, when they do grasp their existence, largely disparage them and treat them of little significance. The result is the maintenance of the hard line that sociology has traditionally drawn between humans and nonhuman species.

***“Sociologists must come to recognize these interconnections and include animals in their study of oppressed groups. Animals must be included as subjects with personalities and not studied simply in terms of the social positions to which they have been assigned, such as ‘livestock.’”***

Our final article by Clifton B. Flynn differs from the others in its focus on the sources of opposition to the study of animals and society located outside of the discipline. This is an important issue as it affects the ability of sociologists to incorporate the study of animals into their curriculum and, thus, the future of animals in sociology. Professor Flynn provides a case study of his attempt to gain approval at his own college for a course in Animals and Society. The main sources of opposition came from scientists who saw sociologists as unqualified to teach about animals and as making an incursion into their turf. He goes on to describe the course itself and to analyze its impact on students.

To order the issue contact: Professor Barrie O. Pettman  
E-mail: hr24@dial.pipex.com

*The Chronicle of Higher Education* regularly publishes reports of animal research, legislation, and socio-philosophical issues. We summarize a selection of recent news that should be of interest to sociologists. —Alaina Wolfe, Wittenberg University

**“Animal Research Criticized at NIH,” by Richard Morgan  
Published: May 3, 2002**

Are duplicate research studies necessary? Should the National Institutes of Health (NIH) fund multiple animal research projects that appear to study the same thing? *Stop Animal Exploitation Now*, based in Cincinnati, released a report stating that duplicate research projects are a “waste” of money. They searched an NIH database (Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects), which compiles information on all federally financed biomedical research projects at the NIH and other agencies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. They used terms such as “mouse,” “rat,” “dog,” and “rabbit.”

The report highlighted experiments found in the database relating to drug use. There are 286 projects studying the effects of cocaine in rats, 109 on mice, and 55 on macaques. These are prime examples of the NIH’s “bottomless pit of duplication.”

“Even if you don’t care about the animals, you should care about the money,” said Michael Budkie, the executive director of *Stop Animal Exploitation Now*.

Don Ralbovsky, a spokesman for the NIH, declined to comment. However Anthony Mazzaschi, the associate VP for research at the Association of American Medical Colleges, said that duplicated research could have merit.

“Some research does need to be duplicated: one, to validate it, and two, to extend the research results,” Mr. Mazzaschi said.

**“The Dying Trend of Using Live Animals in Labs” (unattributed)  
Published: December 6, 2002**

A survey published in the November 2002 issue of the *Journal of Academic Medicine* indicates that medical schools are moving away from using live animals in their laboratories. “Of the 125 schools in the United States and Puerto Rico, 68% say they no longer use live animals in pharmacology, physiology or surgery courses,” according to the article.

The lead author of the study, Lawrence A. Hansen, a professor of pathology and neurosciences at the University of California at San Diego says, “Much of the impetus for replacing animal laboratories with nonlethal alternatives comes from a new generation of medical students with more natural empathy for the suffering of animals.” Studies on computer simulations and interactive videos suggest that these tools are as effective as the use of live animals.

*“Much of the impetus for replacing animal laboratories with nonlethal alternatives comes from a new generation of medical students with more natural empathy for the suffering of animals.”*

The *Journal of Academic Medicine* report and three previous surveys describe the percentage of labs that do use live animals:

Pigs are used in 42% of labs that do use live animals  
 Rabbits in 6%  
 Dogs in 40%  
 Cats in 4%  
 Rodents in 10%  
 Frogs in 4%

**“Why Not Save Jellyfish as Well as Whales,” by Marlene Zuk  
 Published: March 21, 2003**

Zuk describes how we use animals as symbols. The commercial world has animals appearing as sports team logos, on TV shows, and as auto manufacturer emblems. She states that we have been doing this since Biblical times, but she believes that there is no real danger done by naming a sports team the “Falcons” or a car “Jaguar.” *But* there are real considerations to be made when we utilize animal behaviors and characteristics to justify and rationalize human animal behavior. We often compare the habits of humans to other animals, looking for some universality and justification to our behavior. “In those cases, humans are using animals as representations of certain traits, and looking for lessons about the universality of characteristics like fidelity or intelligence by seeking their counterparts in the animal kingdom,” she says. Zuk asks when we do make these comparisons, “why do we find some animals more meaningful than others? Do our prejudices cause any harm, to ourselves or to other species?”

In the case of some animals, like primates and dolphins, we see similarities and are more evolutionarily similar, so we feel safe extrapolating those similarities to other traits. This kind of reasoning has several flaws. It is important to note that, when studying similar traits, animals have similar traits for two reasons. Zuk says, “First, a trait may be shared because it originally occurred in an ancestral organism.” For example, all birds have wings, but the wings of a penguin are very different from a swallow’s. “Biologists refer to such traits as shared derived characters, and they are useful in constructing and studying phylogenetic trees, the diagrams that show evolutionary history and relationships among a group of organisms,” she says.

The second reason why traits may be similar is that they arose through convergent evolution (similar selective pressures resulted in traits that resemble each other). Examples of convergence include the wings on bats and birds, the eyes of cephalods and vertebrates, and the spines of North American cactus and their unrelated counterparts, members of the family *Euphorbiaceae*. Behavioral biologists have traditionally been interested in both.

What *do* we see as more relevant? Universality does not mean that the trait has a genetic basis, or that it is not influenced by the environment as all traits are. This is not to say that these studies are not beneficial. However, we should not be so quick to put all of our “eggs in one basket” or all into one animal, and discount the value of others. “If we think that we have already found the best example, we may not look further to see how other species use, say, sexuality or intelligence. That would unnecessarily limit our understanding of the natural world—and quite possibly ourselves.” This is also to say that we should not base all human characteristics on the behavior of other animals, mammals or not. Zuk basically does not know how far we can and should go with our comparisons; we need to be careful how we use them to rationalize our behavior. Secondly, we should not limit our understanding and studies to just one animal. We should study all with equal vigor.

*“We often compare the habits of humans to other animals, looking for some universality and justification to our behavior. In those cases, humans are using animals as representations of certain traits, and looking for lessons about the universality of characteristics like fidelity or intelligence by seeking their counterparts in the animal kingdom.”*

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**“Highway's Hidden Toll,” by Lila Guterman  
Published: June 21, 2002**

There are many problems that threaten animals living near highways. Pollution, waste from cars, road salt, and basic dangers threaten everyday life for these animals. Guterman interviews the “budding road ecologist” and professor of landscape ecology at Harvard, Richard Forman. Forman gathered a group of scientists to work on a book entitled, *Road Ecology: Science and Solution*. (This book was slated for publication in November 2002.) Fourteen different specialists contributed to the volume, to maximize its influence on future plans for road construction and improvement. Roads can affect the landscape hundreds of yards away. Roadways can pollute streams, divide habitats, spread non-native plant species, and degrade ecosystems with noise pollution. Road kill can also significantly reduce the animal population.

Several studies have been conducted on certain species to show the overall effects of roads on species. Studies were done on frogs and other reptiles who like to sun by open roadways, and who reproduce in stagnant pools of water (which may be toxic from road salt). Studies were also done on birds and effects on their habitats. Many birds will not nest within even a half to three-quarters of a mile of a road. Forman also described the dangers of nonnative plant species and the channelization of streams. Forman wants the book to be a catalyst for the transportation system, and to influence the environmentally and ecologically conscious building of roads and transportation systems.

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**NEW INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ANIMALS & SOCIETY ESTABLISHED**

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**The Animal Rights Network Inc. (ARN) has announced its transformation into the Institute for Animals and Society (IAS), a public policy institute or “think tank.”**

Founded in 1979 as an IRS 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization, ARN has been involved in gathering, producing, and disseminating information through the publication of *The Animals' Agenda* (1979-2002) and its library and archive (“ARN Collection”), established in 1993. *The Animals' Agenda* served a unique role as the unofficial journal of the animal rights movement. The ARN Collection, which is recognized as the largest library and archive of its kind, has preserved the history of the contemporary social movement for animal advocacy. Since 1998, the ARN also has administered the annual Summit for the Animals meeting, where national leaders come together to discuss strategies and foster mutual support.

The new Institute for Animals and Society will include three program centers:

- The Center for Research, Analysis, and Policy, which will provide interdisciplinary, nonpartisan research and analysis to help formulate and promote changes in public policy. From the information garnered, position papers, scientific reports, and policy briefs will be generated for distribution to government, the media, animal advocates, and the general public.
- The Center for Education and Training, which will develop a range of educational publications and training programs to build a corps of advocates skilled in animal issues, policy development, organization management, strategic planning, and other areas.
- The Center for Movement Study and Cooperation, which will address the misperception that concern for animals bears little relationship to human well-being. The IAS will lead efforts to foster cooperation, not only between the animal advocacy movement, other social movements, and interests such as business, education, religion, and the arts, but also within the animal advocacy movement itself.

The goals of the new IAS include improving the public debate on animal rights and the status of animals, providing an expert resource for scholarly research and analysis and creating a range of educational publications and training programs to advance animal rights as a public policy issue.

For more information, please contact:

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## ANNOUNCEMENT: Forthcoming article!

Gossard, Marcia Hill and Richard York. 2003. "Social Structural Influences on Meat Consumption." *Human Ecology Review* 10(1), forthcoming.



### Book Proposal/Solicitation of Interest

Proposed Title: Human and Non-human: Reflections on the Roles of Animals in Human Social Life

This edited volume would include chapters on a range of topics about human/non-human animal relations. I am particularly interested in having a section on social theory and how theorists (classical and contemporary) use images and ideologies of non-human animals to construct "the human." I know that there have been a number of relevant papers presented at recent ASAs and regional meetings, and hope that the authors of those papers would consider submitting them for the volume. My vision of the other topics is currently quite broad, though I imagine that chapters on violence, therapeutic relations, and social movements related to animals and animal rights would be important. I could also see having "a" chapter that extended the frame to "nature" in general, but the general theme of the volume would be the relations of humans to non-human animals. I am currently interested in hearing from persons who would be interested in submitting chapters for the volume, as well as those with questions or ideas.

Kris Paap, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Hamilton College, 198 College Hill Rd., Clinton, NY 13323  
 office phone 315.859.4219 - fax 315.859.4632 -home phone 315.737.4211

### A call for potential reviewers by the editors of *Contemporary Sociology*:

We would like to add to our pool of reviewers for *Contemporary Sociology*. Section members should send their CVs if they are interested in writing for CS. *Contemporary Sociology*, Stone Hall, 700 W. State Street, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2059.  
 (cs@soc.purdue.edu)

### Call for Papers: Special Issue of *Visual Studies*: "Looking at Animals, Looking at Society"

Guest Editors: John Grady (Sociology, Wheaton College, MA) & Jay Mechling (American Studies, the University of California, Davis)  
 The guest editors for this special issue of the journal, *Visual Studies*, are looking for illustrated essays (25-30 pp., including notes) that examine some aspect of the relationships between humans and animals. Initial inquiries may be directed to John Grady (jgrady@wheatonma.edu) or Jay Mechling (jmechling@ucdavis.edu). Electronic submissions are welcome. Deadline for submissions is May 30th, 2003.

LISTINGS FOR ANIMALS AND SOCIETY SESSIONS IN ATLANTA, 2003  
 AUGUST 16—19, 2003  
 AND A SSSP SESSION HELD CONCURRENTLY IN ATLANTA  
 & OPEN TO ASA MEMBERS

**American Sociological Association**

**Session Title:** Rethinking the Human-Animal Boundary

**Organizer and Presider:** Lynda M. Glennon, Rollins College

**Presenters:**

Janet Alger, Siena College and Steven Alger, College of St. Rose  
*Beyond Anthropomorphism: Exploring Issues in Inter-species Communication*

Keri Brandt, University of Colorado at Boulder  
*A Language of Their Own: Human-Horse Communication*

Barbara Brunnick, Blue Dolphin Project  
*Media Whales: Changes in Social Constructs That Have Lead to the Conservation of Cetaceans*

Theresa L. Geodeke - University of Missouri-Columbia  
*The Changing Eye of the Beholder: Relating to and Protecting the Florida Manatee*

**Discussion:** Clinton Sanders - University of Connecticut

**Session Title:** The Place of Animals in Social Institutions

**Organizers and Presiders:** Janet M. Alger, Siena College & Steven F. Alger, College of St. Rose

**Presenters:**

Joshua M. Frank, FIREPAW and Pamela Carlisle-Frank, FIREPAW  
*Companion Animal Overpopulation: Trends and Results of Major Efforts to Reach a "No-Kill" Nation*

Kris Paap, Hamilton College  
*Animals, Spirituality, and Social Action: The Role of Human and Non-Human Relations in Peace Work*

Brian M. Lowe, University of Virginia  
*Claims-Making by the Animal Rights and the Tobacco Control Movements*

Leslie Irvine, University of Colorado  
*Mead's Myopia: What His Dog Could Have Told Him about the Self*

**Discussion:** David A. Nibert, Wittenberg University

**Session Title:** Animals and Society

**Organizer and Presider:** Clifton Flynn, University of South Carolina Spartanburg

**Presenters:**

Joshua Frank and Pamela Carlisle-Frank, FIREPAW  
*Attitudes and Perceptions Regarding Pet Adoption*

Jessica Greenebaum, Central Connecticut State University  
*It's a Dog's Life: Elevating Status from Pet to "Fur Baby" in the Marketplace*

Helene Lawson, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford  
*Chicken and Deer: Word Associations in a Rural Culture*

Robert Granfield and Paul Colomy, University of Denver  
*Paradise Lost: Wildlife Law in the Vanishing Wilderness*

**Discussion:** Clifton Flynn, University of South Carolina Spartanburg

## Society for the Study of Social Problems

**Session Title:** Learning From the Animals:  
Exploring the Role of Nonhumans in the Classroom

**Organizer and Presider:** Lisa Zilney, University of Tennessee

**Presenters:**

Jeffrey Bussolini, CUNY and EHESS, Paris  
*Nonhuman Influence on Place, Writing, and Reading*

Julie Andrzejewski, St. Cloud State University  
*Social Problems and Animal Rights: Learning Through Experience and Action*

David Nibert, Wittenberg University  
*Animals & Society Courses as Classes on Animal Liberation*

Tracey Smith-Harris, University College of Cape Breton  
*Lions and Tigers and Bears, oh my!: Developing Strategies for Incorporating the Study of Nonhuman Animals into University Classrooms*

Cheryl Joseph, Notre Dame de Namur University  
*Companion Animal Presence and Test Anxiety in College Students: An Experimental Study*

### ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Animal Law on the Web:

<http://www.animallaw.com>

This site is of use to all those interested in laws pertaining to animals. A product of the International Institute for Animal Law, it "provides access to legislation and legal matters pertaining to the rights and welfare of animals."

Animal Concerns:

<http://animalconcerns.netforchange.com/>

This site is "a collaboration between the EnviroLink Network, the Animal Concerns Community, the Sustainable Business Network and GreenMarketplace.com" and is aimed at those interested in social and environmental change.

Legislative Efforts for Animal Protection:

<http://www.leap-mn.org>

A local (Minnesota) organization that is working for the interests of animals. A recent publication, "Animal Cruelty in Minnesota: A Guide for Minnesota Judges, Prosecutors, and other Legal Professionals," is available online.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals:

<http://www.peta-online.org>

This is the website of the largest animal rights organization in the United States. From here you can access a variety of information.

Animal Underworld

<http://www.animalunderworld.com/behindthescenes.htm>

This is the website for a book that examines the trade in animals in the United States. A must-read for anyone who has ever driven by a "roadside zoo" while on vacation.

Animal Ingredients

<http://animal-ingredients.hypermart.net/index.htm>

This is an absolute must for vegans (and vegetarians). Yes, I command you all to write to the Guinness people and tell them to stop using isinglass as a fining agent (or, better yet, brew your own beer)!

Humane Society of the United States

<http://www.hsus.org>

Yes, some animal rights activists refer to this group as "H. S. Useless," but the website still provides valuable information about nation-wide campaigns involving animals.

Center for Animals in Society

[http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/animals\\_in\\_society/main.htm](http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/animals_in_society/main.htm)

This is a research institution at the University of California, Davis. The institute authors a research newsletter that may be of interest to researchers and practitioners.

We're on the Web!  
[asanet.org/sectionanimals/](http://asanet.org/sectionanimals/)

**In every issue of the Newsletter we will highlight websites of potential interest to section members.**

**If you have suggestions for useful electronic resources contact Corwin Kruse at [kruse008@tc.umn.edu](mailto:kruse008@tc.umn.edu).**



**Animals  
and  
Society**

