



ANIMALS & SOCIETY SECTION

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

This will be my last newsletter as section chair. I am grateful to all of you for giving me this opportunity to serve the section. Because this is a small section, being chair meant I got to wear a lot of different hats. This year I was able to work on designing a new logo and making this newsletter, as well figuring out the ins and outs of the new colloquium series we are doing in partnership with the Animals and Society Institute. By far, the best part of this role has been the chance to form new relationships with many of you.

Because this is a small section, being chair also meant I had to rely a lot on volunteers and council members. I would like to thank our social media volunteers and council members from the bottom of my heart. Our volunteers kept up the latest news in the field and notified us of it on Facebook and Twitter, they put together the fall newsletter, presented their work in colloquiums, and more.

Our council members served on awards committees, showed up to meetings, put together a membership drive, selected papers for the annual conference, and are busy planning our social events for the annual conference. THANK YOU to all of you who did this work this year. (And please be sure you check out the Student Spotlight in this newsletter to meet some of the graduate students who have so generously volunteered their time as council members!) I encourage anyone who wants to get more involved to run for a seat on Council in the future.

Please enjoy this newsletter. It will be wonderful to see some of you in person at the annual meeting this year!



*Carol L. Glasser, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Sociology
Minnesota State University, Mankato*

ANIMALS & SOCIETY SECTION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Current Chair

Carol Glasser, Minnesota State University Mankato

Chair-Elect

Jennifer Rebecca Schauer

Secretary/Treasurer

Seven Mattes, Michigan State University

Council Members

Jordan Besek, SUNY at Buffalo

Sarah May Lindsay, McMaster University

Genevieve Minter, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Mark Suchyta, Michigan State University

Jenny Vermilya, University of Colorado Denver

Miranda Kay Workman, Canisius College

Student Representative

India Luxton, Colorado State University

Social Media Volunteers

Loredona Loy, Cornell University

Seven Mattes, Michigan State University

ANIMALS & SOCIETY AT THE ASA ANNUAL MEETING

All of the formal Animals and Society activities will be on Tuesday, August 9. Please plan to join us! We are still planning the social events and will be in touch with members via email once they are scheduled.

TUESDAY AUGUST 9

8-9 AM: Business Meeting

LACC, Floor: Level 1, 150C

9-9:30 AM: Council Meeting

LACC, Floor: Level 1, 150C

10-11:30 AM: Animals & Society Roundtable

JW Marriott, Floor: Gold Level, Gold Salon 2

12- 1:30 PM: Animals & Society Open Paper Session

(LACC, Floor: Level 1, 150C)

MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Erin Evans co-authored a paper in the journal *Society & Animals*

Evans, Erin, Edwin Amenta, and Thomas Allen Elliot. 2021. "The Mediation Model: How Non-Moderate Nonhuman Animal Advocacy Organizations Get the Media Coverage They Want." (published online ahead of print 2021). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/15685306-bja10065> *Society & Animals*.

Adalia James authored a paper in the journal *Social problems*

James, Adalia E E. Unfit Stewards: The Role of the Intensive Pet Parenting Ideology in Constructing Racialized Narratives, spab073, *Social Problems* 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spab073>

Caleb Scoville authored a paper in the *American Journal of Sociology*

Scoville, Caleb. 2022. "Constructing Environmental Compliance: Law, Science, and Endangered Species Conservation in California's Delta." *American Journal of Sociology* 127(4):1094-1150. <https://doi.org/10.1086/718277>

Jenny Vermilya just released a book and was interviewed about it on the *Knowing Animals Podcast*

Vermilya, Jenny R. 2022. *Gender, Identity, and Tracking: The Reality of Boundaries for Veterinary Students*. Purdue University Press.

Knowing Animals podcast. 2021. Episode 181 <https://knowinganimals.libsyn.com/episode-181-boundaries-and-veterinary-medicine-with-jenny-vermilya>

Corey Wrenn was interviewed by *USA Today* has been highlighted in on moral shocks in social movements:

https://www.coreyleewrenn.com/Interviews/WRENN_2021_USA_Today.pdf

Corey Wrenn also gave a talk for a *Compassionate Future, Animal Rebellion Ireland*, based on her recent book:

Animals in Irish Society: Interspecies Oppression and Vegan Liberation in Britain's First Colony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHR6ij9x2LU&t=342s>

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

For this newsletter's student spotlight we are highlighting two graduate students who are serving our section as council members until 2024. We also have the pleasure of introducing one of our undergraduate student members.

MARK SUCHYTA

Education: BA Sociology, University of Michigan; MS, Rural Sociology, Penn State University; Ph.D. (in progress) Sociology and Environmental Science and Policy, Michigan State University

Research Interests: Beliefs about farm animals, animal rights activism, sustainable development, subjective well-being, survey methodology

Dissertation Title: "Social and Environmental Influences on Subjective Well-Being"

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/marksuchyta

Hello! My name is Mark Suchyta and I am a current PhD candidate at Michigan State University who will be defending my dissertation this summer. My scholarship and teaching generally revolve around how humans, non-human

animals, and the rest of the biophysical environment can thrive together. Within animal studies, my main interests are beliefs about farm animals as well as social movements regarding farm animal rights and well-being. I am excited to join the faculty next year at Butler University in Indianapolis where I will be teaching courses on animals and society, environmental sociology, as well as introductory courses. After that, I hope to find a long-term position where I can continue to advocate for better relationships with our fellow animals and the rest of nature through my teaching, scholarship, and service. I am thankful for the support of my three avian companions, Opa, Aspen and Rainford, who sit on me or my computer as I work from home, as well as my fabulous spouse.

Being a part of this section means a lot to me because I believe we are engaged in cutting-edge work that will be increasingly valued in the years to come. I appreciate the small, collegial atmosphere where I feel welcome to approach even the most distinguished and experienced members. As many of you have mentioned, our section serves as a place where animal studies scholars, who are often the only person doing this sort of work at their institutions, can come together to collaborate with, encourage, and celebrate each other. For these reasons, among others, I have great enthusiasm for our section and its success and am honored to serve as a section council member.





INDIA LUXTON

Dissertation excerpt: "In March 2020, the United States was forced to respond to the impending threat of COVID-19. Businesses, schools, and many of society's institutions shuttered in an attempt to prevent mass transmission of the virus. And yet, slaughterhouses remained open, in part due to the Defense Production Act. This decision laid bare historical patterns of agribusiness power in the policy making arena and the public health impacts associated with the structure of industrialized animal agriculture. Company negligence, limited transparency, and dangerous work conditions all contributed to increased rates of COVID-19 transmission. In using three case studies of slaughterhouses of top meat processing firms, Smithfield Foods, Tyson Foods, and JBS America, I document how the failure to enforce health and safety standards and political decisions created patterns of exposure to COVID-19 across facilities. My research illuminates the need to assess agribusiness corporate power in policy making, power which has had a negative impact on workers, host communities, and animals far beyond the COVID-19 pandemic."

Education: B.A in Sociology, Western New England University, 2015; MA in Sociology, Colorado State University, 2017; PhD Candidate (ABD) in Sociology, Colorado State University, expected 2023

Research Interests: industrialized animal agriculture, animal rights, environmental racism, environmental justice, food system, green criminology, and political economy

Dissertation: "COVID-19 and the Slaughterhouse: Assessing the Harms Rooted in Political Economy"

Profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/indialuxton/>

I first began thinking about our relationship to animals at the age of six. Already an enthusiastic reader, I was horrified when I discovered the cruelties of factory farming and so began my very first campaign to promote animal welfare. I wrote letters to local restaurants and posted hand-drawn fliers around my small Massachusetts town that encouraged people to eliminate animals from their diet. My passion for animals has carried me throughout college, a Master's, and now, a PhD.

Over the years, I have explored our relationship to animals in several ways: from conducting research on human-wildlife conflict in Tanzania, to volunteering at a local wolf sanctuary in Colorado, engaging in animal rights activist groups, and to my latest venture: exploring the intersection of state-corporate harm in industrialized animal agriculture. As I dove deeper into analyzing the rampant animal abuse that undergirds industrialized animal agriculture, I began to realize that animals are not the only ones impacted. My dissertation shifts the lens from animal welfare to exploring how the state not only exploits animals, but a predominately immigrant and refugee workforce. There are clear parallels between farm animals and slaughterhouse workers, both of which are vulnerable and have few legal rights or protections. Agricultural animal abuses are strategically hidden from view and rendered invisible, but so too are hidden forms of structural violence experienced by workers. In exploring these commonalities, I advance an intersectional understanding of liberation for all.

It is an honor to be a part of this community!

MONA ZAHIR

Education: BA in Philosophy with a minor in Computer Science, University of Chicago, 2019

Research Interests: economic sociology, institutionalization, science and technology studies, food systems, (sociology of) cellular agriculture and precision fermentation

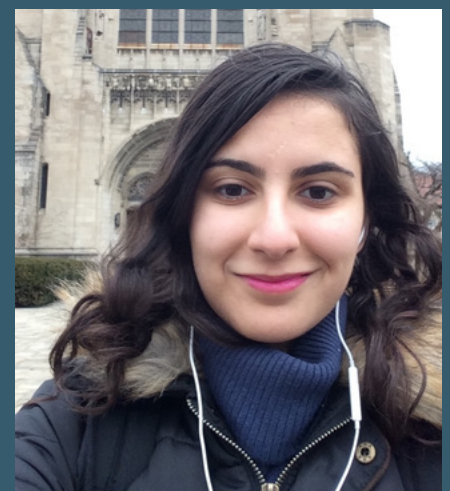
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mona-zahir-775018189/>

I began my undergraduate studies as a biology major with the intention of becoming a veterinarian. However, after a summer internship at a farmed animal sanctuary (Animal Place in Grass Valley, CA), I developed a strong desire to conduct deeper investigations into the societal obstacles in the way of ending animal exploitation. I spent the next few years exploring various fields, including the social sciences, while serving as President of the University of Chicago Animal Welfare Society.

After graduation, I worked as an Editorial Project Manager for the Science and Technology books division at Elsevier. I simultaneously volunteered remotely with the Cohen Lab, a social psychology lab at Stanford. Additionally, I continued my long-time volunteer work of summarizing research articles for the Faunalytics online research library.

The first time I applied to sociology programs, I received only rejections. Rather than giving up, I gained additional research experience through a new job as a remote research assistant for both Texas A&M University and the Research to End Healthcare Disparities Corp. At the same time, I sought and received valuable advice from experienced sociologists, including from the Animals & Society ASA section.

The second time I went through the application cycle, I gained acceptance to my top choice. I am thrilled to say that I will be entering the sociology PhD program at UCLA this coming year (Fall 2022). I feel comforted knowing I will have a supportive community through the Animals & Society section throughout my graduate school journey.



SPRING COLLOQUIUM PRESENTATIONS

This year we began the Animals & Society Colloquium series in partnership with [Animals and Society Institute](#). So far the colloquiums have been a success! If you missed the spring events, descriptions are posted below. All events were recorded--just click on the event tile to be taken to the video.

All previous webinars in the series are also available on the [Resources page of the section website](#)

Publishing Workshop

April 2022

Presenter: Dr. Thomas Aiello, Professor of History and Africana Studies, Valdosta State University

Talk Description: This colloquium will examine publishing opportunities in human-animal studies using as an exemplary case study an analysis of the history and criticism of Pornocrates, a late-nineteenth century painting by Belgian artist Félicien Rops, in relation to interpretations of human-animal difference. In a relatively young discipline like human-animal studies, publishing opportunities for scholarly research can often seem limited by the available venues emphasizing those animals. Those opportunities, however, are continually growing, and opportunities also exist in avenues outside those that make nonhuman animals their specific focus.

"Responsible" Anthropomorphism in Children's Picture Books?: From Classic Examples to New Proposals

March 2022

Presenters: Melissa Jacobi, MA, BFA, Artist and Dr. Jenny R. Vermilya, Assistant Professor Clinical Teaching Track, Sociology Department, University of Colorado Denver

This project is a collaboration between an artist and an animal studies academic. Together they critically explore the historical uses of anthropomorphism in classic children's literature and propose a framework for illustrators who still wish to use nonhuman animal subjects in their storytelling, and who additionally answer to the popular demand for animal-inspired art.

The Meaning of "Wildness" in Artificial Breeding Programs

February 2022

Presenter: Dr. Valerie Berseth, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia

To address biodiversity loss, artificial breeding programs produce and release animals into the natural environment. In this talk, Dr. Berseth draws on interviews with salmon producers working at hatcheries in British Columbia, Canada to examine what it means for something to be "wild," when and how to intervene in animal lives, and the implications of doing so.

WE HAVE A NEW LOGO!



We hope you like the new look!

Rabbits transverse many boundaries of the human-animal relationship and represent the myriad ways we treat various animal species in our society.

They live in the wild and are domesticated. They are treated cruelly in almost every animal use industry (sport, textiles, research, food, and more). At the same time, they are beloved as companion animals, in story books, and even as mascot of holiday. Our new logo is simple, but we hope it says a lot.

SPONSOR A STUDENT!

This year's Membership Committee is launching a new Sponsorship Drive to help grow our section. Students need to be ASA members already. [These directions illustrate the step-by-step process](#) members can take to sponsor a new student member through gifting their section membership fee (just \$5). You can also email carol.glasser@mnsu.edu for more details.

The idea behind this sort of membership drive is that we all likely had someone introduce us to the field of Animals & Society. Sometimes all it takes is a simple invitation to find a meaningful place for yourself in the academy. Instead of calling for students to join on their own, this personal invitation from a sponsor could better help them feel welcomed and willing to explore a new area.

Please consider reaching out to a student who you think could find their place in our section and invite them to join by offering to sponsor them!

Is there anything you would like to share with the membership in upcoming email announcements or newsletters? Please email carol.glasser@mnsu.edu