Fellow Animals and Society Members:

I hope that this note finds all of you well. For those of you that were in Boston, you know that we had two excellent panels which included both new and established scholars in the Animals and Society field. With luck, San Francisco in 2009 will be an even stronger showing.

Well beyond the confines of the ASA, the rubric of animals and society has been assuming an increasingly visible profile. In the United States, for example, we saw the largest beef recall in American history, initiated by Humane Society undercover video footage of so-called downer cows being taken to slaughter in violation of American law. More recently, we saw the profile of Governor Sarah Palin rise and falter partially due to her controversial celebration of aerial hunting of wolves in Alaska and her apparent indifference to the plight of arctic animals in the face of global warming. More recently, recognized newspapers like The New York Times have reported on a large study which documents that one of the most popular attractions in North American zoos, Elephants, are suffering much abbreviated life spans compared to their wild brethren. These and other news stories suggest that questions related to animals and society are perhaps claiming more public attention; if so, then this is a very exciting time to be working within this field. This period may prove to be advantageous for our field, as well as our section, to begin asserting itself onto a wider state by noting that increasing numbers of "core" sociological concerns - economics, politics, scientific inquiry, environmental controversies - increasingly cannot be adequately addressed without considering the relations between humans and nonhuman animals.

Beyond the hope that we may be at an advantageous time to begin pushing animal and society concerns into the core of sociological inquiry, this is also the time to press those around you to join and rejoin the Animals and Society section! Please be sure to (shamelessly) enjoin colleagues and friends to join and/or maintain their membership within our section as we seek to expand the boundaries of our discipline.

Best wishes and happy holidays,

Brian
ASA ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA — CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco from August 8-11th. We will have one Section session. The call for papers is as follows:

Section on Animals and Society Paper Section: The Animal Question: Social Theory, Nonhuman Animals and their Interests

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 section intends to address how social theory has neglected or marginalized the significance of relationships with nonhuman animals in central societal situations and phenomena, and how reconsidering the roles and social positioning of nonhuman animals may serve to produce theories with more explanatory potential.

Organizers: Amy Fitzgerald, University of Windsor and Brian M. Lowe, College at Oneonta
Paper submission is online at asanet.org and the deadline for submissions is January 14, 2009.

CALL-FOR-PAPERS—SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SYMBOLIC INTERACTION

Call for papers: Session on “Animals in the workplace” Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, San Francisco, 2009

Presentations should explore the complicated meaning and significance of human-animal interaction in various occupational and professional settings, including but not limited to how workers define non-human animals in multiple ways that influence the perception and treatment of non-human animals, or how these non-human animals shape workers’ self conceptions.

Abstract submission deadline: February 15, 2009; Paper submission deadline, April 15, 2009. Please contact: Arnold Arluke, Department of Sociology, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115; email questions to profarluke@aol.com

SPONSOR A STUDENT — HELPS STUDENTS AND INCREASES OUR SECTION’S NUMBERS WITHIN THE ASA

A great way to encourage students to become involved in our section and in the ASA is by sponsoring their membership in the section (and ASA if they haven’t already joined).

So, go ahead, sponsor a student (or even more than one!). Students can be either undergraduate or graduate students. All you need to do is pay their dues and have them sign up. Student membership is only $18 for ASA and an additional $5 for our section. Students are also required to subscribe to one ASA journal, most of which cost $25 for students. Your contribution of $48 can go a long way to mentoring a student, promoting our section and encouraging the growth of scholarship on Animals and Society!

If students aren’t already members of ASA, they can join at: http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/join_or_renew/join.
If students are already members of ASA but would like to add Animals and Society to their membership, they can do so at: https://www.e-noah.net/ASA/Login.asp (they will need their ASA member ID and password; there is a link to follow if they have forgotten them).
NOMINATIONS FOR THE ANIMALS & SOCIETY DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Award for Distinguished Graduate Student Scholarship:

The Animal & Society section announces its 2009 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, 2009 to: Brian Lowe, Chair of the Animals & Society Section (lowebm@oneonta.edu <mailto:lowebm@oneonta.edu>). Winners will be invited to present their paper at the session organized by the Animals & Society Section at the August 2009 annual meeting.

Award for Distinguished Scholarship:

The 2009 award will be given for distinguished scholarship in the form of a book 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 2007 or 2008 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 Animals & Society Section (lowebm@oneonta.edu <mailto:lowebm@oneonta.edu>). The deadline for nominations is February 1st, 2009.

CALL-FOR-NOMINATIONS: JANE GOODALL FELLOWSHIP AWARD

The Section on Animals and Society announces two 2009 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 January 15, 2009.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR ANIMALS & SOCIETY SECTION MEMBERSHIP

Please remember to renew your American Sociological Association Membership and Animals & Society Section Membership prior to year’s end as people who have not renewed by January 2, 2009 will be taken off the listserv.
Animal Cruelty in the State of Rhode Island: A Twenty-Five Perspective (Thesis Summary)
By Ronald Desnoyers (rdesnoyers@cox.net)

First and foremost, I would to thank the Animals and Society Section of the American Sociological Association for selecting me as a recipient of the 2008 Jane Goodall Fellowship. It is an honor to receive this award, which bears the name of an individual who has dedicated her life to animals, studying them within their natural habitat and advocating for them around the world. It has also been an honor to meet and speak with other members of the section, who have researched and written on the relationships that exist between humans and animals from various academic perspectives; I have long admired your work.

As a graduate student at Roger Williams University, I had the opportunity to immerse myself in the academic study of animal cruelty from a criminological and public policy perspective. This culminated into my graduate thesis entitled “Animal Cruelty in the State of Rhode Island: A Twenty-Five Year Perspective.” Using the study conducted by Professor Arnold Arluke and Carter Luke to establish the initial framework, my thesis assessed the prevalence of animal cruelty and response of the judicial system in the state of Rhode Island by examining all animal cruelty cases, adjudicated in Rhode Island Superior Court, in violation of the state’s felony animal cruelty statute, between 1980 and 2004.

Over the twenty-five year period examined, 89 defendants were charged with 102 counts of animal cruelty in Rhode Island Superior Court. Of those charged, 83 were male and 6 were female. Ages ranged from 18 to 77 years old, although the majority of defendants charged were relatively young, having an average age of 32.7 years. The majority of cases involved companion animals (78.4%) and dogs were most commonly victimized (49.0%) followed by cats (29.4%). Of the 89 defendants charged, 64 defendants were found guilty and 4 defendants were found not guilty (the remaining 21 cases were dismissed).

Probation was the most common punishment imposed on defendants and was ordered in 55 cases with sentences ranging in length from 6 months to 36 months with an average term to serve of 18.2 months. Nineteen defendants were incarcerated with sentences ranging in length from 10 days to 2 years with an average term to serve of approximately 7 months or 220 days. Community service was ordered in 18 cases with sentences ranging in length from 10 hours to 125 hours with an average term to serve of 54.5 hours. When community service was ordered, the Court stipulated that it had to be completed at the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or a similar organization. Restitution was ordered in 11 cases and was used to reimburse owners for the costs of veterinary care and did not serve to financially punish defendants or award punitive damages to an animal’s owner. Nine defendants were ordered by the Court to participate in various mental health programs including anger management and substance abuse counseling. Fines were ordered in 5 cases with amounts ranging from $100 to $450 with $100 being the most frequently imposed fine.

The findings of this study contribute to the existing literature on animal cruelty in several ways. First, the findings provide an overview of offender and victim demographics, relating to animal cruelty, within a specific geographic area. Second, the findings establish a baseline in which cases of animal cruelty can be compared with other populations or examined over time. Third, the findings provide insight into how the criminal justice system disposes of animal cruelty cases. Taken together, these findings provide an overview of animal cruelty within the state of Rhode Island, which can allow animal welfare organizations to identify specific areas of concern pertaining to animals within the public policy arena and recommend practical amendments to existing animal protection legislation, particularly at the state level.

References:
GRADUATE SPECIALIZATION IN ANIMAL STUDIES AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

What’s new in Animal Studies at Michigan State University? A Graduate Specialization — Animals Studies: Social Science and Humanities Perspectives. The graduate specialization in Animal Studies: Social Science & Humanities Perspectives is designed for doctoral and master's students to explore the historical and social dimensions of the human-animal relationship from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students participating in the specialization program: Gain basic knowledge in the relationships between humans and other animals; Develop their understanding of how humans and other animals are linked together in a vulnerable biosphere; Examine the legal, philosophical and historical perspectives on the human-animal relationship; Apply issues of the human-animal relationship to their home disciplines. This specialization is administered by the College of Social Science, and the Department of Sociology is the primary administrative unit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT Linda Kalof, lkalof@msu.edu.
WEBSITE:  http://www.animalstudies.msu.edu

UPCOMING CONFERENCE AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY


This conference will explore the past, present and future roles animals play in human histories. Possible topics for papers include animal histories, animal agency, anthropomorphism, zoomorphism, animal perception, gender and connecting (or separating) oppressions, and animals as technologies. Keynote Speaker: Harriet Ritvo, Department of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Guest Speakers: Tom Tyler, Department of Philosophy and Culture, Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom, and Terry O'Connor, Department of Zooarchaeology, York University, United Kingdom.

For more information, please contact: Georgina Montgomery at animalsmsu@gmail.com
CONFERENC WEB SITE:  http://www.lymanbriggs.msu.edu/animals/index.html

NEW SECTION-IN-FORMATION: DISABILITY IN SOCIETY

We are proud to announce a new Section-in-Formation of the ASA: Disability in Society and would like to encourage members of the ASA ‘Animals in Society’ section to join us. The experience of disability sometimes requires animal assistance – for instance, for people with blindness or vision impairment, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, psychiatric disabilities, and so on. However, such assistance often raises other experiences which are highlighted within the sociology of disability – issues like prejudicial attitudes, social barriers, refusal of access, and so on. We are keen to further explore the insights that may arise from studying experiences of disability from a range of perspectives and urge you to join with us. This new Section-in-Formation is a great place to network, engage with other scholars, discuss recent events, and pursue avenues for grants, teaching, research and service. The Disability section is also pleased to be offering FREE membership to 40 graduate students who are current members of ASA who would like to join the section. We encourage potential members to contact the chairs of the membership committee, Liat Ben Moshe: lbenmosh@maxwell.syr.edu or Mark Sherry: markdsherry@yahoo.com
The Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting will be in San Francisco, California from August 7-9, 2009. Several sessions may be of interest to members, but the following seem especially relevant:

- “Legal Issues Regarding Animals and the Environment” (Environment & Technology and Law & Society Sections), Organizer: Lisa Anne Zilney
- “Issues in Environmental Sociology” (Environment & Technology Section), Organizer: Tamara Mix
- “Environment, Peace, and Social Justice” (Community Research & Development, Environment & Technology, and Poverty, Class & Inequality Sections), Organizer: Julie Andrejewski


7th Annual Conference for Critical Animal Studies is being held on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at Yale University. The theme for this year’s conference is “Transforming Higher Education into a Ethical Space and Place for Learning”. It is hosted by the Yale Affiliates Animal Rights Network.

The organizers welcome proposals from all community members, including but not limited to nonprofit organizations, political leaders, activists, professors, and students. We are especially interested in topics such policy reform and activism in higher education in relation to critical animal studies, animal rights, and/or animal liberation. We are also interested in reaching across the disciplines and movements of environmentalism, education, poverty, feminism, LGBTQA, animal advocacy, globalization, prison abolition, prisoner support, disability rights, indigenous rights/sovereignty, and other peace and social justice issues. Paper presentations should be fifteen to twenty minutes in length.

We are receptive to different and innovative formats, including, but not limited to roundtables, panels, community dialogues, theatre, and workshops. You may propose individual or group 'panel' presentations, but please clearly specify the structure of your proposal. Preference will be given to papers focusing on the program theme, linking environmental and nonhuman animal advocacy.

Please send proposals or abstracts for panels, roundtables, workshops, or paper presentations no more than 500 words. Please send with each facilitator or presenter a 100 maximum word biography.

The Deadline for Submissions is March 1, 2009. Accepted presenters will be notified by e-mail by March 15, 2009. Please send proposals, abstracts, and biographies electronically to: Deric Shannon, Conference Director propaganarchy@hotmail.com
The Center for Gender Research will be hosting the conference *Meet Animal Meat* from May 21-23, 2009 at Uppsala University in Sweden. Deadline for proposal submissions is January 16, 2009.

Informed by feminist investigations of embodiment and bodiliness, we ask: How do we understand our bodily relationship to other animals? How do we embody animals, and how do animals embody us? How are carnal modes of incorporation, intimacy, and inhabitation kinds of contacts forged between “HumAnimals”? If, as Donna Haraway writes, “animals are everywhere full partners in worlding, in becoming with,” then how do embodied encounters with animal matter necessarily constitute categories of “human” and “animal” What is the meaning of meat, and the meat of meaning? How do we think and write about human and animal power relations in a way that acknowledges the discursive traffic, the actor-ship, agency, and the life conditions of these differently bounded socio-historical, political populations? How do we attend to the ways that animals and humans co-constitute each other in the flesh? What is the consequence of taking embodiment and corporeality as the starting point of inquiry into questions of relationality? How do we make meat “matter” in cultural/social/political studies of animals, and/or problematize preconceived notions of animals as “food”? How do animal parts and body-matters figure in politico-economic stories, processes, and institutions?

Whether through food practices, performances, infections, body modifications, sexualities, organ transplantations, medical practices, discourses of predation and commodification, spectatorships, and other modalities of incorporation, the conference will critically investigate the embodied and corporeal nature of HumAnimal encounters. We encourage presenters to engage diverse fields of inquiry: animal studies, sociology, futures studies, history, education, literature, philosophy, criminology, race/ethnicity studies, ethnology, anthropology, visual culture, gender/women studies, film/video, science/technology studies, postcolonial studies, art history and studio, political activism, religion and theology, psychology, political science and policy making, landscape architecture and urban planning, performance studies, agriculture, fashion studies, biology studies, and medicine studies.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:** Carol J. Adams, author of *The Sexual Politics of Meat: A Feminist-Vegetarian Critical Theory* and *The Pornography of Meat* and Judith Halberstam, author of *Skin Shows: Gothic Horror and The Technology of Monsters and In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives.*

**PROPOSALS:** “Meet Animal Meat” will be divided into two themes: “Feeding” and “In/Corporating.” Please see the conference website for suggested topic areas and presentation guidelines (www.genna.gender.uu.se/meetanimalmeat).

Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words, and must be received by January 16, 2009. Submissions should include name, affiliation/title, and correspondence address.

For further information email: meetanimalmeat@gender.uu.se
To register: [http://www.genna.gender.uu.se/meetanimalmeat](http://www.genna.gender.uu.se/meetanimalmeat)

---


The conference is fortunate to have some of the most celebrated and gifted scholars and advocates as speakers, including some of the founders of the modern environmental and animal movements. They include the following, to name a few: Peter Singer, Andrew Rowan, Carol Adams, Bernard Rollin, and James Serpell.

For information on the conference please email the organizers: mindinganimals@pco.com.au
Conference Website: mindinganimals.com
The Animals & Society Institute invites applications for its third annual summer fellowship program for scholars pursuing research in Human-Animal Studies. In the summer of 2009, this interdisciplinary program will enable 6-7 fellows to pursue research in residence at Duke University. Host faculty at Duke will be Kathy Rudy, Associate Professor in Women's Studies and Ethics, and Marilyn Forbes, Senior Lecturing Fellow at the Duke University School of Law. This location allows fellows access to the nearby Tom Regan Animal Rights Archive at NCSU.

The fellowship is designed to support recipients' individual research through mentorship, guest lectures, and scholarly exchange among fellows and opportunities to contribute to the intellectual life of the host institution. All fellows must be in continuous residence for the duration of the program, June 2-July 8, 2009 (tentative dates).

The fellowships are open to scholars from any discipline investigating a topic related to human-animal relationships. Topics of particular interest for this year's program include: human-animal relationships in science and technology; animal issues in legal studies; the relation between human violence and animal abuse; human-animal relationships in agriculture; and human-companion animal relationships.

Topics from the previous years' program included: Literary Representations of Dogs; Genetically Engineered Pigs; Xenotransplantation and Black Market Organs; Gender Relations in Cattle Ranching; Media Representations of the 2007 Pet Food Recall; Analyzing one County's Attempt to go "No Kill"; Science and Policies Affecting Elephants in Captivity; Animals and Colonialism; Human-Animal Relationships in Field Primatology; Animal Research in Theory and Practice; Inter-species Identity and Alterity in a Video Game; and The Animal Rights Movements in France and the United States.

Application deadline: January 31, 2009. Scholars selected to participate in the fellowship program will be awarded a stipend of $3,000 to help cover travel costs, housing, living expenses, books and other research expenses.

Eligibility: Applicants must (1) possess a Ph.D., J.D., M.S.W. or equivalent, or be a doctoral student at the dissertation stage; (2) have a commitment to advancing research in Human-Animal Studies; (3) be actively engaged, during the fellowship program, in a research project that culminates in a journal article, book, or other scholarly presentation, and (4) submit a follow-up report six months after the fellowship's completion.

Application: Applicants should email electronic copies of the following items to fellowshipapplication@animalsandsociety.org:
- Cover sheet with the applicant's name, mailing address to be used for future correspondence, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address, present rank and institution name, date Ph.D. or J.D. or M.S.W. received or expected, citizenship status, title of project, history of fellowships and grants received during the past five years; Project proposal of up to three pages (single-spaced) that describes the project and indicates work completed on the project to date. The description will be considered by a panel of scholars from a variety of disciplines, it should be written for non-specialists; Curriculum vitae of up to three pages; Two letters of recommendation (PDFs of original letters recommended); Applicants are responsible for contacting referees and supplying them with a description of the project.

Selection Process: The selection committee will include members from a range of disciplines connected to Human-Animal Studies. Applications will be evaluated on the contribution that the completed project will make to Human-Animal Studies, the qualifications of the applicant to complete the research, and how well the applicant's project complements the other projects.

Applicants will be notified by e-mail and letter March 2009. The fellowship program will be directed by Ken Shapiro, Executive Director of Animals and Society Institute, and Margo DeMello, Program Coordinator, Human Animal Studies Program. Please address all correspondence to us at the following address: Committee on Fellowships, Animals & Society Institute, 403 McCauley Street, Washington Grove MD 20880

fellowshipapplication@animalsandsociety.org
A new policy paper published by the Animals and Society Institute focuses on a new academic field that studies relationships between humans and other animals. The paper, titled “Human-Animal Studies: Growing Field, Applying the Field,” was written by ASI Executive Director Kenneth J. Shapiro, Ph.D.

Human-Animal Studies (HAS) is the only field that examines the bonds, attachments, interactions and communications that occur between people and animals in a wide variety of settings. The paper introduces and defines the field in addition to outlining its scope and its application as a field of study and a means for policy changes and animal advocacy. It cites related works and offers an overview of references to previous studies and related publications by scholars in the field.

According to Shapiro, “The publication of this paper establishes that the field of Human-Animal Studies is itself an important policy tool in the effort to change society’s treatment of animals. The paper will be helpful to faculty pursuing research or developing HAS courses and to students considering research or study in HAS.”

Working with an ad-hoc multi-disciplinary committee of scholars, ASI have led the development of Human-Animal Studies as an academic discipline by editing two quarterly academic journals (Society & Animals and the Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science), publishing a book series, developing an annual academic fellowship, and working with institutions internationally to develop courses, minors, and majors, and other programs.

The HAS paper is the fourth in an ongoing series of policy papers produced by the ASI. Previous papers have dealt with public policy related to dog bites, the use of elephants in circuses, and how animals are dealt with during natural disasters.

The Animals and Society Institute is an independent research and educational organization that advances the status of animals in public policy and promotes the study of human-animal relationships. More information is available at www.animalsandsociety.org. For more information on this news release, please contact: Ken Shapiro, Animals and Society Institute, (301) 963-4751.

The Animals and Society Institute is a nonprofit, independent research and educational organization that advances the status of animals in public policy and promotes the study of human-animal relationships. They are seeking to learn more about individuals research in Human-Animal Studies and also to inform researchers about the services and publications they can bring to teaching and research in the area. To this end, they have designed a survey to better understand what educational materials exist in the field today, which products and services are needed, and measure the future opportunities in these areas.

The survey is short and will take only a few minutes to complete. Expertise and research in the area of Human-Animal Studies is extremely important to the common efforts to promote this area and in the effort to help establish the moral and legal rights fundamental to a just, compassionate and peaceful society.

Please click on the link below to access the survey:

http://umich.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV_cHGh6HKJgtU8esn2&SID=Prod

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.
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 & Society Section Officers

Chair:
Brian Lowe

Chair-Elect:
Amy Fitzgerald

Past Chair:
Lisa Anne Zilney

Secretary-Treasurer:
Clifton Flynn

Membership Committee Chair:
Angela Mertig

Nomination Committee Chair:
Lisa Anne Zilney

Webmaster:
Helene Lawson

Newsletter Editor:
Tracey Harris