Dear colleagues,

The 2010-2011 year will be one of significant change for our section. My tenure as Chair of the Animals and Society section is drawing to a close and Tracey Harris will be taking over the reigns in Atlanta at the annual meeting. She has done an excellent job as the Section’s newsletter editor for years and I am confident that she will be a Wonderful Section Chair. I am happy to announce that Justin Goodman has agreed to take over from Tracey as newsletter editor. Further, we will have a new Chair-Elect, Jessica Greenebaum (Central Connecticut University), and four new Council Members: Thomas Dietz (Michigan State University), Michael Ramirez (Texas A&M University), Carol Thompson (Texas Christian University), and Jenny Vermilya (student representative; University of Colorado). I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all who ran in the election. I would also like to thank our Council Members whose terms will expire this year for their service: Angela Mertig, Colin Jerolmack, and Helene Lawson.

I think that our largest challenges as a relatively new and small section continue to be recruiting new members and increasing our visibility. It is imperative that we all continue to recruit new members (both faculty and students) to our section. The continued existence of our section, our budget, and the number of paper sessions we are able to offer at the annual meetings depend upon the number of members we have.

Improving the visibility of our area of study is certainly a crucial part of enhancing our section membership, and I think that collectively and individually we are doing an increasingly good job of this. I must say that as the moderator of the section listserv over the past year I have been impressed by the number and diversity of announcements of publications by our members, calls for papers, and contacts with the media. So even though challenges lie ahead, I am confident that our section will continue to make progress in this regard.

Finally, I hope that you will be able to join us in Atlanta for our Section Reception and our paper session. This year Tracey Harris and I have organized our Section Session to showcase “cutting-edge research on animals and society.” The session promises to be very interesting and thought-provoking.

Warm wishes for an enjoyable summer,

Amy J. Fitzgerald, Section Chair
The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia from August 14-17th. We have one section session, as well as our reception and annual meeting. Please join us for these important events! The section reception is scheduled for Saturday, August 14 from 6:30pm-8:15pm at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. The section council and business meetings are to be held on Sunday, August 15 from 12:30pm-2:10pm at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, and the section session is scheduled for Sunday, August 15 from 2:30pm-4:10pm, also at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis.

**Section on Animals and Society Session, "Cutting-Edge Research on Animals and Society":**

Session Organizer: *Amy J. Fitzgerald*, University of Windsor

Presider: *Tracey Harris*, Cape Breton University

- **Claimsmaking, Mediation, Spectacles, and Public Perceptions within Animal Advocacy.** *Brian M. Lowe*, State University of New York-Oneonta

- **Further Fieldwork and Considerations in Feline Phenomenology: The Cases of Hieroglyphics, Chile Peppers, and Yoga.** *Jeffrey P. Bussolini*, City University of New York-Staten Island

- **What is a Person?: Investigating a Nonhuman Selfhood.** *Rebecca Lori Conway*, Vanderbilt University

- **"I Can't Be Without a Dog!" Understanding Variations in Interactions and Relationships with Pets.** *David D. Blouin*, Indiana University-South Bend

- **"I'm Not Going to Lie To You…": Volunteer Emotion Management in a High Kill Animal Shelter.** *Gretchen McHenry*, RTI International

**ANNUAL AWARDS FOR DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP & DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR**

We are pleased to announce this year’s award for the Animal & Society Section Distinguished Graduate Student scholarship. The recipient is Benjamin Merriman (University of Chicago) for his paper entitled “Putting Animals to Work: The Ideology of Animal-Based Production and the Problem of Interspecies Solidarity.”

The award for Distinguished Scholarship in the form of a journal article, in which the author(s) makes a significant empirical or theoretical contribution to the field of human-animal studies goes to *Amy Fitzgerald* (University of Windsor), *Linda Kalof*, (Michigan State University) and *Thomas Dietz* (Michigan State University) for their paper “Slaughterhouses and Increased Crime Rates: An Empirical Analysis of Spillover from 'The Jungle' into the Surrounding Community”, *Organization and Environment*, 22, 158-184, 2009, June.

Please join us in congratulating these fine scholars when they are presented with their awards at the Animals & Society Section Reception in Atlanta on Saturday, August 14 from 6:30pm-8:15pm at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis.
MEMBER’S NEWS

- Angela Mertig was interviewed by her local radio station on May 16, 2010 about the animals and society course she is currently teaching. To access the interview via podcast, please go to http://www.mtsu.edu/news/podcast/podcast2010.shtml

- Clifton Flynn was recently appointed a Fellow of the Institute for Human-Animal Connection at the Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver. To get more information on this, please access the following link: http://www.humananimalconnection.org/.

- Amy Fitzgerald was interviewed by CBC Radio and A-Channel News (Windsor) regarding animal abuse and the Windsor Star, CBC Radio, and the Toronto Star regarding her research with Linda Kalof and Thomas Dietz on the relationship between slaughterhouses and violent crime.

- George Flora recently completed the current issue of the Goat Bulletin (volume 13-14). Within it there is a focus on adding civility to American agriculture. The latest issue of the Goat Bulletin is available at http://www.corch.net/bbpg

- Jenny Vermilya, PhD student at the University of Colorado at Boulder, was chosen as a fellow in the fourth annual Human-Animal Studies Summer Fellowship, sponsored by the Animals and Society Institute. This year’s program was held at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. Jenny continued her work on the tracking system that divides students in colleges of veterinary medicine into concentrations on what are referred to as “large” and “small” animals. Her research examines how the large/small distinctions shape students’ views and treatment of animals.


CALL FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

The journal, Between the Species (http://cla.calpoly.edu/bts/) is seeking submissions for its Fall 2010 edition. The journal is devoted to animals and philosophy. Most, though not all, articles focus on ethical issues in the human-animal relationship.


Please send your papers by July 1 for blind review to the editor:

Joseph J. Lynch, Ph.D.
Editor, Between the Species
Philosophy Department
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
jlynch@calpoly.edu
Janet and Steven Alger would like to let people know that the ASA program committee for 2011 has accepted their proposal for a Thematic Session entitled “Human/Animal Conflict: Sociological Considerations.” The panelists will be: Arnold Arluke, “Role Conflict in the Enforcement and Prosecution of Anti-Cruelty Statutes”; Amy Fitzgerald, “Conceptualizations of Gender vis-à-vis Sport Hunting: Growing Conflict in the Context of National Elections”; David Nibert, “Conflict and Violence Generated by the Animal Industrial Complex”; and Brian M. Lowe, “Conflicting Media Representations: Imagery, Morality, and Narratives Surrounding Animal Advocacy.” Please plan to attend this important session.

**ANNOUNCING A NEW BOOK 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. 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 or practice, or more broadly as 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.

If you would like to submit a proposal for this series, please email:

- the Series Editor, **Bonnie Berry**: solving@socialproblems.org
- or the Commissioning Editor, **Neil Jordan**: njordan@ashgatepublishing.com
The essays included in *Beyond Human: From Animality to Transhumanism* are theoretically informed by a range of thinkers from the continental and analytical traditions of philosophy and critical theory. The collection seeks to investigate and discuss the various questions raised by contemporary understandings of the animal/human interface, on the one hand, and the emergence of human/post- or trans-human interface on the other.

The volume deals with various ontological, ethical, aesthetic and socio-cultural debates which are grouped across four sections. The first section of the book explores human/animal boundaries and definitions, the second section focuses on representations of animality, the third section is concerned with human/animal encounters whilst the fourth section brings together essays that explore how the machine and the ‘inhuman’ intervene in our understanding of ‘the human animal’.

The editors of *Beyond Human: From Animality to Transhumanism* are currently soliciting one additional chapter contribution for Section II (‘Representing Animality’). The essays in this section explore human endeavours that seek to imagine what it means to be an animal from a range of perspectives. We are particularly interested in submissions that examine representations of animality in contemporary popular culture although proposals that deal with some other aspect of the representation of animality will be considered.

*Beyond Human: From Animality to Transhumanism* will be published in 2011. Interested authors should note that the 6000 word chapter will be required by the end of October 2010. Please submit a 250 word abstract and an author biography to the Editors by June 28th 2010.

Dr. Claire Molloy, University of Brighton, UK
email: C.R.Molloy@brighton.ac.uk

or

Dr. Steven Shakespeare, Liverpool Hope University, UK
email: shakess@hope.ac.uk
For over a decade I have been collecting early twentieth century American “real photo postcards” that depict human-animal interaction. Wanting to do more than merely collect these images, I decided to look at them more closely as data about what animals meant to us a century ago. Although I have studied and written about human-animal relations for 25 years, analyzing photography—and postcards in particular—was new to me. I needed the help of sociologist who knew a great deal about this kind of photography. Fortunately, Robert Bogdan, author of Real Photo Postcard Guide: The People’s Photography, agreed to collaborate with me on this project.

Usually a book project starts with a broad idea that gets more focused. Ours did not proceed that way. The original idea was narrow, directed mostly at pets, but as we examined more and more cards featuring people and other living creatures our topic expanded. We aggressively shopped for relevant cards and we solicited the help of other collectors. (Over 40 collectors were involved.) Some advanced collectors had not purposely bought animal related cards but nevertheless had many outstanding examples in their holdings. Others specialized in topics related to our interest. We reviewed thousands of images and sorted them into thirteen broad categories based on roles animals played in human’s lives.

One collector had assembled hundreds of cards that showed animals—goats, bear, kangaroos, dogs, cats and others—aboard Navy ships. These animals served seamen as companions, good luck charms and as a symbol of the solidarity between the crew and its ship. That collection became the centerpiece of our chapter on mascots.

Another collector sent us scans of large-scale community wolf and coyote roundups in the prairie states. They became the start of a chapter on vermin, animals that were hated and systematically killed.

(USS Louisiana mascot. C. 1920. Brian Buckberry Coll.)

(Community wolf hunt. Nebraska. 1922. Dingman Coll.)
A third collector had been an avid collector of real photo postcards related to veterinarian medicine. His collection was central to the chapter on animals as patients. That collection was so extensive - he had been collecting for thirty years - that his images also contributed to chapters on animals as workers and as food and produce.

We found a few collectors who specialized in rodeo cards and these along with cards on racing and cock and dog fighting formed a chapter on animals as sports.

Many cards of people with their guns, dogs, and dead prey surfaced during our search. These, along with images related to taxidermy, trapping and fur farms became chapters.
Circuses were in their prime and zoos and movies were on the rise when postcards were popular and these phenomena led to a chapter on animals as spectacles and as stars.

A chapter on animals as symbols emerged from our searching and sorting as well. As we came to see, animals serve in a variety of symbolic capacities such as trademarks for products and as emblems for nations, states, sports teams and more. We go to war under the banner of the eagle and buy gas where the flying red horse is displayed.

In addition to developing an appreciation for the wide variety of roles animals play in human life, what else did we learn from our project? When real photo postcards were at the height of their popularity, 1906-1935, America was in transition from a society that was predominately rural to one dominated by cities. This change had profound implications for human-animal relations. Early in the century a variety of animals were both ubiquitous and a constant part of everyday human life. As the century moved along the relationship became more circumscribed and distant. Animals as pets dominated human-animal relationships and for many, viewing animals other than pets happened mainly in circuses, zoos and in movies and in other forms of popular culture.

Early in the postcard era horses were a major means of transportation. Equines were everywhere. Real photo postcards document that time and document the transition to a landscape dominated by cars and trucks. The move to motorized transportation changed the work of veterinarians. Early in the postcard era the majority of their patients were equines. As equines vanished their focus shifted first to cattle and then to pets.

At the turn of the twentieth century everyone knew where their meat and other animal produce came from. Most was produced locally and displayed and packaged in ways that let one know exactly what they were buying. Real photo postcards track the transition from farm raised local produce to industrial food production, the contemporary stage being a fast food nation where children eat things like chicken McNuggets without knowing firsthand what a chicken is or that their McNuggets came from the flesh of a bird.
Although we moved beyond our initial narrow focus on pets, we devote one of the longest chapters in the book to that topic. Real photo postcards document the strong and loving ties that exist between humans and animals. Through real photo postcards we see the wide variety of animals that people kept as pets as well as the range of people who had special bonds with animals. Studio portraits of people with their dogs and cats abound and provide clear testimony to the importance of pets in everyday life. By carefully studying hundreds of these as well as more candid snapshots, we were able to show how animals were posed, how their owners displayed affection, showed off with their pets tricks and other dimensions of the animal human bond. Messages written on cards further elaborated upon the loving relations shown in the pictures.

The title of our book is *Beauty and the Beast*. Why did we choose that fairy tale to identify our work? A major theme in our study is the ambiguity in our relationship with animals. This is expressed in our inconsistent treatment of them. On the one hand we cavalierly slaughter them, hunt them, treat them as if they have no feelings and consciousness and are not like us. On the other hand with pets we talk to them, stroke them, provide them with the best of food, accommodations, medical care, treat them as full family members, and believe they feel and think. This ambiguity is central to the story Beauty and the Beast tells. At various points of the tale the beast is both feared and loved, treated as alien and as human. The beast lies in the middle ground of the boundary we have drawn between humans and animals, us and them. As we discuss in our book, literature, movies, paintings, drawings and photographs display our bewilderment about where we fit in the animal kingdom, whether we are one of them or whether we stand as distinct, superior and separate. In the case of our treatment of some animals, in some circumstances, we are the beast.

Arnold Arluke and Robert Bogdan’s book, *Beauty and the Beast: Human-Animal Relations as Revealed in Real Photo Postcards*, is published by Syracuse University Press and will be available in the Fall, 2010. It is illustrated with over 350 real photo postcards. To order, please contact either www.syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu or www.amazon.com, or call 800-848-6224.
Animals & Society Section Officers

Chair: Amy Fitzgerald

Chair-Elect: Tracey Harris

Past Chair: Brian Lowe

Secretary-Treasurer: Leslie Irvine

Membership Committee Chair:
Angela Mertig

Nomination Committee Chair:
Lisa Anne Zilney

Webmaster: Helene Lawson (for submissions, please email Lawson@pitt.edu)

Newsletter Editor: Tracey Harris

Council Members & Terms

Angela Mertig (2007-2010)
Colin Jerolmack (2007-2010)
Helene Lawson (2007-2010)
Elizabeth Cherry (2008-2011)
Colter Ellis (2009-2012)

Animals and Society, the official publication of the American Sociological Association Section on Animals and Society. The current issue is edited by Tracey Harris, Department of Anthropology & Sociology, Cape Breton University. The fall/winter 2010-11 issue will be edited by the incoming newsletter editor, Justin Goodman. To inquire about newsletter submissions for the fall issue, please contact Justin at justinrossgoodman@gmail.com