



ANIMALS & SOCIETY SECTION

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

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Newsletter Team

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- ◆ Victoria Brockett
- ◆ Hadi Khoshnevis
- ◆ Loredana Loy

Message from the Chair



Nine years ago, still living in Oregon, we named our dog Arthur Russel Wallace. This canine designation is a nomenclatural conjunction of two people I never met but nevertheless hold very dear. The first is the cellist, composer, and minimal electronic musician Arthur Russell. Russell died of AIDS-related illness in 1992, but a decade ago his music was experiencing a moment, so to speak, and I was enthralled with that moment. The second is the nineteenth-century naturalist Alfred

Russel Wallace, who, while performing biogeographical research in the Malay Archipelago, famously conceived of the theory of natural selection - independently of Darwin- while quite literally in a fever-induced state of clarity. He went on to write *The Geographic Distribution of Animals*, a work whose division of the world into six distinct zoographic regions remains in use today. Unlike most of their interlocutors, neither Russell nor Wallace grew up wealthy or with social connections. Yet both were able to develop an idiosyncratic understanding of the world that many still find profoundly inspiring.

I bring this up not only because it is fun to write about my dog (which it is), but also because I think that our Animals and Society section can broadly find some inspiration from both Russell and Wallace. Each had a unique combination of quirks that they fully embraced, yet they were also able to find ways to communicate their ideas to broader audiences. As our section struggles to establish a secure membership base, I hope we can do the same. There is no tradeoff between our identity as a section and becoming more approachable to the many scholars who do animals related work yet do not engage with our panels, events, and other activities. I hope that over the coming months and years we can demonstrate that we welcome scholars and scholarship that may not engage with animal studies per se, or vegan activisms, or animal rights conversations, yet

Memorable ASA 2024 Conference Moments

Seven Mattes: Cam and I facilitated a networking activity in the preconference that included brainstorming collaborative research project ideas. The energy and enthusiasm that was generated from this activity was beyond expectations. This experience reminded me that we do not simply share a similar area of study, but we are a community connected by our passion for this work. I look forward to collaborating with these brilliant humans.

Mark Suchyta: One of the things I liked most about our programming at the 2024 ASA Annual Meeting was the diversity of scholarship in our panel session. Many different theoretical orientations and topics were represented (although we did have a lot of presentations related to birds—which is a plus for me!), demonstrating how the purview of our discipline is expanding. This expansion was also reflected in the fact that many of our presents were new section members. This makes me excited for the future of human-animal sociology. **Right, is a picture from our panel session.**

still take animals seriously. For reasons both analytical and ethical, animals need to be a larger part of sociological conversations.

As part of this effort, our ASA panel “Animals Across Social Inquiry” will feature a mix of sociological approaches to enrolling animals in scholarship. While as of this writing the panel has not been finalized, I do hope that everyone who is able to attend the ASA annual meeting will make the panel a priority. In addition, please do attend our invited session, co-sponsored with the section on Teaching and Learning, titled “Teaching Companions/ Learning Companions: Animals in Classrooms, on Campus, and in Pedagogy,” as well as our roundtables.

The section is also hosting quarterly “Animals Media Club Happy Hours” over zoom. We have so far read George Saunder’s novella *Fox 8*, as well as Philip K. Dick’s *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*. These have been informative and a lot of fun. Keep an eye out for future iterations.

If you have any more ideas regarding how to increase our membership, please do reach out to me or to our membership chair Mark Suchyta. Many thanks, and I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

All best,

Jordan Fox

Chair, Animals and Society Section



Photo from A&S Panel Session, 2024. Image Credit: Mark Suchyta.

It's Almost the Section Election! *Meet your candidates below.*

Voting opens **April 16th** and ends May 19th at 5 pm EST. Eligible members will be sent emails to their online ballots.

Candidates for Chair

Erin Kidder

Erin Kidder is Assistant Professor of Animal Studies at Eckerd College, in Florida. They earned their PhD in Sociology from the University of Central Florida in 2021. From Kidder's Eckerd College profile: "I am thrilled to join Eckerd College as newest faculty member in Animal Studies Program! I absolutely love teaching and helping students to be as successful as possible. I am eager to work with students on research projects. I am a qualitative researcher. Most of my research thus far has focused on how we commodify, consume, and care for and about animals in stock shows and rodeos. I explore the interactions between the humans and the animals, including how we construct social norms that impact those interactions. In off time, I enjoy early morning runs with my spouse, spending time with our awesome companion animals, and spending time at the beach soaking up the sun and doing a little paddleboarding." (from: <https://www.eckerd.edu/animal-studies/faculty/kidder/>)

Miranda Workman

Miranda Workman is an animal behavior and welfare professional and anthrozoologist with extensive experience in academia, research, business leadership, and consulting, with a focus on companion animals. They teach at Canisius College, focusing on human-animal relationships and ethics, and have published widely on topics including multispecies families and euthanasia decision-making. A certified professional, Workman runs an animal behavior consulting and daycare company and has held leadership roles in organizations like CCPDT and IAABC. Their education includes a PhD in Sociology (University at Buffalo) and a Master's of Science (Canisius University). Workman's expertise spans entrepreneurship, non-profit leadership, animal sheltering, public speaking, and curriculum development (summarized from: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/miranda-k-workman-phd/>).



AI art (Google Gemini, 2025).

Candidates for Council

Daniel Auerbach

I am an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Wyoming. My research focuses on the intersection of political economy and the environment. While I have not published directly about animals, I often incorporate animal and society readings into my classes. I have been a member of the section for many years and want to do my part in helping to grow this wonderful section.

Victoria Brockett



Victoria Brockett is a doctoral student in the Sociology Department at the University of Illinois Chicago. Her research interests lie at the nexus of critical animal studies, the sociology of health and medicine, environmental sociology, and social movements, with a particular focus on food systems, feminist epistemologies, and resistance. Her master's research leveraged quantitative and novel experimental methods to examine how social location, particularly race and gender, shape ideas surrounding the meaning and goals of veganism. Victoria will begin her doctoral research this summer, an ethnography of veganism from a decolonial and environmental perspective, centering the knowledges of subjugated groups in the Midwest. For the past two years, Victoria has served as the student representative of the ASA Animals and Society

section. In recent years, she has also served on the editorial team for the Student Journal of Vegan Sociology and as the newsletter editor of the International Association of Vegan Sociologists. In her free time, Victoria enjoys cooking and volunteering at community-based farms.

Appollonya Porcelli

Porcelli is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Bucknell University. They have a diverse educational background, holding a BS in Natural Resources, a MS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and a PhD in Sociology (Brown University). A recent publication is: "Long after 'People Before Highways': Social movements and knowledge politics in Greater Boston, 1960-2016" in *Social Problems* (with Aaron Niznik and Scott Frickel, 2022). **To learn more:** <https://www.bucknell.edu/fac-staff/apollonya-porcelli>

Candidates for Student Representative on Council

Yasmin Koop-Monteiro



Hi there! I'm Yasmin, a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of British Columbia, and will be defending my dissertation in Spring 2025. My dissertation focuses on factors predicting high-risk/cost activism in the animal rights movement, drawing on survey and interview responses with animal advocates. In the role of ASA Animals & Society student representative, I would be delighted to support students engaged in animal studies scholarship. I would work to help to foster a collaborative and inclusive community, where students at all stages of their academic journey feel supported and connected. I am committed to helping raise the visibility of animal studies, amplifying the diverse voices of student scholars, and creating spaces where meaningful dialogue and interdisciplinary collaboration can flourish. I look forward to the possibility of joining the ASA Animals & Society team and contributing to the continued growth of this vital area of sociological inquiry.

Kelley J. Ortiz

My specialization in human-animal studies began in the biological sciences and has grown to include the social sciences over the past few years. As a second-year Sociology PhD student, so far, I have had the opportunity to collaborate on two published articles: one on how Sociological Animal Studies courses enhance empathy, and another examining the characteristics of HAS students. My current research centers on the impacts of human-nonhuman animal interactions on health and the link between intimate partner violence and animal cruelty.

Additionally, I recognize the importance of elevating the voices of individuals who are often ignored – both human and non-human, therefore, as student council representative, one of my goals will be to actively participate in discussions surrounding how to best support students and their research interests in this climate of social change. Thank you for the opportunity.

Check out these A&S Section
PreConference photos (2024)!

[Preconference Photos on X](#)

Thanks for sharing, Seven!

Lookout for a **proposal** to amend our **section bylaws** in the upcoming ASA election. Specifically, *we are proposing to codify into our bylaws a membership committee which is tasked with recruiting new members and retaining current members.* Such a committee has informally existed for several years now, but we hope that formalizing it will ensure we continue to have a committee to engage in this important work well into the future. **Section Council encourages you to vote “yes” on this proposal.**

The specific proposal language will be available to view in ASA voting system once voting begins.

Interview: Rosemary-Claire Collard

Dr. Hadi Khoshnevis interviewed **Rosemary-Claire Collard**, Associate Professor of Geography at Simon Fraser University about her work. Collard is author of *Animal Traffic: Lively Capital in the Global Exotic Pet Trade*, Duke University Press.

[Learn more about Dr. Collard here!](#)

Q (HK): Please tell the members of Animals and Society Section at ASA about your book on exotic animal trade.

A (RCC): The book is an investigation of the global exotic pet trade. I was first drawn to the topic as a masters student when I read about wildlife trade in the introduction to an edited volume, *Animal Geographies*, and realized the trade received little scholarly attention at the time. And exotic pet trade and wildlife trade more broadly are really a substantial parts of the economy in non-human life. I ended up following the global exotic pet trade around a few different countries for my doctoral dissertation. My main interest at first was in how animals are made into commodities in this trade. As the research went on I also became interested in how animals are remade and unmade as commodities, including through attempted rehabilitation and release. In the end the book is about the spatial practices of enclosure that make animals capital in the trade and their effects for animals as embodied and social beings. On a theoretical level it is an attempt to broaden what we mean by fetishism and commodity fetishism and to think about how animal life itself is fetishized and objectified in capitalist economies. I also think about key ingredients in a political response to the trade and animal fetishism, especially an anti-enclosure and anti-anthropocentric wild life politics where animals live in conditions of relational autonomy.

Q: What changed that directed the scholars' attention to this neglected area?

A: I think there are at least four reasons. In the time since I read *Animal Geographies*, in around 2007, the exotic pet trade has ebbed and flowed, but overall it has grown, and quite dramatically. This growth in the trade put this inquiry on the radar of more scholars. I think the other element since the 90s, when *Animal Geographies* came out, is simply the growth in animal studies. At that time animal geographers and scholars were trying engage in animal studies as a legitimate sub discipline. Now it's a totally

accepted one, at least it seems that way to me. Third is a growth in green criminology. A lot of people who study the exotic pet trade now or wildlife trade in general do so from the vantage point of green criminology. Although I am not that familiar with the field, it tends unsurprisingly to focus more on the illegal aspects of the trade which distinguishes it from my work. I certainly encountered some illegal trade but I was more interested in the trade that's sanctioned; the legitimacy of the market and states' explicit or implicit endorsement. The last animating factor that may have contributed to a rise of work on the animal trade and exotic pet trade is concern with zoonotic disease transfers which were obviously stirred up by COVID-19. That explains why a lot of the literature on the exotic pet trade is done by zoonotic disease specialists and scientists who are trying to evaluate the disease risk of the trade.

Q: What is an exotic animal? And what is exotification?

A: The demarcation of the category of exotic is blurry. It is mainly socially constructed. The clearest answer is an animal is considered exotic if they're considered "out of place" to some extent, non-native mainly. But an animal that is wild native and not a typical pet can also be viewed as exotic. As you see in my book, in exotic animal auctions there would be some native animals for sale, like bobcats. You can also draw connections between animal studies, race, gender and sexuality, Orientalism, etc. You can find material spaces, like some historic zoos, where the performance of the exotic animal and the performance of people labeled as exotic were enmeshed. There's a structural similarity between that acquisitive, possessive nature of performing domination over animals and performing domination over racialized others in general and marginalized others in particular. Val Plumwood in her pathbreaking work in the 90s reflected on these dualisms and dualistic thinking. She argued that dualistic thinking involves a master norm and a subordinated others, and you can identify many of these dualisms, such as culture/nature, man/woman, civilized/primitive, interlock and reinforce each other, so women are collapsed with nature, the primitive or collapsed with instinct and animal, while men are associated with civilization, reason, etc. Eco feminists have done a really nice job of mapping these dualisms which promote a master norm that stands in as the universal, as the unmarked.

Q: Which is also neatly relevant to your own book, right?

A: I think that's why I was drawn to the idea of animal fetishism. I thought that this love that owners of these animals have does not seem to recognize animals as having

the life of their own. It's a love that objectifies the animal. At auctions that I studied what affected the price was the individuality of the animal, like not only its existence as an individual, disconnected from its social group, but also its rarity, like this is the only one in the state or this one is endangered. Encounterability was a major factor too, meaning an animals' availability for embodied encounters with owners or kids at a petting zoo which is related to controllability: that this animal is docile, subordinate. Those were the three factors that determined the price of the animal, and reformed its objectified position. These qualities all ultimately reflect that kind of dualistic, hierarchical thinking in which animals are reduced to a subordinate and instrumental role in relations to humans.

Q: What were the main challenges of conducting this kind of research? Animals cannot talk and to the best of my memory, you did not talk to animal owners in those auctions.

Q: People were really suspicious. Worried about undercover animal rights activists. It took me a while to realize why they were so suspicious of me and then finally after my 3rd or 4th auction, I think in Ohio, I asked why we are not allowed to bring cameras, or why they were not trusting of me. Some of them just turned away from me and wouldn't even answer my questions. Then one of them told me, "we've had undercover animal rights activists. And these activist try to say we're harming the animals." Also, I think they were suspicious that I was an outsider by virtue of my positionality. I looked very unusual in those spaces. There were not a lot of women there alone. Women my age were there with young kids or with partners. There was a real gender division of labor even in who presented which animals. Men were typically the ones who would perform in the ring with the larger animals like camels or zebras and women often would come out with the smaller cuddly animals or sometimes with some insects.

Q: Did your research come up with some solutions. It seems liberation needs to be an interspecies project.

A: It is such a huge market and so expansive that solutions can feel remote. Really, the overall acquisitive culture in western countries like the US, Canada, and Western Europe, the capitalist and possessive mindset needs to change so that animals aren't objectified, viewed as if they don't have lives of their own. Since the US is the world's largest consumer base, the US is a major part of the answer. There is an enormous amount of purchasing power in the United States, so demand reduction is an important policy response, to try and curb the force that is pulling animals into the

trade in the first place. Because once animals are captured from the wild, a lot of the damage is done and the options for that animal become limited. Even in the case of rehabilitation, where people are trying to do something important, which is ultimately resocialize the animals, to create an ability for animals to rejoin their own societies in the wild – but people do that work under very cramped conditions, with limited funding, at times these rehab practices are very violent, designed to instill fear of humans in animals. Basically they are trying to build a division between humans and animals since if monkeys, for example, are too friendly with humans there is a higher risk of being recaptured and trafficked again. While I ultimately support the goal of animals returning to an unenclosed, wild life, I do question the means. And the data sadly suggest patchy outcomes, that there's just not a high degree of success in rehabilitation and release. Even if the resocialization of animals is done well but all the conditions stay the same upon animals release, animals can be recaptured. Therefore, I think ultimately what we need to work on is changing the conditions that propel animal capture in the first place.



Interview by: **Hadi Khoshnevis**
Associate Professor of Sociology, Rhodes College

Have an **idea** for the newsletter?

Reach out!

sarahlindsay@trentu.ca

Section Member News:

“This July I took students to Japan for my first human-animal studies study abroad program: *Godzilla Rises, Cherry Blossoms Fall*. Together, we learned about Japanese relationships with ecological others through the themes of food, spirituality, pop culture, wildlife, and companion species. With guest speakers like Susan Roberts from Japan Cat Network, encounters with the sacred deer of Nara, and immersion into the urban landscape of Tokyo, the students walked away with a robust understanding of the complexity of Japanese human-animal relationships.” ~Seven Mattes



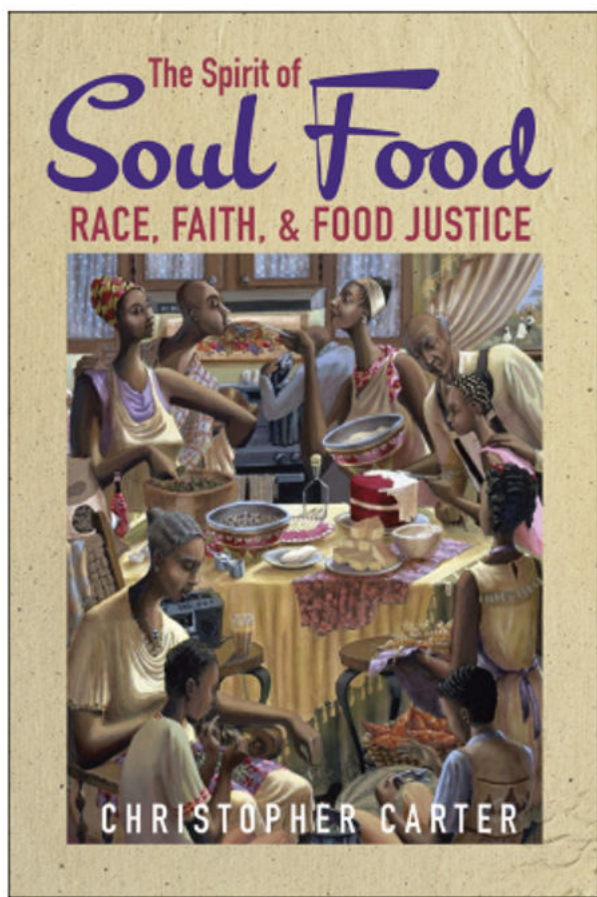
Above: Full group photo. Photo credit: Seven Mattes.

Below: Seven’s class, posing with the famous Hachiko Statue. Photo credit: Seven Mattes.



About *The Spirit of Soul Food: Race, Faith, and Food Justice*

Soul food has played a critical role in preserving Black history, community, and culinary genius. It is also a response to--and marker of--centuries of food injustice. Given the harm that our food production system inflicts upon Black people, what should soul food look like today?



Christopher Carter's answer to that question merges a history of Black American foodways with a Christian ethical response to food injustice. Carter reveals how racism and colonialism have long steered the development of US food policy. The very food we grow, distribute, and eat disproportionately harms Black people specifically and people of color among the global poor in general. Carter reflects on how people of color can eat in a way that reflects their cultural identities while remaining true to the principles of compassion, love, justice, and solidarity with the marginalized.

Both a timely mediation and a call to action, *The Spirit of Soul Food* places today's Black foodways at the crossroads of food justice and Christian practice.

Book Discussion with Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter

Student Council Rep. **Victoria Brockett** had the opportunity to sit down with **Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter** and discuss his book, *The Spirit of Soul Food: Race, Faith, and Food Justice*. In their interview Dr. Carter discusses the historical significance of soul food as a form of resistance against anti-Black racism and introduces the concept of Black veganism as a framework to re-imagine what he calls “soulfull eating.” He also shares his personal journey to veganism and emphasizes the importance of understanding how colonial logic continues to impact the contemporary food system. Their conversation also focuses on soul food and the potential for Black veganism to serve as a means for envisioning racial justice and food sovereignty.

Access the interview here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWhNyUg7aUE>

Rev. Dr. Carter’s Biography

Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter’s research, teaching, and activist interests are in Black, Womanist, and Environmental ethics, with a particular focus on race, food, and nonhuman animals. His publications include “Race, Animals, as a New Vision of the Beloved Community” in *Animals and Religion* (Routledge, 2024), *The Spirit of Soul Food* (University of Illinois Press, December 2021), and “Blood in the Soil: The Racial, Racist, and Religious Dimensions of Environmentalism” in *The Bloomsbury Handbook on Religion and Nature* (Bloomsbury, 2018). In them, he explores the intersectional oppressions experienced by people of color, non-human animals, and nature. Currently, he is an Associate Professor of Theology, Ecology, and Race at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Lead Pastor of The Loft at Westwood United Methodist Church, and he is also on the board of directors of Farm Forward, an anti-factory farming non-profit.

Section Member Publications

New Anthology Features Several Section Members

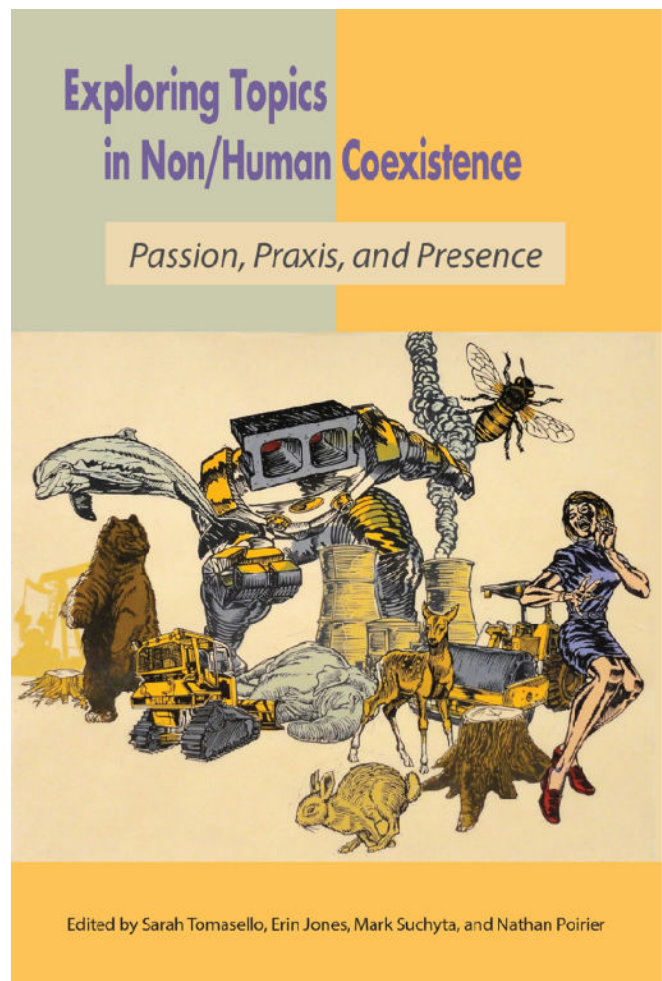
By Mark Suchyta

A new book has recently been published which was **co-edited by two section members and features four chapters written by section members.** *Exploring Topics in Non/human Coexistence*, published by Brooklyn-based Lantern Publishing and Media, is an eclectic text which emphasizes the ways in which human and non-human suffering and oppression are entangled and proposes steps forward to pursue the “total liberation” of all beings. The contributing authors hail from five different countries and a variety of backgrounds. Topics covered range from Black Trans Feminism, Multispecies Justice, cow protectionism in India, to even UFOs. **The book was co-edited by Sarah Tomasello, Erin Jones, Mark Suchyta and Nathan Poirier. It includes chapters written by Mark, Nathan, Seven Mattes, and Sarah May Lindsay.**

Now available where books are sold. For more information, visit <https://lanternpm.org/book/exploring-topics-in-non-human-coexistence/>.

Also, check out this interview with co-editor Sarah Tomasello conducted by the prominent behavioral ecologist and animal advocate Marc Beckoff: <https://marcbekoff.com/f/exploring-topics-in-nonhuman-coexistence-book-interview>

Finally, be on the lookout for two episodes of the [Lantern Voices podcast](#) (on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, etc.) next month--one with Nathan and one with Mark, where they discuss the book alongside contributors.



MORE Section Member Publications!

Jacquet, Jennifer, Viveca Morris, **Loredana Loy**, and Gidon Eshel. 2025. “Early US Meat Industry Knowledge and Response to Global Warming.” *Environmental Research Letters* 20(3):031006. doi: [10.1088/1748-9326/adb6c0](https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/adb6c0).

Lindsay, Sarah May. 2024. “A Review of Homelessness: A Critical Introduction (Cameron Parsell).” *International Journal on Homelessness* 1–13. doi: [10.5206/ijoh.2023.3.17583](https://doi.org/10.5206/ijoh.2023.3.17583).

Loy, Loredana, and Jennifer Jacquet. 2025. “The Animal Agriculture Industry’s Obstruction of Campaigns Promoting Individual Climate Action.” *Climate Policy* 1–10. doi: [10.1080/14693062.2025.2460603](https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2025.2460603).

Oudshoorn, Abe, Andrea Krywucky, Bridget Annor, Joseph Adu, Jean Pierre Ndayisenga, Danny Guerrero, Shubhjit Gabhi, Tracy-Ann Reid, and **Sarah May Lindsay**. 2024. “Conducting Intersectional Analysis in Nursing Research.” *Journal of Advances in Nursing Science* 1–33.

Santinele-Martino, Alan, and **Sarah May Lindsay**. 2024. “From Inspirational Beings to ‘Mad’ Veg/Ans: Tensions and Possibilities Between Animal Studies and Disability Studies.” in *Animals and religion*, edited by D. Aftandilian, B. Ambros, and A. S. Gross. Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge.

Sebastian, Marcel. 2025. “Professional Emotional Neutrality and the Role of Background Emotion Work in the Slaughterhouse.” *Agriculture and Human Values*. doi: [10.1007/s10460-025-10713-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-025-10713-4).

Animals & Society Scholarship in the Media

Corey Wrenn has two recent podcast interviews:

- ✦ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqCCpfeqNc4>
- ✦ <https://alwaysforanimalrights.blogspot.com/2025/01/episode-107-interview-with-sociologist.html>

Featuring the work of **Loredana Loy**:

- ✦ Vox: <https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/405005/beef-meat-industry-climate-change-fossil-fuel-playbook>
- ✦ Inside Climate News: <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/14032025/american-beef-industry-knew-climate-impact-decades-ago/>
- ✦ National Observer: <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2025/03/21/news/american-beef->