

## 2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for [Animals and Society]

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### Introduction

Annual reports are used by the Sections Committee to assess the health of a Section, measure the Section's vitality, and identify processes, programs, or initiatives that could serve as a model for other Sections. In addition, they serve to provide institutional memory, socialize new Section leaders, and promote transparency to Section members.

This annual report covers the period of Section activity from September 2024 to August 2025 and a fiscal year from January 2025 to December 2025. This report is shared publicly.

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### Section Governance

Provide details of your Section's governance activity during the period between September 2024 and August 2025.

#### Business Meeting

Copy and paste below (or attach separately) the agenda and draft/approved meeting minutes from the Section business meeting which include a count of members present and summary of decisions made at this meeting. Minutes are not a transcript of proceedings, but a listing of what discussions took place and official actions taken.

[Please see attached](#)

#### Council Meeting

Copy and paste below (or attach separately) the agenda and draft/approved meeting minutes of all council meetings. Minutes must include a list of council members present and a summary of decisions made. Minutes are not a transcript of proceedings, but a listing of what discussions took place and official actions taken.

[Please see attached](#)

### Awards

Provide a list of Section awards and awardees conferred in the past year.

#### Jane Goodall Award for Student Scholarship

[Tyler Bateman, The University of New Mexico](#)

["The Genesis of Care: Knowledge-Emotion Connections, Extension of the Self, and Care for Nature at an Urban Nature Centre."](#)

#### Award for Distinguished Article

[Caleb Scoville, Tufts University](#)

["How to Divide People with Things: Division Entrepreneurs, Wedges, and the Delta Smelt Controversy"](#)

#### Award for Distinguished Book

[Brett Bannor, Atlanta History Center](#)

["American Sheep: A Cultural History"](#)

### **The Clifton Bryant Animals & Society Course Award**

Jennifer Tabler, University of Wyoming  
"The Sociology of Pets"

**The P-22 Award for Distinguished Service (award names after a celebrity wild mountain lion who resided in Griffith Park in Los Angeles)**

Carol Glasser, Minnesota State University, Mankato

## **2025 Finances**

Provide a narrative on how the 2025 budget matched with actual expenses and income from 2024. Please account for any substantive differences.

RESPONSE: We began the year with a balance of \$2,013 and we had \$722 in income. We did not spend much of our section funds in 2024, but were looking forward to spending a bit on a reception at the annual meeting in Chicago this year, as opposed to having a dinner where members pay for themselves, as we did in Montreal. Due to our small size and limited budget, we approached the section on Environmental Sociology about having a joint-reception and they agreed. After searching for possible venues, but having trouble finding affordable options, we ultimately decided to work with ASA to host a reception in the conference hotel. The section on Environmental Sociology agreed to pay 2/3 of the cost while we covered 1/3 of the cost, having a much smaller membership than them. The reception cost our section \$1,259. We also maintained our yearly tradition of making a \$250 donation on behalf of our section award winners to an animal advocacy organization based in the city that is hosting the conference. This year, we split that donation between two organizations: Anti-Cruelty and Chicago Bird Collision Monitors. The final cost of the donation, for which we covered the processing fees, was \$260.64.

This means our total expenditures for the year was \$1,519.64. After accounting for our income, our section funds saw a net decrease of \$797.64 and our balance at the end of this year will be \$1,215.36. It is clear that having a formal reception every year is not sustainable for our section and therefore, is likely something we will only pursue every few years, in collaboration with a larger section.

Considering that the next conference is in New York, which is more expensive than Chicago, we will likely need to resort to holding events where members pay for themselves while the section covers more affordable items, such as coffees, appetizers at a restaurant, or meals for graduate students only. Including our annual donation on the behalf of section award winners, we will budget \$700-\$800 for next year's annual meeting.

## **The Previous Year**

Describe Section activities during the period between September 2024 and August 2025.

Provide an overview of the Section's communications with its members and include explanation of how your communication strategy meets the goals and values of the Section. Include links to the section website, newsletters, and any other electronic media used.

RESPONSE: Once a month, the chair of the section sent an email to all section members listing events, jobs, publications from members, and information about conference opportunities. This email served as a means of keeping members abreast of exactly what was going on in Animals and Society scholarship, as well as a means of maintaining community for what is a small section. Please also see the following:

Links to ASA Site ([https://www.asanet.org/asa\\_sections/animals-and-society/](https://www.asanet.org/asa_sections/animals-and-society/))

Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AnimalsAndSocietyASA>)

Twitter account ([https://twitter.com/Animals\\_Society](https://twitter.com/Animals_Society))

We had one formal newsletter this year, which is available here: ADD LINK

Describe the Section's diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. What steps were taken this year to achieve those goals?

We have a particular focus on supporting students as we believe this is the best route to supporting all facets of DEI. Our hope is that by creating a safe, collaborative, and supportive space for our student members we will naturally grow into a more diverse and inclusive section. We also know that scholars of color and those wanting to work outside of academia are underrepresented in the ASA membership in general and we want to speak to/work with these groups as well. To include these groups (students, those outside of academia, those who cannot afford ASA membership) we have:

- Last year changed our students award criteria such that student authors do not need to be members since we know ASA membership cost is a barrier, as well as Included a new award for service/achievement that broadly recognizes work that is not necessarily academic in nature.
- Continued our collaboration with Animals and Society Institute on our Colloquium Series to open attendance and participation to a more diverse audience
- Collaborated with the Teaching and Learning section to offer an ASA session on using animals in pedagogy.

Provide an overview of the section's programming at the annual meeting and include explanation of how this programming meets the goals and values of the section (e.g. intellectual exchange, professional networking, mentoring, inclusion).

### Sunday, August 10, 2025

#### **10:00-11:30am**

30482. Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology.  
Teaching Companions/Learning Companions: Animals in Classrooms, on Campus, and in Pedagogy (Co-sponsored by Section on Animals and Society)  
Swissotel, Concourse Level, Zurich C,

Presider: Sadie Pendaz-Foster, Inver Hills Community College

Panelists:

Jason Andrew Nolen, University of Wisconsin - Madison;

Seven Mattes, Michigan State University;  
Yana Kuchirko,  
CUNY-Brooklyn College;  
Carol L. Glasser, Minnesota State University-Mankato;  
Cameron Thomas Whitley, Western Washington University

Session Organizers: Sadie Pendaz-Foster, Inver Hills Community College; Seven Mattes, Michigan State University

### **2:00-3:30pm**

30820. ASA Section and Community Open House  
East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Grand Ballroom A,

Table 20: Section on Animals and Society/Section on Environmental Sociology  
Table Presiders: Mark Suchyta, Butler University; Victoria Brockett, University of Illinois-Chicago; Joshua Sbicca, Colorado State University; Raoul Salvador Lievanos, University of Oregon

### **Monday, August 11, 2025**

#### **10:00-11:00am**

#### **40462. Section on Animals and Society Roundtables West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Regency C,**

##### **Table 1: Animals and Politics**

Table Presider: Mark Suchyta, Butler University  
What Animal Liberation Activists Need to Know about Values: Debunking Three Common Myths - Mark Suchyta, Butler University  
A Study of Demobilization and Remobilization in the Animal Advocacy Movement - Yasmin Koop-Monteiro, University of British Columbia  
Social inequalities and governance of livestock quarantines in East Africa - Ashley Railey, Oklahoma State University; Susan Kerfua, National Livestock Resources Research Institute, Uganda; Thomas L Marsh, Washington State University  
An Ethnographic Exploration of Veganism through the Lens of the Black Radical Tradition - Victoria Brockett, University of Illinois-Chicago

##### **Table 2: Animals and Meaning**

Table Presider: Jenny R. Vermilya, University of Colorado Denver  
Anthropomorphism: The Challenge of Representing Animals - Jenny R. Vermilya, University of Colorado Denver  
Difference matters: A new approach in the study of human-animal interactions - Dominique Guillo, CNRS (French National Center for Scientific Research)  
Diverse Flocks, Shared Spaces: Birdwatching and Environmental Engagement in the Greater Boston Area - Lan Huang, Boston College  
Speciesism and General Education - Norah Peters Shultz, San Diego State University  
"What's the Worst that Could Happen? I Fall Off." Edgework and the College Equestrian Athlete -

Laura Ann Sanchez, Bowling Green State University

**11:00-11:30am**

**40562. Section on Animals and Society Business Meeting**  
West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Regency C,

**2:00-3:30pm**

**40863. Section on Animals and Society. *Animals Across Sociological Inquiry***  
West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Regency D,

Presider: Mark Suchyta, Butler University

Eat Meat or Not? Negotiating the Intersection of Practices and Identities: Comparing Punks and Buddhist Followers - Tianhao Zhang, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; Adam Gregory Lilly, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Naturalizing animals: Cultural Inception of Invasive Species - Liron Shani, Hebrew University

Emotional Support? Law, Social Control, and the Medicalization of the Human-Animal Bond - Nicole R Pallotta, Animal Legal Defense Fund

Managing College Amid Grief: College students' academic experiences after the death of a companion animal - Carol L. Glasser, Minnesota State University-Mankato; Yana Kuchirko, CUNY-Brooklyn College; Rohit Paruchuri,; Sachita Pokhrel; Emily Marie Boyd, Minnesota State University-Mankato; Samuel Agre

Discussant: Daniel Auerbach, University of Wyoming

Session Organizer: Jordan Fox, SUNY-Buffalo

**6:30-8:30pm**

**41362. Joint Reception: Section on Environmental Sociology;  
Section on Animals and Society**

West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold,  
Regency C,

**Discussion:** This programming meets the goals and values of the section in several ways. First and foremost is intellectual exchange. Note that not only did we create spaces for animals and society scholars to share their work with each other, but also spaces for animals and society scholarship to engage with other sections, including the teaching and learning section as well as the environmental sociology section. These cross-section activities were, moreover, opportunities to engaging in networking, mentoring, and inclusion amongst a wider array of sociology, while still focusing on animals and society scholarship specifically – scholarship which is often ignored or marginalized in central institutions, rendering the need for a fine balance between networking across sections with specific attention to specifically animals and society issues.

Provide an overview of the Section's programmatic activities outside of the Annual Meeting (e.g. webinars, networking events, mentoring initiatives, resources for dissemination) and include explanation of this programming meets the goals and values of the Section.

The section remained active throughout the year. Here are several examples:

1. Media Club Meetups: This year, the section held seasonal media club meetups over zoom. For these meetups, attendees read or watch animal-related media and then discuss those media and how they related to animals and society scholarship. So far, we have read George Saunders' "Fox 8," Philip K. Dick's "Do androids dream of electric sheep," and watched the movie "Best in Show." Next up are some select animals-related episodes from the "X-files" television series.
2. Meetings with international scholars: We have thus far held two zoom meetings with animals and society scholars from Europe, in particular Germany and the Netherlands, to discuss how we might create global scholarly connections. This conversation is still in its early stage, but exciting times are ahead.
3. We have continued our ASA-approved partnership with the Animals and Society Institute (ASI) & the Culture and Animals Foundation (CAF). MORE
4. We have held monthly colloquiums with the Animals and Society Institute, three of which have been given by section members.

Minutes for:  
2025 Animals and Society Business Meeting  
ASA Annual Meeting  
West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold Regency C  
Chicago, IL

Monday, August 11, 11-11:30am Central time

## 1. Election results

Welcome:

Miranda K. Workman, ASPCA, Chair-Elect (3-year term begins Sep 1)

Victoria Brockett, University of Illinois Chicago, Council Member  
(3-year term begins Sep 1)

Daniel Auerbach, University of Wyoming, Council Member  
(3-year term begins Sep 1)

Kelley J. Ortiz, University of Central Florida, Student Representative  
(2-year term begins Sep 1)

Thanks to Ivy Collier and Erin Kidder for their service—their council terms have concluded.

## 2. Section Award Winners

Jane Goodall Award for Student Scholarship:

Tyler Bateman, The University of New Mexico

“The Genesis of Care: Knowledge-Emotion Connections, Extension of the Self, and Care for Nature at an Urban Nature Centre.”

Award for Distinguished Article

Caleb Scoville, Tufts University

“How to Divide People with Things: Division Entrepreneurs, Wedges, and the Delta Smelt Controversy”

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*American Sheep: A Cultural History*

The Clifton Bryant Animals & Society Course Award

Jennifer Tabler, University of Wyoming

“The Sociology of Pets”

The P-22 Award for Distinguished Service  
Carol Glasser, Minnesota State University—Mankato

### 3. **Award reception**

Tonight is our joint Reception with the Environmental Soc. Section  
6:30 to 8:30pm  
West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Ballroom Level/Gold, Regency C.  
We will have vegan hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

### 4. **Animals and Society Colloquium Series** (Carol Glasser presented)

Colloquium series continues thanks to our partnership with Culture and Animals Foundation, who took over as our partner after the Animals and Society Institute closed.

It continues to go well and be well-attended. We would like more section members to present their work—reach out to Carol if interested.

### 5. **Newsletter**

The newsletter committee, chaired by Sarah May, continues to do great work. They are currently soliciting materials for the Fall edition, so please send anything you'd like to be included to her or even consider writing an article!

### 6. **Budget** (Mark Suchyta presented)

Budget continues to hover around the \$2,500 mark. The relatively low budget makes it difficult to plan events in the cities where the annual meetings are held. This necessitates collaborating with sections, such as environmental sociology, for receptions, as we are this year.

### 7. **Membership**

Being a small section, membership numbers continue to be a significant consideration. We tend to hold steady around 100 to 110 members. Ideas were discussed on how to encourage growth in the section. One idea was offer a mentorship program. The Membership Committee will discuss this issue further.

### 8. **Upcoming Initiatives**

- a. Some section officers and council members have been meeting with an international group of sociologists, largely led by a couple German scholars,

interested in animal studies and collaboration. We will create a listserv soon for anyone else who would like to be connected with this group. It will be a way to share work, find collaborators, be informed about conferences and advocacy, etc.

- b. We continue to hold **Animal Studies Happy Hours**. The couple so far discussed a book and then a film that participants read/watched beforehand and discussed over beer or any other beverage on Zoom. Is there interest in continuing this? And if so, what media would you be interested in discussing?
  - i. One idea was an X-Files episode related to animals
  - ii. Someone brought up that timing is a challenge. These events have been scheduled in the evening in Eastern time so that West Coast colleagues can attend after work. It was suggested that perhaps a coffee hour earlier in the day would be better so that it is not so late for some.
- c. **Donations on behalf of section award winners**. We will continue the tradition of donating \$250 to an animal advocacy organization in the city hosting our annual meeting to honor our section award winners. Ideas mentioned were “Anti-Cruelty” and “Chicago Bird Collision Monitors”.
- d. Consider serving on a department committee...you do not need to be an officer or on council to do so! Planning for NYC will start soon.

## 9. Meeting adjourned