



Newsletter November 2009

Kia ora koutou. Haere mai ki te kawerongo hiko o te Puna Akorangi o Aotearoa mo te Tangata me te Kararehe.

Hello NZCHAS members and supporters. It is our pleasure to send you this newsletter outlining the activities of the New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies this year.

In this newsletter:

1. New NZCHAS Member
2. New Associates of NZCHAS
3. Recent News & Events
4. Upcoming Events and Calls for Papers
5. Book Reviews

1. New Member Joins NZCHAS

Dr Jennifer Clement



Jennifer Clement is working on a book on humility in early modern English literature, which includes a chapter on the late seventeenth-century social reformer Thomas Tryon and his writings on animals and vegetarianism. Her next project will focus on early modern husbandry manuals and herbals, examining the connections between early modern discourses of farming, natural history, and education, and the depictions of animals and the natural world in more 'literary' works such as Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Georgic poetry, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, and Jacobean revenge tragedies. Jennifer is aided in her research by the three

cats and two dogs who live at her house and contribute their time and fur to her work.

Selected Publications

Elizabeth I “Elizabeth I and the Politics of Gender: Empire and Masculinity in John Banks’ The Unhappy Favorite.” *Restoration* 31.1, Spring 2007.

“The Queen’s Voice: Elizabeth I’s Christian Prayers and Meditations.” *Early Modern Literary Studies* 13.2, January 2008.

“The Postfeminist Mystique: Feminism and Shakespearean Adaptation in 10 Things I Hate About You and She’s the Man.” *Borrowers and Lenders* (forthcoming September 2008).

“The Imperial Vot’ress’: Divinity and Femininity in A Midsummer Night’s Dream. *Explorations in Renaissance Culture* (forthcoming Winter 2008).

2. New Associates of NZCHAS

Ralph Acampora



Ralph R. Acampora, Associate Professor of Philosophy, teaches in the areas of applied ethics and history of (especially modern) philosophy. He conducts research in the fields of environmental philosophy, bioethics, and animal studies. After earning a B.A./M.A. at CUNY, Acampora gained his doctorate at Emory University (writing a dissertation on inter-species ethics and phenomenology of body). He has authored *Corporal Compassion: Animal Ethics and Philosophy of Body* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006: www.upress.pitt.edu/BookDetails.aspx?bookId=35804), co-edited *A Nietzschean Bestiary* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2003), has published work in a variety of books and journals, referees for *Environmental Ethics*, and is a member of the editorial board for *Anthrozoös*. Recent interests of his include the hermeneutics of spectatorship at zoos, moral issues pertaining to the built, including biotechnical environment, and the ontological status of nature.

Ralph.R.Acampora@Hofstra.edu

Selected Publications

Acampora, R. (Ed.) (forthcoming) *Farewell to Noah: transforming animal encounter in the twilight of the zoo* Lexington Books

Acampora, R. and A. Miller (2007) 'Thinking Animals in Expanding Territories'. *Society and Animals* 15(2):103-105

Acampora, R. (2006) *Corporal compassion: animal ethics and philosophy of body*. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh

Acampora, R (2005) 'Zoos and eyes: Contesting captivity and seeking successor practices.' *Society & Animals* 13(1)

Acampora, C. D. and R. Acampora (Eds.) (2004) *A Nietzschean bestiary: becoming animal beyond docile and brutal*. New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2004

Carol Adams

Carol J. Adams is an activist/theorist whose focus is on interrelated oppressions and who is the author of *The Sexual Politics of Meat: A Feminist-Vegetarian Critical Theory*. Her work is featured in an award-winning documentary, *A Cow at My Table and Flesh: A Documentary*. A rock group, Consolidated, devoted one track of their CD 'Friendly Fascism' to *The Sexual Politics of Meat*.

Carol has published close to 100 articles in journals, books, and magazines on the issues of vegetarianism and veganism, animal advocacy, domestic violence and sexual abuse. She is particularly interested in the interconnections among forms of violence against human and nonhuman animals, writing, for instance, about why woman-batterers harm animals and the implications of this (see *Animals and Women*). Besides advancing scholarship and developing theory in the area of interlocking oppressions, Carol has created a series of books that address the vegetarian/vegan experience: *Living Among Meat Eaters: The Vegetarian Survival Guide*, *Help! My Child Stopped Eating Meat!* and *The Inner Art of Vegetarianism*.



Carol has been an activist on antiviolence issues since the 1970s. She has worked to bring back into print Howard Williams's nineteenth-century classic text on vegetarianism, *The Ethics of Diet*. She has contributed prefaces to

important vegetarian, vegan, and animal defense books and discovered an eighteenth-century vegetarian work that had never entered the vegetarian tradition. Recently she received awards from The Greater Dallas Coalition for Reproductive Freedom and Planned Parenthood of Dallas and North Texas, "for her help in understanding the psychology of the radical right, for her commitment to women and for her brave stance against the tyranny of Operation Rescue."

Selected Publications

The Sexual Politics of Meat: A Feminist-Vegetarian Critical Theory. New York: Continuum International, Oxford: Polity Press, 1990. Japanese edition, fall 1994. Tenth Anniversary Edition, 2000. German edition, Destined for Adornment, 2002. Korean edition, 2003, Chinese edition forthcoming. Twentieth anniversary edition forthcoming.

The Feminist Care Tradition in Animal Ethics: A Reader, edited with Josephine Donovan. Columbia University Press, 2007.

Help! My child stopped eating meat! The Parents' A-Z Guide to Surviving a Conflict in Diets. New York: Continuum International, 2004

The Pornography of Meat. New York: Continuum International, 2003.

Living Among Meat Eaters: The Vegetarian's Survival Handbook. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2001; Continuum, 2003; Lantern 2008. Chinese edition, 2005. German Edition, (*Überleben unter Fleischessern: Tipps und Strategien für VegetarierInnen*) 2008.

The Inner Art of Vegetarianism. New York: Lantern Books, 2000.

Animals and Women: Feminist Theoretical Explorations, an anthology edited with Josephine Donovan. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1995.

Neither Man nor Beast: Feminism and the Defense of Animals. New York: Continuum International. 1994.

Ecofeminism and the Sacred, editor. New York: Continuum International, 1993.

Giovanni Aloï

Giovanni Aloï was born in Milan, Italy in 1976. In 1995 he obtained his first degree in Fine Art – Theory and Practice and moved to London in 1997 where he went on to study Visual Culture (MA) at Goldsmiths College. From 1999 to 2004 he worked at Whitechapel Art Gallery and as a film programmer at Prince Charles Cinema in London whilst continuing to work as freelance photographer. Today he is a lecturer of History of Art and Media Studies at Queen Mary University, the Open University, City Lit and Tate Galleries. He also is the Editor



in Chief of *Antennae*, the online Journal of Nature in Visual Culture. The magazine combines a heightened level of academic scrutiny of animals in art (as evidenced by a two-volume issue dedicated to the ways in which our human intellectual and culture models have been influenced by the natural history of insects), with a less formal and more experimental format designed to appeal to audiences of artists and general public alike.

Inspired by the work of Steve Baker (Professor in the Department of Historical and Critical Studies at the University of Central Lancashire, UK), the author of influential books *The Postmodern Animal* and *Picturing the Beast*, and wanting to cross the boundaries of academic knowledge, *Antennae* quickly became a hit amongst artists, academics,

curators and those interested in art, animal, environmental issues around the world.

Giovanni Aloi's main research areas involve modern and contemporary art with a strong interest for the representation/presence of animals in the exhibiting space.

Selected publications:

'Picasso's Animals: Histoire Naturelle' in *Antennae* Issue 1, pp.25-30, March 2007.

'The Contemporary Uneasiness With Entomology Displays', in *Antennae* Issue 3 Vol.1, pp.26-32, September 2007.

'A New Entomology Display Cabinet? – The Photography of Poul Beckmann', in *Antennae* Issue 3 Vol.2, pp. 4-8.

'The Poetics of Plastic Bags' in *Plastic Bags – Exhibition Catalogue*, Fritzoy Press, pp. 3-7, 2006.

Presentations:

'Culture in the Wild', Art History and Animal Studies, Regents College, London, February 2008

'Culture in the Wild', The Endangered Postmodern Animal, Regents College, London, April 2008.

Marti Kheel



Marti Kheel is a prominent writer and activist in the areas of ecofeminism, animal advocacy, and environmental ethics. She co-founded Feminists for Animal Rights in 1982, hoping to bridge the divisions between the feminist and animal advocacy movements. Kheel's articles have been translated into multiple languages and have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies. Her groundbreaking 1985 article "The Liberation of Nature: A Circular Affair" offered the first feminist critique of environmental ethics. Originally published in *Environmental Ethics*, the article has been widely cited and republished in several edited volumes. Along with many of her other articles, this essay laid the foundation for the future focus of her work at the juncture between animal advocacy and environmental ethics.

Over the years, Kheel's primary goal has been to develop an ecofeminist holistic philosophy that can bridge the seemingly disparate movements and philosophies of feminism, animal advocacy, and environmental ethics. Drawing on the model of holistic health, Kheel believes that ecofeminism offers the possibility of a genuinely holistic way of perceiving the world. By shedding light on the root causes of social problems, ecofeminism can help us to deepen our capacity for empathy for all living beings, thereby helping to bring about a world of peace and respect for all living beings. She holds a doctorate from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, where she is currently a visiting scholar. Her website is <http://martikheel.com/>

Selected Publications:

Nature Ethics: An Ecofeminist Perspective. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008.

"Direct Action and the Heroic Ideal: An Ecofeminist Critique," in Anthony J. Nocella and Steve Best, eds., *Igniting a Revolution: Voices in Defense of Mother Earth*. Oakland, CA: AK Press, 2006.

"Vegetarianism and Ecofeminism: Toppling Patriarchy with a Fork.," in Steve F. Sapontzis, ed., *Food for Thought: The Debate Over Eating Meat*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2004.

"The History of Vegetarianism." In *The Encyclopedia of World Environmental History*, vol. 3, edited by Shepard Krech III, C. Merchant, and J. R. McNeill, 1273–1278. New York: Routledge, 2004. Read article. [PDF]

"From Heroic to Holistic Ethics: The Ecofeminist Challenge," in Greta Gaard, ed., *Ecofeminism: Women, Animals, Nature*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1993. Reprinted in James P. Sterba, ed., *Earth Ethics: Environmental Ethics, Animal Rights and Practical Applications*, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1995, and Janet A. Kourany, James P. Sterba, and Rosemarie Tong, eds., *Feminist Philosophies: Problems Theories and Applications*, Second Edition, Prentice-Hall, 1999.

"License to Kill: An Ecofeminist Critique of Hunters' Discourse," in Carol J. Adams and Josephine Donovan, eds., *Animals and Women: Feminist Theoretical Explorations*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1995.

"Ecofeminism and Deep Ecology: Reflections on Identity and Difference." In *Reweaving the World: The Emergence of Ecofeminism*, edited by Irene Diamond and Gloria Orenstein, 128–137. San Francisco: Sierra Club Publishers, 1990. Reprinted (expanded version) in *Covenant for a New Creation: Ethics, Religion, and Public Policy*, edited by Carol Robb and Carl Casebolt, 141–164 (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 1991), and (revised) in *The Trumpeter: A Journal of Ecosophy* 8, no. 2 (Spring 1991): 55–63.

"The Liberation of Nature: A Circular Affair." *Environmental Ethics* 7 (Summer 1985): 135-149. Reprinted in *Animal Rights and Human Obligations*, 2nd ed., eds. Tom Regan and Peter Singer, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1989; in *Thirteen Questions in Ethics*, eds. G. Lee Bowie, Kathleen Huggins, and Meredith Michaels, New York: Harcourt Brace and Jovanovich, 1992; and in *The Feminist Care Tradition in Animal Ethics*, eds. Josephine Donovan and Carol J. Adams, New York: Columbia University Press, 2007.

Margo De Mello

Margo DeMello received her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from U.C. Davis in 1995, and currently lectures in sociology, cultural studies, and anthropology at Central New Mexico Community College. Her areas of specialization include the cross cultural body and human-animal studies. She writes extensively about rabbit behavior and the cultural representation of rabbits, and is currently working on an article about Bunspace, a social networking site for rabbits, to be included in a proposed collection about animal autobiographical writing.

She is also a longtime animal advocate. She serves as President and Executive Director of House Rabbit



Society, and the Program Director for Human-Animal Studies at Animals & Society Institute.

Selected publications:

Forthcoming. *Teaching the Animal: Human Animal Studies Across the Disciplines*. (Ed.) New York: Lantern Press.

2009. *Feet and Footwear: A Cultural History*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing.

2007. (With Erin E. Williams.) *Why Animals Matter: The Case for Animal Protection*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books.

2007. *Encyclopedia of Body Adornment: A Cultural History*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing.

2007. "The Present and Future of Animal Domestication." In *A Cultural History of Animals: Volume 6, The Modern Age*, Randy Malamud, ed. Oxford: Berg Publishers.

2007. "Rabbits in Human Society." In *Encyclopedia of Human-Animal Relationships*, Marc Bekoff, ed. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing.

2006. Book Review. Facing the Wild: Ecotourism, Conservation and Animal Encounters. In *Anthrozoös*, 19(1). 2006.

2003. (With Susan E. Davis.) *Stories Rabbits Tell: A Natural and Cultural History of a Misunderstood Creature*. New York: Lantern Press.

2000. *Bodies of Inscription: A Cultural History of the Modern Tattoo Community*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Arnja Dale

Arnja Dale is a Senior Academic in Applied Animal Behaviour and Welfare Science at Unitec, New Zealand, where she is the Programme Director of the Certificate in Animal Welfare Investigations and also teaches animal behaviour, animal welfare science and ethics for the Bachelor of Applied Science. She has written and published in the field of animal welfare science, and is currently examining the practical effectiveness of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (NZ) and the welfare implications and effectiveness of training methods in dogs. Her background is in the sciences, with a Masters of Science from Edinburgh University and another Masters of Science from Massey University, and she is very familiar with the practical



operation of the AWA and has a strong interest in the relationship between science and law.

Selected publications:

Dale, A. R. & Waran, N. 2006. Dogs and children – A dangerous mix? Presented to the Urban Animal Management Conference, 2006. Tasmania, Australia.

Waran, N., Best, L, Williams, Salinsky, J., Dale, A., Clarke, N. 2007. A preliminary study of behaviour based indicators of pain in cats. *Animal Welfare*. 16(s) 105-108.

Williams, V.M., Dale, A., Clarke, N., Garrett, N. 2008. Animal abuse and Family Violence: Survey on the recognition of animal abuse by veterinarians in New Zealand and their understanding of the correlation between animal abuse and human violence. *New Zealand Veterinary Journal* 56(1) 21-28.

Codes of Welfare – The Devil in Disguise. In '*Animal Welfare Law in Australasia*'. Book release early 2009.

J.K. Walker, A.R. Dale, R.B. D'Eath, F. Wemelsfelder
Welfare Assessment in Dogs: Reducing the Invasiveness of Welfare Assessment Methodology through Trial and Validation of a Qualitative Behavioral-Based Approach. *Journal Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research*.

Contact: adale2@unitec.ac.nz

Wendy Woodward

Wendy Woodward is a Professor in the English Department at the University of the Western Cape in greater Cape Town. She has introduced animals into the undergraduate module Reading the Environment at her university, and co-developed a postgraduate course on Animals and Ecologies. Her research has focused on representations of nonhuman animals and their subjectivities and is now beginning to study the adaptabilities of literary animals in cities. Human-Animal Studies is just beginning to develop locally; her recent *The Animal Gaze: Animal Subjectivities in Southern African Narratives* (Wits University Press 2008) is the first monograph in HAS in



Southern Africa. She is also a published poet and her second volume of poetry *Love, Hades and other Animals* (Protea 2008) engages with animals in Greek myth, colonial family histories and daily experience.

Selected Publications:

Can the Bird sing? Representations of Birds in Southern African Narratives. *Alternation*. Forthcoming, 2009.

Love, Hades and Other Animals (poetry). Pretoria: Protea, 2009.

The Animal Gaze: Animal Subjectivities in Southern African Narratives. Johannesburg: University of Witwatersrand Press, 2008.

Dogs as Social Subjects. *Canis Africanis: A Dog History of South Africa*. Ed. Sandra Swart and Lance von Sittert. Brill, 2008: 235-262

"The Nature Feeling": Ecological Masculinities in Some Recent Popular Texts. *Toxic Belonging*. Ed Dan Wylie. Cambridge Scholars Press, 2008.

A Cautionary Tale: Review of The Whale Caller by Zakes Mda. *Society and Animals* 15.3 (2007): 299-300.

The Killing (off) of Animals in Some Southern African Fiction or "Why Does Every Animal Story Have to be Sad?" *Journal of Literary Studies* 23.3 (2007): 293-313.

Lions, Leopards and Liminality: Representations of Biosociality in the Writings of Katy Payne, Linda Tucker and Gillian van Houten. *Current Writing: Special Issue on Animals and Ecologies*. Ed Dan Wylie (April 18 2006): 28-41.

Laughing Back at the Kingfisher: Zakes Mda's The Heart of Redness and Postcolonial Humour. *Cheeky Fictions: Laughter and the Postcolonial*. Ed Susanne Reichl and Mark Stein. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2005.

"Frail Shared Seconds": Encounters between Humans and Other Animals in the Poetry of Douglas Livingstone. *English Academy Review* Vol 20 (Dec 2003): 44-53 (published in 2004).

Postcolonial Ecologies and the Gaze of Animals: Reading Some Contemporary South African Narratives. *Journal of Literary Studies* 19:3/4 December 2003: 290-315.

Dog Stars and Dog Souls: The Lives of Dogs in Marlene van Niekerk's Triomf and JM Coetzee's Disgrace. *Journal of Literary Studies* 17 3 / 4 (2001): 90-119.

"Dogs of the Heart": Encounters between Humans and Other Animals in the Poetry of Ruth Miller. *The English Academy Review* 18 (Dec 2001): 73-86.

3. Recent News and Events

Minding Animals: Major International Conference on Animals and Society

Earlier this year, numerous NZCHAS members, associates and students attended Minding Animals, a major international conference organized by the Animals and Society (Australia) Study Group and the University of Newcastle.

The six day conference, an interdisciplinary event drawing scholars and activists from all over the world, featured an extensive range of topics that investigated and interrogated the interrelationships that form between human beings and animal beings, as well as an array of extracurricular events such as the Animals in Art festival, an animal documentary film festival, and various excursions allowing participants to appreciate the diversity Australian nature and wildlife.



NZCHAS co-director **Philip Armstrong** gave a presentation entitled *Moa Stories*, exploring how changing theories about moa reflect changing ideas about New Zealand, its indigenous and settler peoples, and their relationship to the natural world and especially to nonhumans; he also questioned how our perception of animals' consciousness – as signified by their gaze – affects and is affected by our treatment of them in a second presentation, *The Gaze of Animals*. The Centre's other co-director, **Annie Potts**, also gave two presentations, informatively entitled *Using popular culture to promote learning in Human-Animal Studies* and *Kiwis Against Possums: A Critical Analysis of Anti-Possum Rhetoric in New Zealand*. Annie and Philip also represented the NZCHAS as part of the Animals & Society Groups Forum, discussing current issues arising in the discipline of Human-Animal Studies, as well as future developments and directions.

The conference provided several NZCHAS postgraduate students a valuable opportunity to present their research to an international community of scholars working in the field. PhD student **Tanja Schwalm** gave an oral presentation entitled *Reading Animals: Empathy and Compassion as Critical Tools*, exploring the use of empathy and compassion in fictional representations of nonhuman animals and its effect on readers. MA student **Annie Finnie** discussed how the children books of iconic NZ author Janet Frame utilise the

figurative animal in order to discuss the predicament of the modernity's ousted human Others, in addition to alluding to the plight of the real animal, in a presentation entitled *The Animal Figure in Janet Frame's Mona Minim and the Smell of the Sun*. MA student **Jovian Parry** gave a presentation on *Narratives of Slaughter in Cooking Shows and Food Writing*, critically examining at the new visibility of slaughter of popular gastronomy.

Numerous associates of NZCHAS were also in attendance at the conference,. From New Zealand, associates **Michael Morris, Mary Murray** and **Arnja Dale** all gave presentations, while many NZCHAS associates from abroad also attended, including **Ralph Acampora, Carol Adams, Steve Baker, Marc Bekoff, Lynda Birke, Sally Borrell Carol Freeman, Erica Fudge, Carol Giglioitti, Marti Kheel, Susan McHugh, Kenneth Shapiro, Helen Tiffin Sherryl Vint, Yvette Watt, and Wendy Woodward**. The six day conference gave everyone ample time to catch up and exchange ideas, and to enjoy the (mostly) sunny Newcastle surrounds, the excellent art scene, and the preponderance of vegan food.

NZCHAS Associate Examines Ethics of Broiler Chicken Farming in NZ

Dr Michael Morris from Marine and Environmental Management at the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic has published an article called "The Ethics and Politics of Animal Welfare in New Zealand: Broiler Chicken Production as a Case Study" in the prestigious *Journal of Agriculture and Environmental Ethics* (Volume 22, 2009, pp. 15-30).



In this article, Morris argues that, while there are many causes of poor welfare in broiler chickens (chickens bred for meat), the most significant factor is genotype. In other words, broiler chickens have been selectively bred to grow faster and bigger (to produce meat quicker) at the expense of the birds' health and well-being. Rapid growth in broiler chickens causes (amongst other things)

the birds' muscles to outgrow their skeletons resulting in lameness, leg fractures and chronic pain. Morris investigates the attitudes of government to broiler chicken welfare issues, ultimately arguing that improvements to the lives of

chickens grown for meat in this country might only be possible under an independent animal welfare advisory service.

On a tangentially related theme, Morris has also published an article in *Society and Animals* (Volume 17, 2009, pp. 343-356) critically examining human-animal relations in the fantasy worlds of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and J. K. Rowling, entitled: 'Middle Earth, Narnia, Hogwarts and animals: A review of the treatment of nonhuman animals and other sentient beings in Christian-based fantasy fiction'.

For more details contact: Michael.Morris@boppoly.ac.nz

Publication of Book on Animal Law in Australia and NZ

Animal Law in Australasia, co-edited by NZCHAS associate Peter Sankoff, has just been published by Federation Press.



This book is a scholarly examination of the legal relationship between humans and animals in Australia and New Zealand. It asks whether existing laws really do protect animals, and, where the law comes up short, how it could be improved. The questions explored go beyond animal welfare and challenge the reader to think about the nature of legal interests, and practical and ethical contexts for a range of laws.

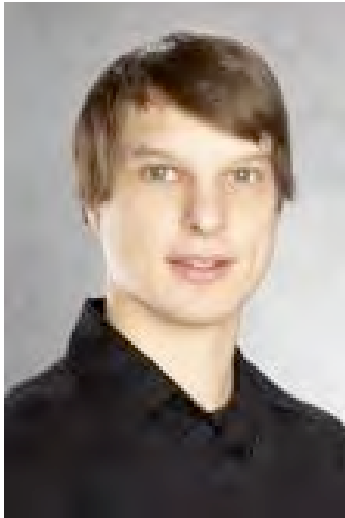
Australian, New Zealand and international academics and practitioners cover topics ranging from core concepts and theoretical questions around “animal welfare” and law, to specific matters of concern: animal cruelty sentencing, live animal export, recreational hunting, and commercial uses of animals in farming and research.

Animal Law in Australasia can be purchased online from www.federationpress.com.au

In a loosely related development, the book’s co-editor, NZCHAS associate Peter Sankoff, has also become part of a blog called The Solution (www.thesolution.org.nz) exploring animal and vegan issues.

New PhD Student Joins NZCHAS

In September 2009 NZCHAS welcomed a new PhD student, Andre Krebber from Germany. Andre writes:



“I have been involved with environmental and animal rights activism since my late teen years, eventually leading me to study environmental sciences at the University of Lueneburg in Germany. Not satisfied with only reading books for the sake of studying I always kept one foot in politics, working with local groups of people organising rallies, campaigns, workshops and conferences in the belief that theory and practice need to complement each other and that social, environmental and animal rights issues are related to each other.

“It has been my experience that political debates around social and environmental issues tend to have a blind spot when it comes to animals. In my research project, I want to shine some light on this blind spot. Animals have played a crucial role in the definition of the human and its status of superiority over nature. However, our knowledge and the environmental crisis of today call this definition into question. In my thesis (working title: "Animals as Objects of Knowledge 1600-1800"), I address the role of animals in the development of the modern subject, especially in its relation to the environmental crisis of modernity. I will examine the work of Herman Samuel Reimarus (1694-1768) as I believe it offers an alternative approach to the human and its relation to animals and nature. This relies on a junction of artistic and rational approaches to nature, for which I will refer to the work of the Frankfurt School.”

Selected publications by André Krebber:

Hanisch, J., Behnke, O. and Krebber, A. (2008) *Über die Zukunft der Planung. Wer nicht nach neuen Weg sucht, wird sie auch nicht finden (kommentierte Bibliographie)* [On the Future of Planning (narrated Bibliography)]. SRL series #53. SRL: Berlin

Krebber, A. (2007) *Bezaubernde Erkenntnis – Naturerkenntnis und -beschreibung bei Maria Sibylla Merian (1647-1717)* [Enchanting Discovery – Maria Sibylla Merians' (1647-1717) Discovery and Description of Nature]. Unpublished

Krebber, A. (2006) *Gedanken zum Tier – Der Versuch einer Positionierung* [Thoughts on the Animal – Attempt for a Positioning]. In S. Hofmeister and T. Saretzki (ed.): Was hat Francis Bacon mit Nachhaltigkeit und neoliberaler Globalisierung zu tun? Feminist

Sites: Erkundungen im Spannungsfeld von Natur, Herrschaft und Geschlecht. Werkstattberichte Umweltstrategien. Lüneburg, pp. 14-17

Editorship:

Krebber, A. et al. (2004) "Dem blutigen Zweck der Herrschaft ist die Kreatur nur Material" *Die Frankfurter Schule und ihre Kritik der Naturbeherrschung unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des Mensch-Tier-Verhältnisses*. Dokumentation eines Workshops der Tierrechts-Aktion-Nord mit Moshe Zuckermann [The Frankfurt School and its Critique of the Domination of Nature in Due Consideration of the Human-Animal Relationship]. TAN: Hamburg.

Contact: andrekrebber@hotmail.com

Publication of New Education Resource for NZ High Schools

The third volume of the "Animals & Us" series of educational resources for high schools has just been published, and copies have been sent to every school in New Zealand. *Animals on Show*, written and compiled by "Animals & Us" founder Nichola Kriek and NZCHAS co-director Philip Armstrong, focuses on the keeping of captive animals for entertainment in zoos, circuses, aquaria, marinelands and rodeos. It includes material from NZCHAS associates Tanja Schwalm, Professor Randy Malamud and Professor Marc Bekoff. The "Animals & Us" programme can be viewed, and the resource materials downloaded, at www.animalsandus.org.nz.



HAS Teaching Development Grant: *Animals on Campus: Creating an Internationally-Recognised Pathway in Human-Animal Studies*

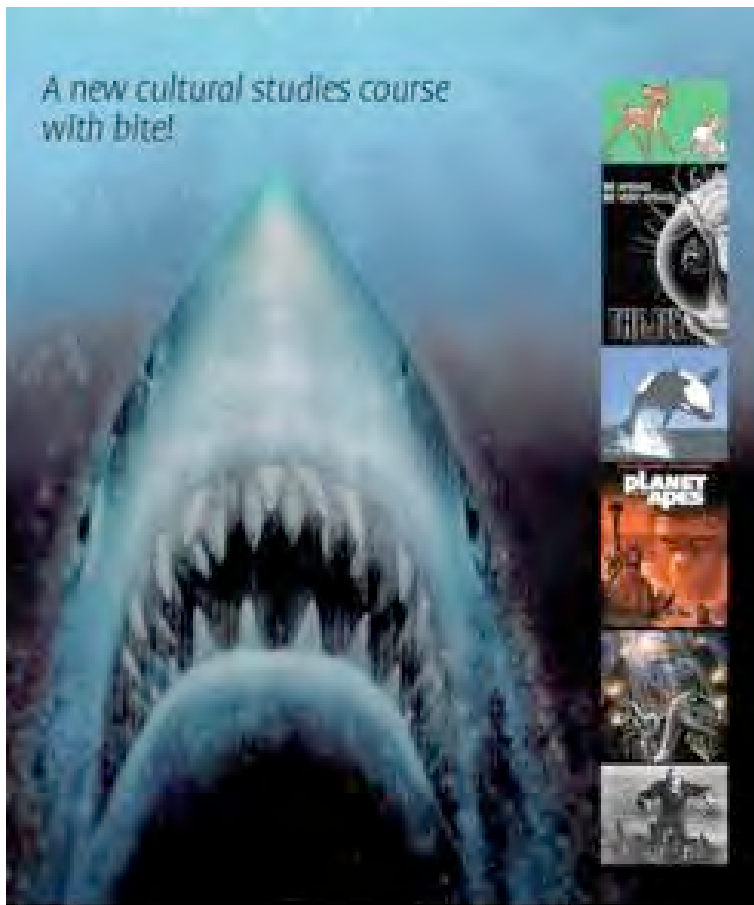
Annie Potts and Philip Armstrong were recently awarded a Teaching Development Grant in order to advance the existing pathway in Human-Animal Studies in the College of Arts at the University of Canterbury. The grant assists Annie and Philip to meet with Director of the Human-Animal Studies Program for the Animals and Society Institute (ASI), Margo DeMello, in order to plan and design future HAS courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Next year a new postgraduate course in advanced Human-Animal Studies is already planned for the School of Humanities at UC. Called "Cultural Animals", it will be co-taught by Philip and Annie, and will explore how encounters with other species shape, and are shaped by, cultural practices and representations.

NZCHAS Course Wins 2008 Humane Society of United States (HSUS) “Animals and Society Established Course Award”

Dr Annie Potts, Co-Director of NZCHAS, has won the 2008 award for best established course in the field of animals and society. Dr Potts's course, "From Bambi to Kong: The Animal in American Popular Culture", was chosen from a field of international applicants by the judging panel from the Humane Society of the United States. The awards recognize excellence in courses concerning the human-animal bond, human obligations toward animals, the status of animals, and related topics. Past recipients have included scholars working in academic fields including animal science, animal-assisted therapy, anthropology, archeology, art, biology, communications, culture studies, education,

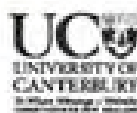
environmental studies, ethology, history, law, literature, medicine, philosophy, political science, psychology, religion, sociology and veterinary medicine.

Judges use criteria such as depth and rigor within the topic, impact on the field of human-animal studies, and originality of approach. Competitive entries for the awards would be courses that bring the study of animals and society into new arenas; approach the field from a novel perspective, or make use of novel teaching methods; provide exposure to students who would not otherwise address academic issues relating to animals and society; or are tailored to participants whose learning experience will have a direct impact upon animals and/or animal protection.



Animals & people. Making sense of the world in 2007 (and by and for 2008) and on.
Contact the School of Culture, Education and Society at www.cult.educan.ac.nz

CULT 206: From Bambi to Kong
The animal in American popular culture



HSUS/NZCHAS 2009 Masters Scholarship

The Humane Society of the United States award won by Dr Potts's course "From Bambi to Kong" made possible the creation of a NZCHAS scholarship, to be awarded to a Masters student working in the field of human-animal studies. Cultural studies student Jovian Parry was the recipient of this NZCHAS 2009 Masters Scholarship. Jovian's thesis examines the new visibility of animal slaughter in popular gastronomy, analyzing a host of popularly dubbed "New Carnivore" texts, ranging from cooking shows to popular science books to memoirs. Specifically, the thesis looks at the role played by Barthesian myth in legitimizing, naturalizing and generally rendering "innocent and eternal" the killing of nonhumans for animalized protein.



NZCHAS Associate Wins 2008 HSUS "Animals and Society Distinguished New Course Award"

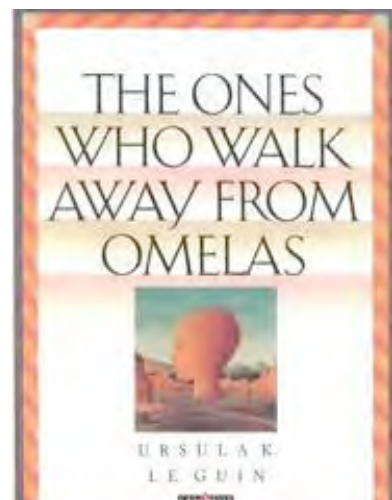
The winner of the 2008 HSUS "Animals and Society Distinguished New Course Award" was new NZCHAS Associate Ralph Acampora, Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Hofstra University (Hempstead, N.Y.).

Course details:

"An(im)alogies of Moral Monstrosity": This creative course explores the parallels between forms of institutional animal usage and "atrocities perpetrated upon humankind." Students examine questions such as, "what are the differences and similarities between genocide, factory farming, slavery, and vivisection?" Students study the challenges associated with such comparisons through textual analysis, small group discussion of relevant ethical theories, and representations of the phenomena under consideration in films and other media

NZCHAS Associate Peter Beatson Addresses Forum on Animal Welfare

In the wake of his 2008 talk to the New Zealand Law Commission on "The Animal Welfare Debate in New Zealand, NZCHAS associate Dr. Peter Beatson was invited to give an hour-long address on 11 March 2009



to an annual forum on animal welfare held by the MAF Animal Welfare Directorate, the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee. He opened the session with these words: “In this talk, I will stand back from technical, hands-on details of legislation, codes, committees, funding and the like, to place these in their wider ethical and philosophical context. I would like to remind us of the basic problem which brings us here in the first place – the very nature of the human-animal relationship itself.” He did this by recounting an allegorical short story by Ursula Le Guin, ‘The Ones Who

Walk Away from Omelas’, in which the collective well-being of an entire society depends on the chronic suffering of one small child. By mentally replacing the wretchedness of this child with that of innumerable New Zealand animals who are victims of human cruelty in agribusiness, the science laboratory, entertainment and the domestic household, Le Guin’s fable can be adapted to symbolise the institutionalised brutality inherent in the utilitarian philosophy underpinning the New Zealand Animal Welfare Act 1999, and the regulative regime operated by MAF, NAWAC and NAEAC. This utilitarian approach is based on a ‘cost-benefit’ calculus, where the costs in animal suffering are legitimised by the benefits derived by humans (no matter how trivial, misguided or unsavoury those alleged benefits may be) and where animals are reduced to the level of instrumental ‘things’ for the gratification of human wants.

There is no compelling philosophical or ethical justification for this subordination of animals to human ends, so it must be based solely on the abuse of naked power. However, the adage that ‘might is right’ has been challenged in a number of sites, beginning with the 18th century campaign against human slavery, and it is surely time that the oppression of animals should be similarly challenged. The hidden agenda of Peter’s talk was an implicit appeal to the members of this country’s ‘animal welfare establishment’, as represented by MAF, NAEAC and NAWAC, to go beyond the routine administration of the current regulatory regime, and to begin proactively campaigning alongside other pro-animal advocates to have the terrible paradox of animal suffering placed squarely on the national agenda.

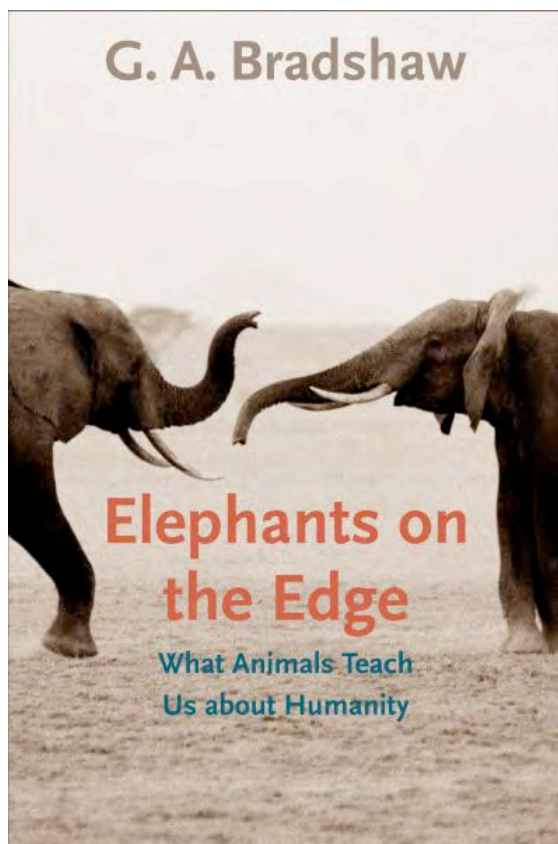
The text of this talk, along with Peter’s 2008 address to the Law Commission and an historical overview of the impact of modernity on non-human animals, can be obtained at this internet address:

<http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/depart/cohss/schools/school-of-people-environment-and-planning/staff/peter-beatson.cfm>

Busy Year for Singapore Vegetarian Society

NZCHAS associate George Jacobs, who participates in the running of the Vegetarian Society (Singapore) and the International Vegetarian Union, reports that the Singapore branch of the Vegetarian Society is having its most active year ever, in keeping with the worldwide rise in interest in meat reduction. This year, the Society published the Singapore Vegetarian Food Guide; hosted a visit by Cornell University's T. Colin Campbell, professor of Nutritional Biochemistry and author of *The China Study* (a best selling book which advocates a vegan diet); helped to organize the Asian Vegetarian Congress in nearby Indonesia; organized events for the International Day of Climate Action; and worked with students and teachers at a number of school and universities, including the launch a veggie burger at one secondary school's canteen, an event that garnered considerable national media attention.

New Book by Gay Bradshaw



In *Elephants on the Edge: What Animals Teach Us About Humanity* (Yale University Press, 2009), NZCHAS associate Gay Bradshaw explores the minds, emotions, and lives of elephants, drawing on accounts from India to Africa and California to Tennessee, and on research in neuroscience, psychology, and animal behavior. Wars, starvation, mass culls, poaching, and habitat loss have reduced elephant numbers from more than ten million to a few hundred thousand, leaving orphans bereft of the elders who would normally mentor them.

As a consequence, traumatized elephants have become aggressive against people, other animals, and even one another; their behavior is comparable to that of humans who have experienced genocide, other types of violence, and social collapse. By exploring the elephant mind and experience in the wild and in captivity, Bradshaw bears witness to the breakdown of ancient elephant cultures.

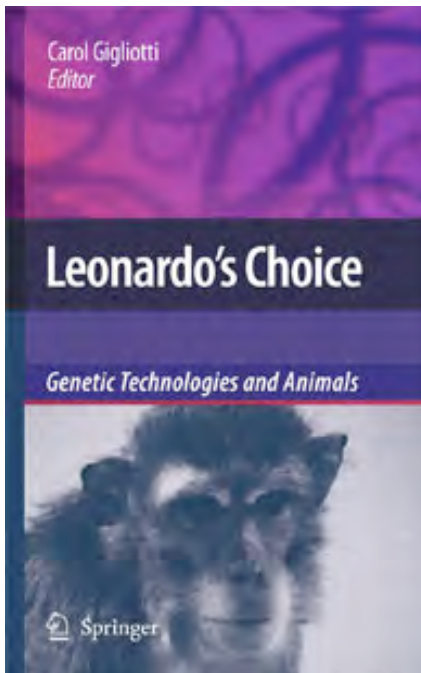
However, Bradshaw assures us, all is not lost. People are working to save elephants by rescuing orphaned infants and rehabilitating adult zoo and circus elephants, using the same principles psychologists apply in treating humans who have survived trauma. Bradshaw urges us to support these and other models of elephant recovery and to solve pressing social and environmental crises affecting all animals, human or not.

“Elephants on the Edge is an urgent call to end this strife and for humanity to embrace once more the traditions that kept the peace with our animal kin.”

—Archbishop Emeritus Desmond M. Tutu

Gay Bradshaw's blog, "Bear in Mind," can be found on *Psychology Today* at the following address: <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/bear-in-mind>

New Book by Carol Gigliotti



NZCHAS associate Carol Gigliotti's new book *Leonardo's Choice: Genetic Technologies and Animals* is an edited collection of twelve essays and one dialogue focusing on the profound affect the use of animals in biotechnology is having on both humans and other species. Communicating crucial understandings of the integrated nature of the human and non-human world, these essays, unlike the majority of discussions of biotechnology, take seriously the impact of these technologies on animals themselves. This collection's central questions revolve around the disassociation Western ideas of creative freedom have from the impacts those ideas and practices have on the non-human world.

This transdisciplinary collection includes perspectives from the disciplines of philosophy, cultural theory, art and literary theory, history and theory of science, environmental studies, law, landscape architecture, history, and geography, and features contributions from NZCHAS associates Carol Freeman, Steven Baker, Linda Birke, and Susan McHugh.

Included essays contribute significantly to a growing scholarship surrounding "the question of the animal" emanating from philosophical, cultural and activist discourses. Its authors are at the forefront of the growing number of theorists and practitioners across the disciplines concerned with the impact of new technologies on the more-than-human world.

NZCHAS co-director Dr Annie Potts' glowing review is but one amongst many:

“Carol Gigliotti's powerful and timely volume exposes the myriad ways we control and exploit nonhuman animals through new biotechnologies. This book provides sharp critique of the anthropocentrism at the heart of science, capitalism, art and industry, placing the very real lives and deaths of our fellow beings at the heart of questions about ethics, progress and humanity. Leonardo's Choice is essential reading for scholars of critical animal studies, cultural studies, environmentalism, law and bioethics. It is also urgent reading for those who care about this planet and all the species who share it.”

***Humanimalia*: New Human-Animal Studies Journal Launched:**



Last month saw the release of the first issue of *Humanimalia*, a new peer-reviewed journal counting NZCHAS associates Sherryl Vint, Susan McHugh, and Lynda Birke among its editors. *Humanimalia* aims to explore and advance the vast range of scholarship on human/animal relations, to encourage exchange among scholarship working from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, and to promote dialogue between the academic community and those working closely with animals in non-academic fields. The journal features innovative and cross-disciplinary work that situates these topics within contemporary culture via a variety of critical approaches, including but not limited to feminism, queer theory, critical race studies, political economy, ethnography, ethnozoology, literary criticism, science and technology studies, and media studies.

Check out the inaugural issue of *Humanimalia*, which features a new essay from NZCHAS associate Erica Fudge entitled 'At the Heart of the Home: An Animal Reading of Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Heart of a Dog*', online at:

<http://www.depauw.edu/humanimalia/index.html>

Two New Sci Fi Novels Explore Human-Animal Relations and Meat Consumption

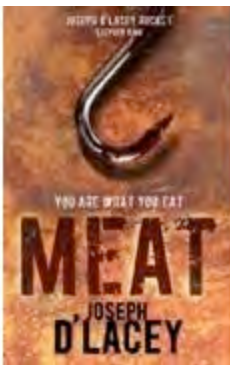
Animals: A Novel by Don LePan

Cover summary: “Animals is set in an indeterminate future in which virtually all the species that humans have for millennia used as food have become extinct; the world this change creates is at once eerily foreign and disturbingly familiar. In the sharp-edged poignancy of the ethical questions it poses, in the strikingly innovative narrative techniques it employs, and above all, in the remarkable power of the story it tells, *Animals*, is unique”.

“An engaging story that asks deep and challenging questions”, Peter Singer, Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics, Princeton University.



Meat by Joseph D'Lacey



MEAT is a dystopian horror fable about the evils of factory farming and slaughter.

Amazon summary: Richard Shanti, a guilt-ridden slaughterhouse worker, has serious misgivings about his job. He's known as the Ice Pick: the calmest, most efficient bolt-gunner in Abyrne's history. Yet, in secret, he and his family are vegetarian. If the authorities find out, he'll be tried and slaughtered for sacrilege along with the Chosen Abyrne's livestock.

MEAT is a tale of human depravity set in a grim post-cataclysmic England. Abyrne's townsfolk need meat to survive. Their religion promotes flesh-eating, their economy depends on it. Abyrne's ruling powers are the atheist Meat Baron, Rory Magnus, and the hyper-religious Parsons of the Welfare, headed by the Grand Bishop. The two factions despise each other but cannot maintain control without cooperating.

In the derelict quarter the heretical messiah, John Collins, is preaching a blasphemous new doctrine: Meat isn't necessary for survival. The townsfolk are listening. The tale begins as Abyrne faces its greatest conflict war between the Meat Baron and the Welfare.

Meanwhile, the townsfolk are hungry. The townsfolk must be fed...

PAW Justice!

New NZ Campaign Against Violence Towards Animals

Paw Justice is a New Zealand organization formed to help deal with the problems of animal abuse and neglect, which have grown at an alarming rate in this country, stretching the resources of all animal welfare agencies.

Sign the PAW Justice Petition asking for stronger penalties and jail terms for those who abuse animals in New Zealand. Visit:

<http://www.pawjustice.co.nz/>

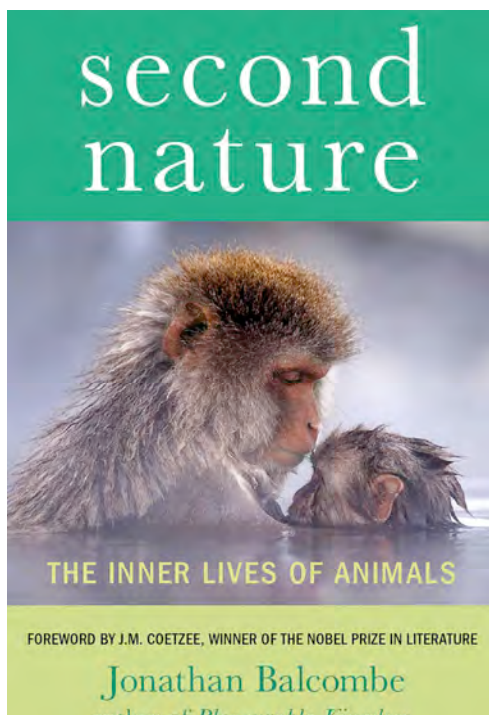
4. Upcoming Events and Calls for Papers

Forthcoming Book by Jonathan Balcombe

NZCHAS associate Jonathan Balcombe follows up his critically acclaimed *Pleasurable Kingdom* with a new book to be published early next year, entitled *Second Nature: The Inner Lives of Animals*. In the book, Balcombe relates how, for centuries, the idea that animals had feelings was either dismissed or considered heresy. Today, that's all changing. New scientific studies of animal behavior reveal perceptions, intelligences, awareness and social skills that would

have been deemed fantasy a generation ago. The implications make our troubled relationship to animals one of the most pressing moral issues of our time.

Drawing on the latest research, observational studies and personal anecdotes to reveal the full gamut of animal experience—from emotions, to problem solving, to moral judgment, Balcombe challenges the widely held idea that nature is red in tooth and claw, highlighting animal traits we have disregarded until now: their nuanced understanding of social dynamics, their consideration for others, and their strong tendency to avoid violent conflict. Did you



know that dogs recognize unfairness and that rats practice random acts of kindness? Did you know that chimpanzees can trounce humans in short-term memory games? Or that fishes distinguish good guys from cheaters, and that birds are susceptible to mood swings such as depression and optimism?

With vivid stories and entertaining anecdotes, Balcombe gives the human pedestal a strong shake while opening the door into the inner lives of the animals themselves. Advance reviews have been overwhelming positive:

“Jonathan Balcombe is a rare being, a scientist who has escaped the narrow orthodoxies of institutional science, an intelligent human being who is more than ready to recognize intelligences of other kinds, an intuitive and empathetic observer who nevertheless does not abandon the highest standards of intellectual inquiry.”— from the foreword by J. M. Coetzee, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature and author of *Disgrace*

“If you care at all about animals, this book is a must-read. Balcombe’s previous book has already become a classic, and this one will astonish and fascinate you, and will leave you a wiser and more compassionate person. I wish I could have read this book twenty years ago. It would have changed my life. Maybe it will change yours.”—Jeffrey Masson, co-author of *When Elephants Weep*

“Although my entire career is devoted to advancing animal welfare, I learned much from this book I had not known and even more importantly, was sufficiently touched to thoroughly invigorate and reinforce my commitment to working for animals.”—Bernard Rollin, Professor of Animal Science, Colorado State University

Forthcoming Book by Susan McHugh

NZCHAS associate Susan McHugh’s forthcoming book, *Animal Narratives: Forms of Species and Social Agency* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010) investigates patterns specific to modern and contemporary fictions of cross-species companionship to reveal how, in the past century, key creative developments in narrative form become inseparable from shifts in animal politics and science, such that questions about representing animals in literature come to concern the conceptual and practical futures of species. Beginning with an account of the historical challenges of animal narrative in literary and cultural theory, this book examines stories that reconfigure human-animal relationships across novels, films, television, and digital media along two trajectories: cross-species intersubjectivity and intercorporeality.

The first two chapters track the emergence of irreducibly shared actions that define these distinctly modern human-animal relations through fictions,

respectively, of service animal users (overwhelmingly imagined as blind men with Seeing Eye dogs) and female professional riders. Although narratives of the rise of these intersubjective forms insist that they exceed the terms of human subjects, films like *National Velvet* and television series like *Longstreet* quickly come to isolate the idealized human-animal pair from the cross-species social histories from which they arise, putting images in tension with narratives of the shared lives of species. So the next two chapters turn to stories of what might be termed intercorporeal intimacies, the imbrications of flesh and form that proceed from the contemporaneous industrialization of more traditional companion species relations during the period. Focusing on narratives of backyard pet breeders and meat industry workers, these next two chapters uncover how literary histories of cross-species relations are set deeply within a biopolitical analytical framework, one that the book's conclusion links more broadly to controversies about popular animal fictions, scientific ethology, and their profound intersections in the past century.

Taking a genealogical approach to narrative that establishes links between some influential texts and many more that have never before been systematically analyzed, this project overall works to develop a theory of species and social agency that cuts through stalemated positions on animal representation by questioning the narrative forms and functions of species (which is, as Donna Haraway and others insist, always cross-species) life.

Forthcoming Book by Sherryl Vint

NZCHAS accosiate Sherryl Vint's new book *Animal Alterity: The Question of the Animal in Science Fiction* (2010, Liverpool University Press) uses readings of science fiction texts to explore of the centrality of animals for our ways of thinking about human. It argues that the academic field of animal studies and the popular genre of science fiction share a number a critical concerns: thinking about otherness and the nature of human being; desiring communication across species difference; and interrogating the social and ethical consequences of changes in science and technology. There is an urgent need to reconsider the human/animal boundary in a world of genetic engineering, factory farming, species extinctions, and increasing evidence of animal intelligence, emotions, and tool use. Recent work in philosophy suggests that although the category of 'the human' has



always been historically malleable and politically charged, we have only recently begun to acknowledge the importance of this fact. Examinations of the non-human animal as both a discursive construct and a material reality inform this volume, which uses the thematic concerns of science fiction texts to consider the multiple meanings of the category animal in our shifting technoscientific context, drawing on work from animal studies to contextualize these concerns and connect them to ongoing debates about the shifting status of non-human animals.

As *Animal Alterity* points out, we are living in a complex set of contradictory and conflicting relations with non-human animals. This book maps this complicated terrain, arguing that we are better able to perceive options for a transformed politics if we perceive our various material relations with non-human animals within a deeper understanding of the functions of the category 'animal'. Advance reviews have been glowing:

Sherryl Vint offers an academically rigorous, relentlessly informative and consistently intelligent reading of science fiction in the context of Human-Animal Studies. Animal Alterity is an engaging, intelligent study which is perceptively and accessibly theorised, and refreshingly innovative - Peter Wright, Edge Hill University

Call for Papers: *Antennae* Seeks Submissions on 'Animals in Graphic Novels'

Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture (www.antennae.org.uk) is seeking submission for its June 2010 issue devoted to the subject of "animals in graphic novels." The issue will primarily focus on papers that examine contemporary graphic novels; examples of these might include *Pride of Baghdad* (Brian K. Vaughan), *First in Space*, the works of Osamu Tezuka, *Animal Man* (Grant Morrison), *Rabbi's Cat* (Joann Sfar), *Fables* (Bill Willingham), and *Maus* (Art Spiegelman), among others. Papers that examine the subjects of comics for children and comic strips that appear in newspapers may also be considered, depending on the originality of the contextualisation through which they may be presented.

We are looking at gathering a wide range of perspectives, themes and ideas within the broad scope of "animals in graphic novels." These may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- * Exploring animality in the graphic novel medium
- * Representing the human/animal divide
- * Positive and negative aspects of anthropomorphism
- * Becoming animal

- * Links between sexism, racism and speciesism
- * Non-western graphic novels
- * The challenges of animal first-person narratives
- * Ecocriticism and nature in graphic novels

As per usual *Antennae* is open to consideration of academic essays as well as fiction and experimental writing. Submission of abstracts and proposals is 1st of December 2009. Final deadline for submissions is 1st of March 2010. For any questions please contact Giovanni Aloï and Lisa Brown (Guest Editor of the Animals in Graphic Novels Issue) at antennaeproject@gmail.com

Call for Papers: *People & Animals: For Life*, the 12th international IAHAIO Conference

This conference will take place the 1-4 July 2010 in Stockholm, Sweden. Abstract submission closes 30 November. See <http://www.iahaio2010.com/>

Real Animals and the Humanities: Conference at Southwestern University

February 17-18 2010 at Southwestern University, Texas

Keynotes talking on February 17: Dr. Marc Bekoff (U of Colorado, Boulder), Dr. Paul Waldau (Harvard and formerly Director of Ethics program at Tufts Veterinary School), and Carol Adams (author of "The Sexual Politics of Meat"). Roundtable on February 18.

Contact Laura Hobgood-Oster
hoboster@southwestern.edu

5. Book Reviews

New NZCHAS PhD student Andre Krebber here reviews two recently published German books, giving Anglophone scholars a taste of what's happening in the world of German Human-Animal Studies:

Witt-Stahl, Susann (Ed.) (2007) *Das steinerne Herz der Unendlichkeit erweichen: Beiträge zu einer kritischen Theorie für die Befreiung der Tiere* [Softening the Stony Heart of Eternity: Contributions to a Critical Theory for the Liberation of Animals].

Alibri Verlag: Aschaffenburg, ISBN 3-86569-014-9. Reviewed by Andre Krebber



The articles in this collection discuss the liberation of animals as a societal concept of emancipation and aim to critically develop its theoretic foundation. The book goes back to a 2006 conference organised by the Tierrechts-Aktion-Nord (TAN) [Animal Rights Action North] in Hamburg, Germany, and is comprised of the revised talks held at the conference extended by a few additional articles.

The volume is extraordinarily broad in both content and authorship. From professors of different fields who address the issue from an entirely academic perspective and have no affiliation with the animal liberation movement whatsoever, to critical sympathizers and long-time animal rights activists, a variety of approaches are represented. Although this could potentially have been a weakness, in actuality the volume benefits greatly from its diversity. By mixing the

different approaches it weakens the separation between societal practice and its scientific analysis.

However broad their approaches are, the common frame is that of the theoretical works of the Frankfurt School and the human relationship to animals. Although the essays in this volume are sympathetic to the cause, there is a good deal of criticism of the road the animal liberation has taken. Arnd Hoffmann, for example, criticises the lack of utopian power in the concepts of anti-speciesism

and veganism, and Collin Goldner traces the anti-emancipative tendencies in the animal liberation movement introduced by religious groups, criticising their growing influence in the movement. All the articles explore their issues on a high theoretical level, something that is not always the case when it comes to publications from the animal rights movement (which has tended to present itself in an anti-theoretical manner based upon naively moralistic minimal consent).

In contrast to this it is the avowed goal of the compilation to uncover the specific dialectic of enlightenment to form a radical critique of civilisation. Instead of pointing to random actual relationships between humans and animals the collection does so by critiquing the political economy that created and disseminated the separated concepts of human and animal. A belief underlying these articles is that animals have to be recognized by society as exploited and oppressed individuals; furthermore, this oppression is a product of society and therefore can be overcome. The focus is on the dialectic of nature-domination with its effects on humans *and* animals; herein lies the possibility to end the domination of humans over animals, these essays suggest. In this respect the project of humanity, as a kind of stepping out and emancipation from the spell of nature, can only be considered complete when the animal is released in the human and the human released in the animal. This would make a fundamental change in the relationship between society and nature necessary.

As is often the case in recent publications, the Marxist foundations of the Frankfurt School are not neglected in this volume. Michael Sommer explores the role of “Capital” can play in understanding the relationship between society and nature while Marco Maurizi deliberately explores the benefits a reading of Marx’s writings can bring for the liberation of animals. Maurizi continues these explorations in a second contribution to the volume, in which he goes over the taming of the human nature during its evolution.

Finally, I especially want to highlight the articles of Carsten Haker, Marcus Hawel, and Esther Leslie and Ben Watson, as I believe they are of special interest for the development of a theory of animal liberation. These contributors present a critical theory that aims to overcome the spell of nature, urging the (critical) inclusion of nature in social theory and emphasising the importance of thoroughly analysing society’s specific relationship to nature. In this respect, Carsten Haker’s article develops a critical theory of the subject in its relation to animals, and Hawel’s article on the link between emancipative praxis and critical theory substantiates Haker’s by linking the emancipation and liberation of animals to the liberation of humans, reshaping their relationship to nature and therefore reshaping the human subject. Drawing on Hegel’s dialectic between master and servant, he argues that the liberation of animals, nature and humans all rely on the cessation of human domination of nature. Finally Esther Leslie and Ben Watson offer a mediation of human and animals in art to create a new ‘science’ that would hold true to these changes. Unfortunately, only the

contribution of the latter is accessible in English (<http://www.militantesthetix.co.uk/>)

Roscher, Mieke (2009) *Ein Königreich für Tiere, Die Geschichte der britischen Tierrechtsbewegung [A Kingdom for Animals – the History and Politics of the British Animal Rights Movement]*. Tectum: Marburg ISBN 978-3-8288-9953-7.



In this recently published work, Mieke Roscher explores the long history of the British animal welfare/animal rights movement from its roots in the early nineteenth century to its controversial activities in the new millennium. This is quite a task considering the quantity of material available for what amounts to two centuries of animal welfare activity. Yet, it is also the strength of this study: recounting the story in its entirety illuminates how the discursive net which spins around ethical, religious and ideological approaches was used as a reference frame affecting the different stages of the movement's activism.

Roscher usefully discriminates between two main phases, the first covering the best part of the nineteenth century until the outbreak of the Great War, and the second starting in the 1960s and continuing up until the present day. Hers is the approach of a social historian and thus themes of gender and class are particularly addressed. By including biographical accounts of the activists in her sources, she is able to

convey how the movement was far from homogenous and divided on ideological, moral, and tactical as well as personal grounds. On 580 thoroughly researched pages, she draws attention to the often ambiguous relationship between the movement and its guiding intellectual forces, and to the concept of the civilizing mission embedded in imperial discourses and to animal welfare as a political battleground. She thus uncovers how animals often remained marginal characters even for those who claimed to speak for them.

The study also makes use of the methodological concepts of comparative history and cultural transfer studies. By contrasting certain aspects of the development of the British animal advocacy movement with its counterparts in Germany and the United States, Roscher shows how social and historical particularities structuring British society underpinned the movement's early success and pioneering role in that country. The British movement's ability to function as a model for other movements abroad was therefore undermined by social and political realities of the receptive cultures. For example, Roscher compares the role of women in animal rights groups in each country, showing how the movement in Victorian and Edwardian Britain served as a springboard for women's emancipation whereas in Germany, the Wilhelminian laws of association strictly hindered female activism.

Roscher amply describes continuities and transformations regarding the organisational structure and methodological orientation, the social composition, ideological foundations and public reception of the movement. Of particular interest and uniqueness is the inclusion of the militant wing and the animal liberationists in this study. Redressing an area perhaps not previously adequately studied, Roscher's analysis makes extensive and systematic use of the publications of more militant and controversial branches of the movement, such as the ALF, particularly in regard to their domination of media discourses.

The findings of this study are based on an impressive range of material, and in particular the integration of publications from within the movement might make it interesting and even valuable for a wider readership. Roscher suggests that although the animal advocacy movement is very broad and certainly not homogenous in terms of members or goals, nevertheless the movement seems to rely strongly on paragons, may they be moral or pugnacious ones. By following up the continuities in the wider historical context of the development of the movement, she makes clear how problematic such a dependence on paragons can be. Her insights into the relationship of the animal welfare movement and the presentation of the British Empire as a noble colonizer are especially enlightening in this respect.

From this follows another aspect I want to highlight in Roscher's work: by including the activists' perspective, not only do the problematic connections between leadership and potential misguiding become visible, but the historical practices and goals of the actual movement itself come into focus. By historically contextualising the animal advocacy movement, Roscher suggests, we might get a better picture of where we are standing today. This applies to our practices of protest as well as to our own relationship to animals. Aspects long overdue for a broad discussion within the movement could include, for example, the preference and even overemphasis of action before theoretical reflection, or the uncritical acceptance of advocacy approaches that still rely on treating animals as tools for other means – in other words, as mere objects. In regard to these questions Roscher's work is especially revealing.

Finally, Roscher's attempt to show how Britain functioned as the model for the burgeoning animal advocacy movement in other countries foregrounds a problem that may not yet have been adequately addressed. Roscher shows that the British movement developed in relation to a locally-specific societal frame and has been introduced into other societies with their own social order. As can be expected, such a culturally-specific import might give rise to some contradictions. While Roscher points to specific features that distinguish the German and North-American movements from their counterpart in Britain, it is doubtful that these specificities are a result of a thorough, informed reflection of the problem – contradictions are still virulent, as evidenced by the strong orientation within the German movement towards its English role model. Unfortunately, as the focus of Roscher's work is elsewhere, *Ein Königreich für Tiere* opens up a lot of more questions in this respect than it gives answers. The history of the movements in the USA and in Germany surely deserves more attention than it is given in this study.

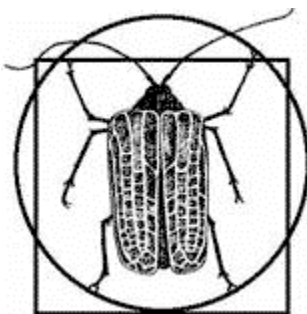
Nevertheless, this comprehensively researched book is worthwhile reading not only for social historians but also to those involved in the animal advocacy movement itself, as the critical reflection upon the past provided by *Ein Königreich für Tiere* might encourage a better understanding of the neglected aspects of the movement's contemporary political activities and goals. The big shortcoming of this book is however, that it is only available in German, thus limiting the number of other researchers who can gain inspiration from it.

Items for May 2010 Newsletter

Members, Associates and Postgraduate students of NZCHAS are invited to submit items for inclusion in the Centre's next newsletter. Deadline for submission: 30 April 2010.

We also welcome for addition in future newsletters any reports or reviews of HAS conferences, books, art exhibitions and journal issues.

Email to annie.potts@canterbury.ac.nz



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