



ANIMALS AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY CONFERENCE

Minding Animals Bulletin 50

- Further announcements for the Animals and Climate Emergency Conference
- New contact email addresses for Minding Animals International
- Information on membership of Minding Animals International
- Book Recommendations and other Announcements

Animals and Climate Emergency Conference Sydney, 22 to 29 July, 2021

Minding Animals International Incorporated (MAI) and the Centre for Compassionate Conservation (CfCC) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) have joined forces to bring you the inaugural Animals and Climate Emergency Conference (ACEC).

This conference builds on over a decade of highly successful animal studies conferences organised by MAI. This event will incorporate the 5th Minding Animal Conference and the 1st Compassionate Conservation Oceania Conference.

The conference will also feature a distinct Critical Animal Studies Day to be organised by the Human Animal Research Network (HARN) at the University of Sydney with the support from the Institute for Critical Animal Studies (ICAS) Oceania.

While there is an ever growing body of evidence on the impacts and immediacy of a changing climate, there is a distinct lack of awareness in what local communities can do to help mitigate the effects on wildlife in their local area during the climate emergency. MAI and CfCC will also bring together academics and grassroots animal protection organisations in a '**Meeting of Minds**' to discuss:

- How animal protection organisations are reacting to the emergency;
- How the climate emergency is impacting animals and how those impacts can be alleviated;
- How academics can engage in this process and with animal protection organisations; and,
- How to stimulate solutions to help impart real change for animals, locally and globally.

Other groups and universities will also be participating and further announcements will be made as the conference develops. Negotiations are proceeding apace and will be announced as the conference unfolds, including the incorporation of special events, lectures and satellite programmes.

The conference will be held in **Sydney, from 22 to 29 July, 2021** (venue in a central Sydney city location is yet to be confirmed). Until the conference website is up and running and if you need to make contact, please email: acec@mindinganimals.com

Our Vision

We believe that rapid global heating and the impact of subsequent tipping points are threatening all life, human or nonhuman animal, plant or otherwise. There is critical urgency in understanding and responding to this threat, at local, regional, and global scales. Wildfires, drought and heatwaves, flooding, melting icecaps and glaciers, are all increasing suffering and jeopardising the already fraught survival responses many animals face in the Anthropocene. The ramifications for animals have received only superficial attention to date, focusing on extinction risk and changes in diversity, rather than their welfare. Energy is needed to consider how best to support animals through these increasingly prevalent events.

Our considered response will only materialise through evaluation of empirical evidence and discourse among disciplines of environmental and social theory to create open, transparent, and ethically just policy and actions. This is no time for siloed debate and insular decision making.

We have therefore created a truly novel space for the intersection of animal studies, animal protection, and climate change science to provide scholars, practitioners, and the community a place to meet and facilitate public and scholarly debates.

Hosted by the Centre for Compassionate Conservation, we have designed a conference program to draw upon the co-held values of respect and compassion for all life. The conference will also benefit from the UTS pledge to foster a diverse, inclusive and thriving community, and its goal of cultivating sustainability and social justice values.

We will bring academic rigour to the challenge of tackling the climate emergency facing animals by addressing the intersectionality of issues studied within the Humanities, Arts and Social Science (HASS) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Drawing upon a wide variety of knowledge, including First Nation perspectives, delegates will be drawn not only from academia, but also from government, politics, corporations, and industry, harnessing divergent views on how nonhuman animals are perceived and treated to ensure that issues are considered broadly. Key will be identifying gaps in knowledge and policy actions to support all animals, how they are perceived, and whether they are captive (companions, livestock, zoos) or wild (pest or invasive [that is, out of place], endangered, or common and thriving).

Abstract and Themes

Everyone who submits an abstract for the academic component of the conference will be asked to consider the impacts of the climate emergency on animals. That said, and first and foremost, please understand that the conference is a transdisciplinary animal studies event. So, if your paper does not in any way consider the climate emergency or crisis, your abstract will not be excluded and will indeed be considered for inclusion in the programme.

We believe that the greatest threat posed to the planet, to all planetary life, human or nonhuman animal, plant or otherwise, is the climate emergency. Hence, the urgency and criticality of climate as the key theme. Besides the overarching theme and how that is impacting individuals and habitats, all life on our fragile planet, we have also proposed the following and linked sub-themes for your consideration and to help you focus your abstract submission and conference debate:

- The Sixth Great Extinction
- Wildlife and compassionate conservation
- The animal industrial complex
- Animals, the circular economy and sustainable food systems
- Animals in development and food sovereignty
- First Nations and decolonisation
- Educating with and for Animals
- Animals, the law and public policy
- Multi-species justice
- Personhood, animal philosophy and bioethics

We also encourage papers that consider animals in art, biodiversity conservation, gender studies, literature, religion, film, the media, medicine, politics, science, veterinary science, the zoological sciences and as for all previous Minding Animals Conferences, the list goes on

Thinking Ahead

Importantly, and unlike previous conferences, there will be delegates from a broader cross-section of society. There will be delegates from government, politics, corporations and industry that will have quite divergent views on how nonhuman animals are perceived/utilised/treated/exploited. To consider nonhuman animals and climate more broadly, to not just talk to the 'converted', and to reach tangible outcomes for the future, we believe this is a necessary conference objective. Thus, this conference will seek to encourage dialogue and impart change from a broad cross-section of society.

The ACEC is **NOT** an animal rights conference, or a wildlife conservation or zoology conference, or an animal welfare conference, or an environmental conference, or a veterinary conference, it is **ALL** that!

And like all previous conferences, we stress to all delegates who attend ACEC that they participate in a spirit of honesty and cooperation, accepting that other delegates may have very divergent opinions on how animals are perceived/utilised/treated/exploited, but always with the overall objective of protecting animals, no matter in what form or time frame, with the objective to reach better outcomes for nonhuman animals. Nonetheless, we urge active and critical debate with your fellow delegates.

Further announcements regarding the conference will be made in the coming Minding Animals Bulletins and website as arrangements continue to develop, including establishment of a dedicated website, an official call for abstracts and registrations, and of special events and programmes.

Special note: Sydney (and Australia) IS expensive - PLEASE start to save for your registration, travel and accommodation. If you are an academic or student with an allocated budget or stipend, please make arrangements for funding applications as soon as you can.

Off-setting your Carbon Emissions from attending ACEC

Key partners for the ACEC will be the Carbon Neutral Charitable Fund (<http://cncf.com.au/>) and Saffron Aid (<http://saffronaid.com>).

A component of your registration equal to the need to offset your carbon emissions will be directed to the CNCF. A carbon sink will sequester carbon through a self-sustaining biodiverse tree planting programme in Australia, converting your carbon emissions from your flights into living trees that will be protected in forests in perpetuity. Carbon Neutral Charitable Fund will plant endemic trees in Australia to offset conference related flights.

Saffron Aid is a registered Australian charity that is helping local villagers in Myanmar and other developing nations in the Asia Pacific to build micro businesses using traditional skills. These businesses are being mentored through all stages of the business set up with training in basic book keeping, production techniques, marketing and logistic skills. For the conference, Saffron Aid will direct your allocated funds to expand and replant large sections of mangroves, especially in southern Myanmar. Mangroves are one of the key habitats on the planet that store incredible levels of carbon. They are among the most carbon rich habitats on the planet. Your funds will directly increase the planet's living biomass to help shield the planet.

New Minding Animals Website and Contact Emails

As you may have already seen, Minding Animals launched a new website in 2018, please check it out at www.mindinganimals.com, www.mindinganimals.net, or www.mindinganimals.org. If you have problems accessing any of the sites, you may need to clear your cache. New Minding Animals and ACEC email addresses have been established. They are:

Enquiry	Relevant Email Address
2021 Animals and Climate Emergency Conference	acec@mindinganimals.com
All membership and donations enquiries	memberships@mindinganimals.com
All Board matters	board@mindinganimals.com
All other matters	admin@mindinganimals.com

Membership of Minding Animals International

An extended membership of Minding Animals International is now open. A membership fee for everyone is available for a flat rate of \$50.00 USD (\$25 for a full time student, with proof of student identity). Benefit of memberships:

- An extended membership to 31 December, 2020 (when renewals will fall due).
- A \$50 discount when registering for the Animals and Climate Emergency Conference (if you register for the conference after 31 December, 2020, you will need to renew your membership).
- The Board is currently discussing other benefits.

Ongoing annual memberships will fall due on 31 December of each year. A reminder will be sent to all members before that time. Please note that if you join at any time during 2020, your membership will expire on 31 December, 2020.

If you wish to join, or if you are a lapsed member and wish to re-join, please follow the prompts at: <https://www.mindinganimals.com/become-a-member/>

If you have any problems logging on to our website or membership pages or if you have any other questions, please contact us at: memberships@mindinganimals.com

Donations to Minding Animals International

Did you know that, if you are a US citizen, all donations to Minding Animals International are tax deductible? Minding Animals International is a registered US 501(c)(3) Charity. If interested in donating, please log on to: <http://www.mindinganimals.com/donations/>

Report from the Minding Animals Germany (MAG) Symposium and Annual Meeting 2019

From Ana Dimke and Oliver Kossack.

Extending over two days, the 2019 Minding Animal Germany Symposium and Annual Meeting programme covered a variety of topics ranging from art history, cultural studies and linguistics to veterinary medicine, animal rights, philosophy and art. In her opening lecture, Frederike Middelhof posited the question 'Quovadis "nonhuman turn"?' to investigate the relationship between animal studies and plant studies. Drawing inspiration from (Critical) Animal Studies, the latter also indicate the general blindness of (animal) research towards the ontological, epistemological, ethical and aesthetic questions relating to plants. Middelhof proposes that these two research areas should strive to learn from each other in order to constructively develop the 'Nonhuman Turn' (Grusin, 2010).

In his critical lecture 'Animal exploitation: euphemism, degradation and speechlessness', Philipp von Gall dealt with the way in which language cements negative attitudes within human animal relationships and analysed how prevailing concepts of animal use serve to suppress ethically problematic concerns. In order to 'make themselves understood', human animals often employ language that is hostile to nonhuman animals. The speechlessness resulting from this act of dominance must be overcome. In his presentation entitled 'Veterinary killing. A qualitative study of profession, human animal relationships and gender in veterinary medicine in Germany', Marc Bubeck illustrated the findings of his research. Citing concrete examples of veterinary killing (e.g. in animal clinics, slaughterhouses, stables and animal laboratories) in Germany, he examined the interdependent constructions of profession, professionalism, human animal relationships and gender.

In a lively, compendious and detailed lecture on the current political work in animal rights and farm animal welfare by the German foundation Albert Schweitzer Stiftung für unsere Mitwelt Konstantinos Tsilimekis and Marietheres Reinke reported in particular on the obstacles hindering political influence and gave insight into how political demands may be developed and articulated. Eric Seuberth presented a practical educational project on ways of introducing the animal ethics debate to schools and other educational institutions. In the project entitled 'From admiral to zebra finch. Animals and animal sounds in music after 1950', Susanne Heiter focused on nonhuman animals.

Excerpts from contemporary works by musicians with live animals and animal sounds served to establish a link to current discourses on the (artistic) agency of animals. In her lecture on 'Beaver representations in indigenous contemporary art', Amina Grunewald explored examples of contemporary art by indigenous artists from Canada in which Western human animal dichotomies as well as indigenous human animal coexistences in indigenous animistic multispecies networks from precolonial times were apparent. Basing her analysis on the premise that art potentially offers a context and practice in opposition to colonialism, Grunewald combined aspects of empathic remembrance work with the critical assessment of colonial crimes committed against animals driven by kincentrism.

In an artist talk, Pascal Dreier presented his approach and artistic methods with reference to his own works Multispecies Archaeology/Multispecies Mourning and Aquarium - on structures of power, agency, octopuses and other creatures. Focusing on the politics of performance, Lisa Moravec referred in her lecture to 'The dancing horses: choreographing dressage' and Lefebvre's theory of 'dressage',

critically reflecting on the commodification of female and animal bodies through their imaginary mimesis of dancing horses in Rose English's *Quadrille* (1975) as a parody of American trash culture.

In her paper on 'Nietzsche's mimicry', Antonia Ulrich philosophically explored the intersection between animal human relationships and concepts of imitation. With particular emphasis on mimesis and mimicry, she examined the question of how, over history, culture has established borders between animals and humans that are essentially and structurally linked to aesthetic concepts of imitation. In 'De/con/struction of others' Susanne Karr spoke about colonisation, a notion that depends on the presence of 'the other' in order to establish itself. She elucidated the potential causality between the violent everyday exploitation and murder of millions of sentient beings and the willingness to employ violence to purportedly establish psychological well-being among humans. Karr perceives a countermovement to this situation in (ethical) positions that respect and defend the lives of nonhuman animals, subsequently creating a social atmosphere of peace, vitality and joyfulness.

MAG will meet again in its annual 2020 meeting in July. Details will be provided in forthcoming *Minding Animals* Bulletins.

Announcements

A Message from the Animals and Society Institute (ASI) Join a Community of Scholar Advocates

As part of ASI's efforts to become a more robust think tank and increase the impact on policy and practices related to our treatment of animals, we are working on an exciting new project in which we would love your participation. We are creating a list of our colleagues whose research and other activities focus on a wide variety of topics involving our relationships to and treatment of animals. This list will be an invaluable resource on a number of fronts, allowing you to connect with others who share your interests, learn about grants and other research opportunities, and apply your research in a broader set of arenas if you so choose (offering political testimonies, providing quotes to media sources, and so on). The list, which will be in Excel format and maintained by the Animals and Society Institute, will include:

- first and last name
- work email address
- academic institution
- department
- areas of interest/research

We would like to include you on the list and ask that you reply by email to us with the information noted above as a formal way of opting in. Please reply to ken.shapiro@animalsandsociety.org

In addition, if you have colleagues you think would be interested, please pass along their emails so that we might reach out to them as well. Thank you for the work that you do and for considering this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Ken Shapiro,
President of the ASI Board

Global Research Network

The Global Research Network for early career academics invites new members to join a community of scholars from 35 countries around the world. We focus on establishing good research partnerships to work on animal welfare/rights issues, among others, and offer support in the form of writing groups and access to online collaboration platforms: <http://grn.global>

The Global Research Network (GRN) was formed in early 2019, and launched in October, responding to a need for genuine support for emerging scholars around the world. Recognising that academia has transitioned into a new era vastly different to that of the last century, we have created a space that is generous, collegial, and truly diverse. The GRN is entirely online. Members can be based anywhere; have a strong online presence; are supported; have access to good information, and make meaningful connections with other scholars.

We welcome scholars from all disciplines and from BAME (black and minority ethnic) and LDC (least developed country) backgrounds. To promote inclusivity, contributions are kept low (from £2.50 per month) and scholars 'at risk' and asylum seekers are eligible for free membership.

Shortly after launch there were a hundred members in the network, and we are now open to applications from new scholars. There are currently 35 countries represented at the GRN, and we hope to have academics from every single country and ethnic group represented here in 2020.

We are developing our Think Tanks with our fantastic team of professionals to amplify the work of our members and fill a gap in the global policy sphere for a diversity of intellectual voices. In conversation with our members, we also proactively connect members with one another; host webinars to support academic success; run monthly writing groups to help members meet their thesis/publication goals, and hold online 'coffeehouse' meet-ups in different time zones for academics to socialise and network. Our wonderful team have been working hard to bring this vision to light. We are all excited about the benefits reaped by our members so far, and look forward to working with you all into 2020.

Postdoctoral fellowship in Animal Studies at Queen's University (Canada)

The Department of Philosophy at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, invites applications for a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Animal Studies. This is a two year fellowship, supporting a researcher with demonstrated expertise in animal ethics, law and public policy. While we interpret animal ethics, law and public policy broadly, and welcome applications from various disciplines that study human animal relations including political science, law, philosophy, sociology, geography, and environmental studies, we are particularly interested in research that critically examines the moral, legal and political dimensions of how human-animal relations are governed.

The recipient of the Fellowship is expected to be actively involved in the day to day life of the Department, to teach a University course in animal ethics, to participate in the activities of our animal studies research group (<http://animalpolitics.queensu.ca/>), and to help organise a workshop or conference in the field.

The Fellow will work under the supervision of Professor Will Kymlicka. The 2020-22 fellowship will start on July 1, 2020. Applicants must have submitted their doctoral dissertation by that date, and must be within five years of having received their doctorate. The salary for the postdoctoral fellowship will be \$45,000 per year, which includes remuneration for teaching a half course in animal ethics or a cognate subject. Applications are due by 14 February, 2020. For more information, visit <https://philjobs.org/job/show/14542> or contact Prof. Kymlicka at kymlicka@queensu.ca

Book Recommendations

This month we would like to announce two publications:

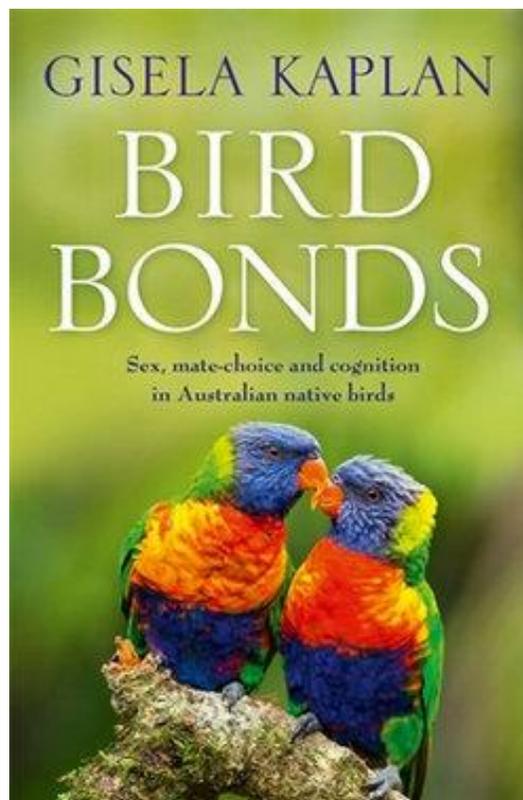
Bird Bonds

Author: Gisela Kaplan

Publisher: Pan Macmillan Australia Pty Ltd

Publication: 2019

Some Australian birds become childhood sweethearts and court for years before they get 'married'. Others divorce because of personality clashes and different skill levels. Many negotiate their parenting duties. But how do these personal life events link to long lasting bonds, long life spans and exceptional overall intelligence? Professor Gisela Kaplan, an eminent voice in animal behaviour, and particularly bird behaviour, draws on the latest insights in the evolution of particular cognitive and social abilities. She uncovers motivations and attractions in partner choice that are far more complex than was once believed. She shows how humans and birds may be more alike in attachment and mating behaviour than we think - despite the enormous evolutionary distance between us. Based on a wealth of original research and complemented by illustrations and colour photographs, *Bird Bonds* is a valuable resource and a beguiling insight into the world of the birds around us.

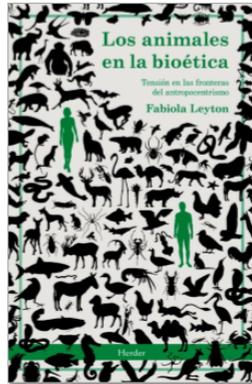


Los Animales en la Bioética: Tensión en las fronteras del antropocentrismo

Author: Fabiola Leyton

Publication: 2019

LOS ANIMALES EN LA BIOÉTICA Tensión en las fronteras del antropocentrismo Fabiola Leyton



¿Tienen los animales no humanos experiencias sensitivas que les permiten constituirse como realidades biológicas que interactúan con su medio? ¿Damos importancia moral a los animales?

La bioética implica el cuestionamiento ético, social, legal y filosófico de todo aquello relacionado con las ciencias biológicas. En sus orígenes fue pensada solo para los humanos, pero a lo largo del tiempo ha surgido la necesidad de expandir las obligaciones morales hacia otros seres vivos. La actualidad

exige una ampliación del registro moral para responder a nuevas circunstancias, como qué trato reciben los animales de los humanos.

Los animales en la bioética estudia y reflexiona sobre el estado actual de la bioética global para superar las tendencias antropocéntricas. Dividida en dos partes, la primera analiza conceptos como el de «sintiencia» (la capacidad de sentir, percibir o experimentar subjetivamente) en los animales desde algunas de las teorías éticas más difundidas —el utilitarismo o el igualitarismo—, mientras que la segunda cuestiona y analiza la utilización de los animales en la ganadería industrial y en la investigación.

Puedes leer el apartado «Los animales en la academia (O de cuando todo se cubrió de pelos, plumas y escamas)», haciendo clic en este [enlace](#).

Una nueva perspectiva crítica y educativa de sensibilización y cambio a favor de todos los animales, humanos y no humanos.

Fabiola Leyton (San Vicente de Tagua Tagua, Chile) es doctora en Filosofía en la Universidad de Barcelona. Estudió Trabajo Social en la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, un máster en Filosofía Política en la Universidad de Chile y luego un máster en Bioética y Derecho en la Universidad de Barcelona. Compagina la docencia, la investigación y la promoción de los derechos animales desde una perspectiva antiespecista.

Ficha técnica

Los animales en la bioética. Tensión en las fronteras del antropocentrismo
De Fabiola Leyton

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