

Minding Animals Bulletin 54



Minding Animals Conference (MAC5), July, 2024

Preparations for the Minding Animals Conference tentatively scheduled for 11-17 July, 2024, are proceeding apace. In this Bulletin you will find details about the conference and information about additional speakers. In the next Bulletin, we will be announcing our call for abstracts, conference venue and accommodation, as well as further speakers.

Minding Animals Conference (MAC5) will be brought to you by:

- Minding Animals International Incorporated (MAI),
- Minding Animals Australia (MAA), and
- Centre for Compassionate Conservation (CfCC) in the Transdisciplinary School at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) (our hosts).

As mentioned in our previous Bulletin, the conference will also partner with other organisations. Announcements regarding these will be given closer to the conference.

This collaborative and inclusive international conference builds on over a decade of highly successful animal studies conferences organised by MAI. As such, this event will incorporate the 5th Minding Animal Conference and the 1st Society for Compassionate Conservation Conference and others.

As for previous Minding Animals Conferences, this conference will also feature distinct Critical Animal Studies sessions.

The conference will be held in **Sydney/Gadigal Country**, from **11 to 17 July, 2024** (tentative schedule at a central city venue yet to be confirmed). Until the conference website is up and running and if you need to make contact about the conference, please email: mac5@mindinganimals.com

Again, we wish all our members and supporters the very best of health. Stay safe and healthy!

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Keynote, Plenary and Invited Lecturers

As many of you would be aware, especially those fortunate to have attended our past events, Minding Animals Conferences are built around one or two Keynotes/Public Lectures, up to ten Plenary Lectures, several Invited (Sub-plenary) Lectures, and parallel talks selected from submitted abstracts.

Over the coming months, we will be letting you know who will be providing the Keynote, Plenary and Invited Lectures. So far, the following people have accepted invitations to speak at MAC5:

Fiona Probyn-Rapsey (Marti Kheel Memorial Lecture)

Carol Adams

Paul Waldau

William Lynn

Freya Mathews

We are proud to announce the following additional speakers:

Plenary Speakers

Mia MacDonald

Mia MacDonald is the executive director and founder of Brighter Green (www.brightergreen.org), a New York based public policy action tank that works to raise awareness and encourage dialogue on and policy attention to issues that span the environment, animals, and sustainable development, with a strong commitment to equity and rights.



Mia has taught graduate students in the Animal Studies program at New York University (NYU) as well as undergraduate students in NYU's Environmental Studies department. She also created and taught courses on food, climate, and sustainability at the Earth Institute of Columbia University in New York City and also developed courses and taught in the Human Rights program at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Mia also writes frequently, including articles, op-eds, policy papers, and reports.

Mia is past president of the Culture & Animals Foundation and serves on its board of directors. She has also been a board member of the Africa Network for Animal Welfare U.S., Farm Sanctuary, Green Belt Movement International U.S. (chair), and the Food Empowerment Project. Mia received a master's degree in public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, a B.A. with honours from Columbia University, and has studied at Mansfield College, University of Oxford.

Prior to founding Brighter Green, Mia was a policy analyst, writer, editor, and project manager as a consultant on sustainable development, women's rights, reproductive health, population, conservation, and animal protection. She worked with the Ford Foundation, the World Wildlife Fund, the Green Belt Movement, the Ms. Foundation for Women, and the Wildlife Conservation Society, among others, as well as several United Nations agencies.

Krithika Srinivasan

Krithika Srinivasan's research and teaching interests lie at the intersection of political ecology, post-development politics, animal studies, and nature geographies. Her work draws on research in South Asia to rethink globally established concepts and practices about nature society relations. Through empirical projects on street dogs and public health, biodiversity conservation, animal agriculture, and non-elite environmentalisms, my scholarship focuses on decolonising and reconfiguring approaches to multispecies justice. Her research and teaching are deeply rooted in long term field engagement and praxis in India.



Invited Speakers

Jill Robinson

Jill Robinson has been a pioneer of animal welfare in Asia since 1985, and is widely recognised as the world's leading expert on the bear bile industry, having campaigned against it since 1993. Exposing the plight of endangered Asiatic black bears cruelly farmed for bile extraction, Jill embarked on a journey to end the practice. In 1998, she founded Animals Asia, an organisation devoted to ending bear bile farming in China and Vietnam and brings about long-term change for animals by promoting kindness and respect.

Today, Animals Asia has rescued 680 bears, caring for them at its award winning bear sanctuaries in China and Vietnam, and has signed a formal agreement with the Vietnam government to end bear bile farming once and for all.

Among Jill's awards has been the *Reader's Digest Hero for Today* award, and she was one of 12 people given the *You Bring Charm to China* award at a ceremony by Phoenix Satellite Television and Tian Jin TV. In 1998, she was made an MBE by Queen Elizabeth II.



MAC5, Sydney/Gadigal Country, July, 2024

Our Vision

The driving mechanisms of climatic change, the cascading impacts of 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. Further, we believe that unchecked growth and consumption of animals is threatening all life, human or nonhuman animal, plant or otherwise. There is critical urgency in understanding and responding to these threats, at local, regional, and global scales. The ramifications for animals have received only superficial attention to date. Energy is needed to consider how best to support animals through these increasingly prevalent events as well as fostering paradigmatic change in food production and consumption.

Our considered response will only materialise through evaluation of empirical evidence, through discourse among disciplines of environmental and social theory, and through centring of indigenous voices to create inclusive, 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, indigenous perspectives, and conservation 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 at the University of Technology Sydney, 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 planetary crisis driven by climatic change and animal agriculture 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).

We will also bring together academics and grassroots animal protection organisations in a 'Meeting of Minds'. The Meeting of Minds would discuss:

- How animal protection organisation are reacting to the various crises that the world now faces;
- How animal agriculture and the climate crisis 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.

Abstract and Themes

Please note that the call for abstracts will be issued in the next Minding Animals Bulletin and on the dedicated conference website.

Everyone who submits an abstract for the academic component of the conference will be asked to consider the impacts of animal agriculture and the climate crisis 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 animal agriculture and the climate 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, including the current pandemic, is the intersection of animal agriculture and the climate crisis. Hence, the urgency and criticality of climate is 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 biodiversity crisis and climate change
- Rewilding 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 About and Presenting At the Conference

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. In considering nonhuman animals, 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.

Minding Animals Conferences are **NOT** animal rights conferences, or wildlife conservation or zoology conferences, or animal welfare conferences, or environmental conferences, or veterinary conferences, they are **ALL** that!

And like all previous conferences, we stress to all delegates who attend MAC5 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/Gadigal Country (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.

Carbon offsets and MAC5

A key partner for MAC5 will be Saffron Aid (<http://saffronaid.com>). Saffron Aid is a registered Australian charity that is helping First Nations peoples and local villagers across the Indo 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. Saffron Aid will also direct your allocated funds to expand and replant large sections of mangroves. 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.

A component of your registration equal to the need to offset your carbon emissions will also be directed by Saffron Aid to a Carbon Neutral Charitable Fund (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. CNCF will plant endemic trees in Australia to offset conference related flights.

Minding Animals Website and Contact Emails

Please check out the Minding Animals website 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. A separate Minding Animals Conference email address has also been established. The emails are:

Enquiry	Relevant Email Address
Minding Animals email (always available)	mindinganimals@gmail.com
Minding Animals Conference	mac5@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

All memberships to Minding Animals International will fall due on 31 December, 2022.

The membership fee 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, 2024 (when renewals will fall due)
- A \$50 discount when registering for the 2024 Minding Animals Conference in Sydney/Gadigal Country
- The Board is currently discussing other benefits

After 2024, 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 in 2023 or during 2024, your membership will expire on 31 December, 2024.

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/>

Obituary

Vale Siobhan O'Sullivan



Siobhan O'Sullivan was recognised globally as a founding intellectual in the 'political turn' in animal studies, marked by her ground-breaking 2011 text *Animals, Equality and Democracy*. Siobhan was also known for many other works, including her edited collection (with Robert Garner) *The Political Turn in Animal Ethics*, and her large number of widely read essays and book chapters. Siobhan had a background as an animal rights activist, and this commitment to action and public reach for social and political change continued through her life. This also shaped the strong political commitments of her writing.

Siobhan's influence as a scholar was not limited to her expertise area in political and social sciences. Siobhan was also known by many within the animal studies community, both in our region and internationally, as an ambassador for our discipline. She was a long-time member of our Australasian Animal Studies Association (AASA), a previous member of our Committee, and an active contributor to our events and conferences. In 2021 Siobhan funded the inaugural AASA Journal Article Prize and the AASA Popular Communication of Animal Studies Prize; both initiatives have continued to strengthen our discipline.

Many scholars in the field came to know Siobhan through her *Knowing Animals* podcast, either as guests or as listeners; this podcast was the first of its kind, and has become an institution within the field. *Knowing Animals* continues to this day under the guidance of philosopher Josh Milburn, and I hope will continue for many years to come.

Few were aware that in addition to being an internationally recognised animal studies scholar, Siobhan was also an important researcher in social and public policy, widely recognised for her influential work on employment and welfare policy. Siobhan was co-author (with Michael McGann and Mark Considine) of the 2021 book *Buying and Selling the Poor*.

For those of us who knew Siobhan personally, she was experienced as something like an irrepressible force. She was warm, curious, funny, open-minded, generous, gregarious and always the pulsing heart of any gathering she was part of. Siobhan was absolutely committed to making the world a better place, including of course, for animals. Siobhan will be missed.

You might consider supporting the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation; Siobhan had actively been working in her final years to build awareness of the need for more funding and research to support early detection.

Dinesh Wadiwel
Chair, Australasian Animal Studies Association

I first met Siobhan at a dinner in Perth (Australia) in the 1990s where we had been attending the AGM of the Australian Democrats, then a major political party in Australia. A young vivacious animal and political activist shone through at that event. I saw Siobhan a couple of times after that, and then again at the first and second Australian Animals Studies Conferences in Perth in 2005 and Hobart in 2007.

Siobhan helped us organise the Keynote Discussion Panel and other sessions at the first Minding Animals Conference (the then third AASA Conference) two year later. Siobhan remained a very close friend and supporter of Minding Animals International attending subsequent conferences and events. The vibrant light that shone through back in Perth may diminish over time but will remain brilliant for many years to come.

Rod Bennison
Chair and Founder, Minding Animals International

Call for Papers: AASA Conference 2023 – Animal Cultures



The 2023 Conference of the Australasian Animal Studies Association will be held in-person at the University of Sydney on the 27th and 28th of November 2023, as part of the Congress for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Conference theme –*Animal Cultures*– encompasses emerging scientific and philosophical considerations of culture in non-human animal communities, as well as culturally-informed human views of other animals. Cultural transmission has been observed in a wide array of species (Whiten 2021), facilitating the acquisition of social and ecological knowledge and behaviours that influence biological and social wellbeing (Brakes *et al* 2019). Applying a cultural focus can be problematic, as it considers non-human animals through an anthropocentric construct. *Animal Cultures* will address the affordances and complexities of ‘culture/s’ within animal studies.

In addition to the wide array of topics presented by scholars at AASA’s Conferences, we are interested exploring *Animal Cultures* from perspectives, including but not limited to:

- New interpretations of non-human animal culture and knowledge
- Indigenous knowledges of animal cultures
- Cross cultural and multicultural approaches to animal life
- Global animal networks
- Non-human animals and environmental protection
- Political organisations
- Transmissions of knowledge through space, time, sound, bodies, and dance
- Symbiotic animal cultures
- Cross-species cultures
- The culture of Animal Studies

Submit paper and panel proposals via: https://usygovir.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9uhQJeS4uWbTc3A

- Submissions open: Friday 26 May, 2023
- Submissions close: Friday 21 July, 2023
- Notification of results: Friday 18 August, 2023

All proposals for papers and panels are welcome where they are aligned with the Vision and Mission of the Association. All questions to: Dr Peter John Chen at peter.chen@sydney.edu.au

Download a poster of the CFP at:

https://animalstudies.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/AASA23_CFP.pdf

Download a social media image pack for the Conference at:

http://animalstudies.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/AASA23_socials.zip



'ANIMAL PEOPLE' WANTED!

I am conducting a qualitative research study as part of my PhD and looking for participants who are 18-25yrs to take part in interviews.

DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF AN 'ANIMAL PERSON'?

The research is looking into what influences an individual to have strong animal protection values, with a particular focus on experiences with animals.

Do you fit the criteria?

For the purposes of this study, an Animal Person is defined as someone who:

- ✓ holds strong views about animal protection and ending industrialised use of animals
- ✓ has a vegan diet and lifestyle (or a vegetarian who is aspiring to be a vegan)
- ✓ is engaged in the animal protection community – by donating or volunteering their time

Participants must be between 18-24 years old and speak English fluently. Participants will be asked to dedicate about 1.5 hours of their time.

PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A VEGAN-FRIENDLY GIFT CARD IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR TIME DEDICATED TO THE INTERVIEW PROCESS.

PLEASE EMAIL OSHE3782@UNI.SYDNEY.EDU.AU