

Minding Animals Bulletin 55



Minding Animals

Minding Animals Conference (MAC5) Sydney/Gadigal Country, July, 2024

Preparations for the Minding Animals Conference (**to be held from 11 to 17 July, 2024**) are proceeding apace. In this Bulletin you will find details about the conference and information about additional speakers. This collaborative and inclusive international conference builds on over a decade of highly successful animal studies conferences organised by MAI. The conference will be held in **Sydney/Gadigal Country** (schedule at a central city venue to be confirmed 1 February). Until the conference website is up and running and if you need to make contact about the conference, please email: mac5@mindinganimals.com

Minding Animals Conference (MAC5) Projected Timeline

Live Conference Website, Call for Abstracts, and Registration of Interest for Panel Discussions	1 December, 2023
Online registrations open and Announcement of Venue	1 February, 2024
Close of Abstracts	30 March, 2024
Notification of selection process	30 April, 2024
Close of Earlybird Registrations	17 May, 2024
Close of all Online Registrations	30 June, 2024
Conference	11 to 17 July, 2024

Special note: Sydney/Gadigal Country (and Australia) can be expensive, especially for students.

We will be suggesting a range of accommodation options including local hostels and hotels.

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.

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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 and Public Lectures, up to ten Plenary Lectures, several parallel Invited (Sub-plenary) Lectures, parallel talks selected from submitted abstracts, as well as special panels dedicated to specific themes.

Keynote, Plenary and Invited Lecturers

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

Mia MacDonald

Krithika Srinivasan

We are proud to announce the following additional speakers:

Invited Speakers

Clive Phillips



Clive Phillips was Australia's first Professor of Animal Welfare, at the University of Queensland, and foundation director of the Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics. He was previously a lecturer at the Universities of Cambridge and Wales. He has authored over 400 scientific journal articles on the welfare of farm, zoo and companion animals, animal nutrition, transport and production. His books include *Principles of Cattle Production*, *The Animal Trade* and *The Welfare of Animals - the Silent Majority*. He recently co-edited the Routledge *Handbook in Animal Welfare*. Clive chairs the Queensland and Western Australian Governments' Animal Welfare Boards, is editor-in-chief of the journal *Animals* and Springer's Animal Welfare book series. His interview series, 'Conversations with Clive' can be found at <https://tinybeamfund.org/Conversations-With-Clive>

Yoriko Otomo



Yoriko Otomo is a Director of the Global Research Network. She is an Associate of the School of Law, SOAS University of London, where she was formerly a Senior Lecturer. She is on the Board of Minding Animals International, the Editorial Board of a Bloomsbury Press book series, an Associate Editor for Heliyon Press, and a Governor at the Canterbury Academy Trust. She holds a BA/LLB(Hons), PhD (Laws) with a background in international law and policy, specialising in feminist theory and human/animal studies. She was previously a Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Global History, University of Oxford, and a Residential Fellow at the Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School. She has published with leading presses including Oxford and Cambridge University Press and has extensive experience consulting for both grassroots and international organisations.

Linda Williams



Linda Williams is a cultural historian at RMIT University working in the field of environmental humanities and studies in human animal relations, particularly histories of the *longue durée* and their relation to current issues of climate change and mass species extinction. She currently leads an ARC Linkage Project: *Extinction Imaginaries: Mapping Affective Visual Cultures in Australasia*, and has a particular research interest in philosophies of nature and how they intersect with cultural, scientific and environmental history, along with a sustained interest in 17th century studies. Her publications in these fields can be accessed at publications: google scholar and at <https://rmit.academia.edu/LindaWilliams>

Kate Rigby



Kate Rigby (Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities) is Alexander von Humboldt Professor of Environmental Humanities at the University of Cologne, where she leads a research hub for Multidisciplinary Environmental Studies in the Humanities, and visiting scholar in the Research Centre for Environmental Humanities at Bath Spa University. Her research lies at the intersection of environmental literary, philosophical, historical and religious studies, with a specialist interest in European Romanticism, ecopoetics, multispecies studies, and disaster studies. She was the inaugural President of the Association for the Study of Literature, Environment and Culture (Australia-New Zealand), and the founding Director of the Australia-Pacific Forum on Religion and Ecology. A founding co-editor of the journal *Philosophy Activism Nature*, she also co-edited the University Press of Virginia series, *Under the Sign of Nature*, and her books include *Topographies of the Sacred: The Poetics of Place in European Romanticism* (2004), *Dancing with Disaster: Environmental Histories, Narratives, and Ethics for Perilous Times* (2015), *Reclaiming Romanticism: Towards an Ecopoetics of Decolonization* (2020) and *Meditations on Creation in an Era of Extinction* (2023).

Andrew Knight



Andrew Knight is Professor of Animal Welfare and Ethics, and Founding Director of the University of Winchester Centre for Animal Welfare, and Adjunct Professor in the School of Environment and Science at Griffith University, Queensland. An experienced cat and dog veterinarian, he is also a UK, European and American Veterinary Specialist in animal welfare. He has around 150 academic and 80 popular publications, and an extensive series of social media videos and several websites (including

www.sustainablepetfood.info), on vegan companion animal diets, climate change and the livestock sector, invasive animal research, educational animal use, humane clinical and surgical skills training, and other animal welfare issues. He regularly works with animal welfare charities to advocate for animals, and is frequently interviewed by the media. He has received over 20 awards and research grants for this work.

Rajesh Reddy



Rajesh K. Reddy directs the Animal Law Program at the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School, USA, where also serves as an Assistant Professor of Law. His current list of course offerings includes: International Animal Law; Animal Legal Philosophy; Introduction to US Legal Studies; and Insect Law; among others. Outside of Lewis & Clark, he has served as Editor in Chief of the Animal Law Review and currently sits on the boards of Minding Animals International, World Animal Protection, and the International Coalition for Animal Protection, which is currently seeking to advance the world's first treaty to protect the interests of animals as individual beings. Through his consultancy work with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Raj helped advance the ground breaking legal effort that affirmed the discovery rights of a group of hippopotamuses facing slaughter in Colombia, with the resulting court order representing the first time that the legal personhood of nonhuman animals has been affirmed in a US court outside of mere dicta.

Jasmijn de Boo



With over 23 years of experience, Jasmijn de Boo is a professional animal and vegan advocate and educator, who has worked the past twelve years in global leadership positions. Jasmijn is the Global CEO of ProVeg International where she is responsible for overall strategic direction, international operational management, and governance of ProVeg country offices and programmes. She also oversees international communications, campaigns, EU policy and advocacy, corporate engagement, fundraising, internationalisation, people and culture development, and the Grants Program. Jasmijn is the Steering Committee co-chair of the European Alliance for Plant-based Food (EAPF) and is a Board Member with the European Vegetarian Union (EVU). Jasmijn previously held executive management roles in a range of international animal protection and vegan organisations, including CEO of SAFE for Animals in New Zealand, and the Vegan Society in the UK. Jasmijn has been vegan since January 2003.

Chris Platt



Chris Platt is the co-founder of the Conservative Animal Welfare Foundation, an independent organisation which advocates for the advancement of farm animal welfare in the Conservative Party and across the political spectrum in the UK. He co-directs daily operations on core campaigns such as ending cages for laying hens, pig farrowing crates and live exports, and implementing animal welfare labelling. Chris worked in international finance before moving full time onto the board of the Foundation working at the strategic and operational levels. Chris has experience leading teams in challenging environments and brings this strength of organisational and strategic experience to the Foundation. He is Vice President of a Surrey Conservative Party Association and former Chairman.

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 on 1 December

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.

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 gold standard 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 Danmark

We are thrilled to announce that in June, members of the animal studies community in Denmark founded Minding Animals Danmark as an official, independent national organisation, electing Jes Lynning Harfeld as President and Sune Borkfelt as Treasurer. The organisation aims to support animal studies researchers and educators in Denmark, create animal studies events and networking, and contribute to Danish debates concerning human-nonhuman animal relations. Minding Animals Danmark hopes to have a website up and running at www.mindinganimals.dk, and you can also write to kontakt@mindinganimals.dk, if you wish to join or collaborate with the organisation.

You can also find Minding Animals Danmark on Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook:

Twitter: twitter.com/MindingDK

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/minding-animals-danmark/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/minding-animals-danmark/)

Facebook: [facebook.com/MindingAnimalsDK](https://www.facebook.com/MindingAnimalsDK)

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 5	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

Subsequently, 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/>

AASA Conference 2023 – Animal Cultures



The 2023 Conference of the Australasian Animal Studies Association will be held in-person at the University of Sydney 27-28 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

To register for the AASA Conference, please visit:
<https://animalstudies.org.au/conference2023>