



## Welcome to the 21st edition of the Minding Animals Bulletin

Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the Minding Animals Bulletin. Other than our usual announcements in regards to notices regarding our Partner events, in this bulletin you will find information on our speakers, a Call for Abstracts, Conference website, details regarding registration, and notices regarding the Interfaith Service, Protecting the Animals Seminar Series and special satellite events.

## Minding Animals Conference 3 Interfaith Service: Lotus Temple



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## MAC3 Call for Abstracts Opens 20 April

The third Minding Animals Conference will be held in New Delhi, 13 to 20 January, 2015, hosted by the Wildlife Trust of India, in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). The conference will be held at JNU and other locations in New Delhi.

The Call for Abstracts for consideration for inclusion in the MAC3 in New Delhi will be open on 20 April, 2014. As for the previous two conferences, talks will be limited to a MAXIMUM of 20 minutes including questions. If you wish to submit an abstract, please complete the abstracts submission form at: [mindinganimalsconf3.in](http://mindinganimalsconf3.in)

## Registration for the Conference Opens 20 April

Registration for the Minding Animals Conference in New Delhi is also open. If you wish to register for the conference, please complete the registration form at: [mindinganimalsconf3.in](http://mindinganimalsconf3.in)

## Minding Animals Websites

Have you visited the new Minding Animals website? We are constantly adding information, especially in relation to the third Minding Animals Conference in Delhi – just click on the MAC3 link. Our website domain remains: [mindinganimals.com](http://mindinganimals.com)

The dedicated MAC3 Conference website is also available at: [mindinganimalsconf3.in](http://mindinganimalsconf3.in)

# Minding Animals Conference 3 Interfaith Service at the Lotus Temple

As for the first two Minding Animals Conferences, a special Interfaith Service will be held prior to the conference. We are fortunate in being able to hold the service at the famous Delhi landmark known as the Lotus Temple. The Lotus Temple has been recognised as one of the masterpieces of twentieth century architecture, and has won many awards.

Since its inauguration to public worship and visits in December 1986, the Lotus Temple, the Bahá'í House of Worship in New Delhi, has drawn more than 70 million visitors, making it one of the most visited edifices in the world. On an average, 8,000 to 10,000 people visit the Bahá'í House of Worship each day. These visitors have admired its universal design in the form of a lotus and have been fascinated by the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith. The Bahá'í Faith is a world religion whose purpose is to unite all peoples in one universal cause and one common faith. Bahá'is are the followers of Bahá'u'lláh, who they believe is the Promised One of all Ages.

All conference delegates are encouraged to attend, and not just those persons of faith and spirituality. You will be amazed by the temple's beauty, architecture and serenity in the midst of the hustle and bustle of New Delhi.

## Our Plenary Speakers

Two further plenary speakers have now confirmed that they will be attending the conference:

### Will Kymlicka



Will Kymlicka is the Canada Research Chair in Political Philosophy in the Philosophy Department at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, where he has taught since 1998. His research interests focus on issues of citizenship and social justice within both multicultural and inter-species contexts. He has published eight books and over 200 articles, which have been translated into 32 languages. He is married to the author Sue Donaldson, with whom he has co-authored *Zoopolis: A Political Theory of Animal Rights* (Oxford UP, 2011), as well as forthcoming articles on animal rights in the *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*; the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*; the *Journal of Animal Ethics*; the *Journal of Social Philosophy*; and *Perspectives on Animals and the Law in Canada*. He is developing several new initiatives at Queen's relating to "Animals in Philosophy, Politics, Law and Ethics", including a postdoctoral fellowship.

## Maneka Gandhi



Maneka Gandhi is an Indian politician from the Nehru Gandhi clan. She is a leader in environmentalism and animal rights and has earned international awards and acclaim. In 1995, she was appointed chairwoman of the Committee for Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA). Under her direction, CPCSEA members have carried out unannounced inspections of laboratories where animals are used for scientific research. She has filed Public Interest Litigations that have achieved the replacement of the municipal killing of homeless dogs with a sterilisation programme, the unregulated sale of airguns and a ban on mobile or traveling zoos. She currently chairs the Jury of International Energy Globe Foundation which meets annually in Austria to award the best environmental innovations of the year. She is a member of the Eurosolar Board and the Wuppertal Institute, Germany. She started the organisation People for Animals in 1992, the largest organisation for animal rights welfare in India. Maneka Gandhi is also a patron of International Animal Rescue. She is a vegan and has advocated this lifestyle on ethical and health grounds.

## Protecting the Animals Seminar Series

As was available at the first two Minding Animals Conferences, the successful Protecting the Animals Seminar Series will again be held. The Seminar Series allows animal protection groups to present a paper on their organisation and to run a promotional booth. Eighteen speaking places have been made available and, as usual, they will be most sought after.

Requests for a guaranteed place in the programme, along with a presentation abstract, should be sent as soon as possible, but no later than 23 September, directly to: [mindinganimals@gmail.com](mailto:mindinganimals@gmail.com)

Please note that the fee of \$US500 for participating in the Protecting the Animals Seminar Series will entitle you to the following registration package:

- One full conference registration including welcome and award gala dinner
- One item of your promotional material that will be placed in the conference satchel
- Dedicated booth supplied with trestle table and chair for the duration of the conference

Guaranteed speaking position in the Conference Programme (one 20 minute session in one of the parallel sessions)

## Satellite Events

Two very special satellite events will be held on Saturday, 17 January, on Day 5 of the Minding Animals Conference:

### ***Critical Animal Studies Study Circle Satellite Event***

A special session was held at the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference in Utrecht on Critical Animal Studies. That satellite event was hosted by ICAS. Another critical animal studies event will be held in New Delhi hosted by the Minding Animals Critical Animal Studies Study Circle and chaired by the Minding Animals Secretary, Dr Richard Twine. Richard also spoke at the Utrecht event and is active in the fields of ecofeminism and critical animal studies.

If you intend to lodge an abstract for the Minding Animals Conference, you can indicate whether you would prefer to speak in one of the parallel sessions to be held as part of this satellite event. Six parallel sessions have been allocated over a three hour period – 54 talks with a MAXIMUM of 20 minutes each.

### ***Thematic Session – Wildlife Science and Biodiversity Conservation***

Details regarding this event will appear in Bulletin No.22. Six experts in the field of Wildlife Science and Biodiversity Conservation will speak at this special thematic session that follows the Critical Animal Studies event.

## Minding Animals Partner and Preconference Events

Would you like to partner your conference, seminar or other event with Minding Animals International? Benefits include a reach to an Animal Studies audience of over 3,000 academics, activists and artists. If you are interested, please drop us a line at [mindinganimals@gmail.com](mailto:mindinganimals@gmail.com). In this Bulletin, you will find details on the following events:

- **10 May, 2014: Geneva, Switzerland - SHARRE 2014 - De l'art vétérinaire à l'art psychiatrique: la zoothérapie**
- **22 May, 2013: Sydney, Australia - An evening with Marc Bekoff (rescheduled from Dec, 2013)**
- **2 to 8 June, 2014: Gunsbach, Alsace, France – Your Life Is Your Argument: Second Albert Schweitzer International Summer School**
- **19 to 21 June, 2014: Canberra, Australia - Affective Habitus: new environmental histories of Botany, Zoology and Emotions**
- **17 to 20 July, 2014: Sheffield, England – Reading Animals: an International English Studies Conference**
- **25 to 27 September, 2014: Bonn, Germany – Human-Animal Relationships in Religious Traditions**
- **4 to 5 December, 2014: Edinburgh, Scotland - Between Apes and Angels: Human and Animal in the Early Modern World (CFP Close 31 October, 2014)**

## **10 May, 2014: Geneva, Switzerland**

### ***SHARRE 2014 - De l'art vétérinaire à l'art psychiatrique: la zoothérapie***

Hosts: Society for Human-Animal Relationship Research & Education (SHARRE)

Conference language: French

For further information regarding this conference, please visit the website or contact the conference organiser, Rachel Lehotkay at [info@sharre.ch](mailto:info@sharre.ch)

Website: <http://www.sharre.ch/>

## **22 May, 2014: Sydney, Australia**

### ***An evening with Marc Bekoff***

A rescheduled seminar from P December, 2013. Please contact Dr Daniel Ramp (Director, Centre for Compassionate Conservation) directly for details at: [Daniel.Ramp@uts.edu.au](mailto:Daniel.Ramp@uts.edu.au)

## **19-21 June, 2014: Gunsbach, Alsace, France**

### ***Your Life Is Your Argument: the motivational force of an ethical principle.***

### ***Second Albert Schweitzer International Summer School***

Host Institution: International Albert Schweitzer Museum and Archives

Venue: Old Rectory (Schweitzer's Childhood Home) and Le Promontoire (Urbeis Le Climont, Vosges Mtns)

Fees: 500 Euro (or 350 students) (includes meals in Gunsbach; entrance fees to museums; conference fees including copied texts). The Summer School is open to students and other interested persons of any age and from any academic discipline.

For more information, please contact Jenny Litzelmann ([diffusion.gunsbach@schweitzer.org](mailto:diffusion.gunsbach@schweitzer.org)) or Chris Doude van Troostwijk ([promontoire@orange.fr](mailto:promontoire@orange.fr))

## **19-21 June, 2014: Canberra, Australia**

### ***Affective Habitus: new environmental histories of Botany, Zoology and Emotions***

Host Institution and Venue: Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University

The Fifth Biennial Conference of The Association for the Study of Literature, Environment and Culture, Australia and New Zealand (ASLEC-ANZ) – and an Environmental Humanities collaboratory with the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, and Minding Animals International

Convenor: Dr Tom Bristow, ANU Research Fellow

Invited speakers include Tom Griffiths, Michael Marder, John Plotz, Will Steffen and Gillen D'Arcy Wood.

Inquiries, and paper and panel proposals to: [2014EHC@anu.edu.au](mailto:2014EHC@anu.edu.au)

Selected conference papers will be published in *Animal Studies Journal*, and *Australasian Journal of Ecocriticism* and *Cultural Ecology*.

## **17-20 July, 2014: Sheffield, England**

### ***Reading Animals: an International English Studies Conference***

Host Institution and Venue: School of English, University of Sheffield, UK

Conference contacts and further information from Sean McCorry [s.mccorry@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:s.mccorry@sheffield.ac.uk) or Bob McKay [r.mckay@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:r.mckay@sheffield.ac.uk)

Keynote Speakers: Erica Fudge, Tom Tyler, Cary Wolfe, others TBC

This conference seeks to reflect and to extend the full range of critical methodologies, forms, canons and geographies current in English Studies; contributions are also most welcome from interested scholars in cognate disciplines. *Reading Animals* will be programmed to encourage comparative reflection on representations of animals and interspecies encounters in terms of both literary-historical period and overarching interpretive themes. As such, seven keynote presentations are planned; each will focus on how reading animals is crucial in the interpretation of the textual culture of a key period from the middle ages to the present. The conference will also feature a plenary panel of key scholars who will reflect on the importance when reading animals of thinking across periods and in thematic, conceptual and formal terms.

## **25-27 September, 2014: Bonn, Germany**

### ***Human-Animal Relationships in Religious Traditions***

Host Institution: Department of Comparative Religion, Bonn University

Venue: Institute of Oriental and Asian Studies, Department of Comparative Religion, Bonn University, Adenauerallee 4-6, 53113 Bonn, Germany

Please send an abstract of approximately 200 words no later than September 5, 2014.

Publication: Selected papers from the conference will be published.

Registration: The registration fee is 25 € (paid in cash upon arrival and includes lunch, coffee and snacks during the conference). The registration fee does not include any travel expenses or accommodation.

Contact Details: Dr. Céline Grünhagen, [c.gruenhagen@uni-bonn.de](mailto:c.gruenhagen@uni-bonn.de) or call: +49 228 73 954

The relationships between humans and animals are highly diverse. The rolls and places of animals regarding humans vary considerably. Roughly, three categories can be discerned:

- a) Animal life is not attributed with worth or meaning, unless to define it as lower than human life. Animals are subservient and subordinate to humans and used by them – as means of labour or transport and as a source of food and clothing. If conceived as disrupting the animals are either ignored or eliminated.
- b) Animal life is seen as having its own worth and dignity. Animals are equals to humans and are perceived by them as fellow sufferers, friends and companions, as helpers or as equal opponents/enemies. Animals are accorded with respect, their life is protected or/and encouraged.
- c) Animal life is bestowed with higher worth as human life. Animals are superior and can be revered and feared as friends and foes. In both cases, animals are in a position from which they serve as an example. Identification, reverence or fear can lead to totemising, deifying or demonising of animals or animal traits.

The relationships are defined by culture but can also vary considerably within a single culture and between different species. Human animal relationships will be analysed in their cultural settings with special attention given to religious contexts. In this regard, we can observe animal-shaped gods, totem-animals, helpful and protective spirits, animal incarnations and teachers, demons and harmful spirits, but also formulated rules of engagement and treatment with and of animals or non-human life. Thus, formative myths and practices, religious cosmology and ethics and their consequences for ecology and conduct could be discussed.

## **4-5 December, 2014: Edinburgh, Scotland**

### ***Between Apes and Angels: Human and Animal in the Early Modern World***

Host Institution and Venue: University of Edinburgh

Keynote speakers: Harriet Ritvo and Louise Hill Curth

Other speakers: Ingrid Tague, Juliana Schiesari, Karen Edwards, Peter Edwards, Richard Almond and Susan Wiseman

Call for papers (close 31 October, 2014) – see conference blog: <http://apesandangels.wordpress.com/cfp-2/>

Conference language: English

Further information regarding the conference, please visit the website or contact the organisers: Andrew Wells and Sarah Cockram at [andrew.wells@ed.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.wells@ed.ac.uk) or [s.cockram@ed.ac.uk](mailto:s.cockram@ed.ac.uk)

Website: <http://www.apesandangels.ed.ac.uk>

### ***Thinking Extinction Video Presentations***

We are pleased to announce that videos from the Minding Animals Partner Event held in November, 2013 and entitled 'Thinking Extinction: The Science and Philosophy of Endangered Species and Extinction' are now available for viewing on the event website: [www.thinkingextinction.com/media](http://www.thinkingextinction.com/media). Videos include a keynote address by Stuart Pimm, a roundtable discussion featuring Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson, and presentations by:

- Deborah Bird Rose (NSW)
- Mick Smith (Queen's)
- Justina Ray (Wildlife Conservancy Canada)
- Marty Leonard (COSEWIC)
- Tom Nudds (Guelph)
- Josh Schuster (Western)
- H. Peter Steeves (DePaul)
- Ted Toadvine (Oregon)
- Bridget Stutchbury (York)
- Arne Mooers (Simon Fraser)
- Ron Sandler (Northeastern)
- Ben Hale (Colorado)
- Matt Chrulew (Curtin)
- Jeff Bussolini (CUNY)
- Gaby Mastromonaco
- Jackie Litzgus (Laurentian)
- Ursula Heise (UCLA)
- James Maclaurin (Otago)

'Thinking Extinction' took place at in Sudbury, Canada, on 14 to 16 November, 2013, and was organised by the Laurentian University's new Centre for Evolutionary Ecology and Ethical Conservation (CEEEC, pronounced 'seek'). See: [laurentian.ca/centre-evolutionary-ecology-and-ethical-conservation](http://laurentian.ca/centre-evolutionary-ecology-and-ethical-conservation)

The symposium was funded by Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), with additional support from the Canada Research Chairs Program, Minding Animals International, the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution, and Wildlife Preservation Canada, as well as from Laurentian University's Centre for Humanities Research and Creativity (CHRC), International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Human Sciences (ICIRHS), Vale Living with Lakes Centre, Department of English, Department of Modern Languages, Department of Philosophy, Humanities MA Program, Office of the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Office of the Dean of Science and Engineering, and the Research, Development and Creativity Office.

## Schedule for MAC3

13 January – Interfaith Service, Opening of Registrations and Welcome Drinks  
14 January – Opening of Conference, Keynote Address, Opening of Protecting Animals Seminar Series  
15 and 16 January – Conference continues  
17 January – Critical Animal Studies and Special Wildlife Science and Biodiversity Conservation Events  
18 January – Day at Leisure  
19 January – Conference continues  
20 January – Conference concludes

## Themes for MAC3

Theme 1 – Animals and Religion  
Theme 2 – Wildlife, Welfare and Conservation Science  
Theme 3 – Women and Animals  
Theme 4 – Animal Law and Public Policy  
Theme 5 – Animals and Culture  
Theme 6 – Animals and the Humanities



## MAC3 Disputes and Resolutions

Please note: just as for the first two Minding Animals Conferences, we will also have a Disputes and Resolutions expert helping the Board if anyone feels they need to lodge a complaint. If you have any significant problems or issues if they arise between now and the conference or you feel aggrieved in any way, please contact the Disputes Counsel at [mindinganimals@gmail.com](mailto:mindinganimals@gmail.com)

## Travel Advice for MAC3

Here are some suggestions when travelling to the Minding Animals Conference in New Delhi:

### Personal Safety

You may have heard news in the media that some women, both locals and travellers to India, have experienced devastating and unforgiveable physical abuse involving sexual assault. Whether or not the proportion of these assaults per head of population have been inflated by Western media as has been alleged, it is important that all our delegates to MAC3 must feel safe and have a fantastic time whilst in India. Generally, India is an extremely safe and friendly place, but like in every human society there are challenges. If you have not been to India before, you can be assured that you will be confronted but inspired, distressed yet delighted. It may very well change your attitudes forever.

It is recommended, particularly if you are a woman, that if you feel the need to stay safer than by travelling alone, then we recommend you travel with other conference delegates. Maybe travel to India in a group or with your partner, share a taxi or tuk tuk (motorised rickshaw) to the conference and around Delhi, or when travelling outside Delhi join an organised tour. Be vigilant at all times, and like in any other metropolis, beware of pickpockets.

## Vaccinations

Consider vaccinations for Cholera, Hepatitis A and Typhoid. These are probably unnecessary if you intend to stay in New Delhi only. In relation to Malaria, you should consider obtaining Doxycycline or some quinine-based medication from your doctor, especially if travelling outside New Delhi or staying in India to travel, although it will be winter. One side-trip to be announced shortly will be to a wetland – then, in this case, such medication is strongly recommended. It is particularly recommended that you approach any animal with caution as rabies is prevalent in India. The JNU campus has many street dogs and squirrels as well as macaques and jackals. We strongly advise that you should not approach or interact with any animal in any way.

Toilet paper is not available in all facilities, including some hotels, hostels, tourist sites and public lavatories. Unless you wish to use the ever-present hose, then it is recommended that you take an ample supply of tissue paper at all times. It is highly recommended that you consider obtaining a course of the drug Ciprofloxacin from your doctor to take with you. This antibiotic is safe and extremely effective in treating stomach bugs and diarrhoea. Some groups of people may be less disease resistant than others. In this regard, it is also recommended that you take a supply of Imodium, as well as sachets of an oral electrolyte powder, such as Dioralyte or Hydrolyte, to use with bottled water. Importantly: when brushing your teeth, please use bottled water, and never drink water when having a shower!

## Visas and Luggage

Most overseas visitors require a visa to enter the country, some with particular restrictions, such as from Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan. You **MUST** ensure that you leave at least 3 months between applying for a visa and your departure. Minding Animals will endeavour to have the abstract review process completed by 1 October, 2014. In all respects, your visa, travel and accommodation are your responsibility. Information regarding accommodation options will become available soon.

When eventually departing India from any airport, you should ensure that any hand/cabin luggage is labelled with a tag from the airline which you are using. Security staff at airports will stamp that tag as security-checked. This is complicated as the authorities may require a second security check before you enter the plane and they will verify that the first check has been stamped on that particular airline's tag. If this is not done, you may risk losing your hand/cabin luggage.

## Force Majeure, Disclaimer and Insurance

Minding Animals International Incorporated, the Board, or any other Minding Animals committee or entity, including the hosts, are not liable for claims for damages and or losses if the Minding Animals Conference has to be cancelled due to a force majeure incident, and are not liable for damages and or losses of any kind which may be incurred by delegates or by any other individuals accompanying them, both during the official activities as well as going to from the event. Delegates are responsible for their own safety and belongings.

The registration fee does not cover insurance for event delegates. We recommend that delegates take out insurance in their home country to cover pre-journey cancellation for personal reasons and necessary insurance to cover accidents, medical expenses and loss of personal belongings during your visit to India.