



## Welcome to the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Minding Animals Bulletin

Welcome once again to the Minding Animals Bulletin. In this bulletin you will find information on the Call for Abstracts, details regarding registration, Documentary Festival, Conference website, and details on our *Wildlife, Conservation and Animal Studies* Satellite Event.

## Call for Abstracts and Registrations Schedule

The Call for Abstracts for consideration for inclusion in the MAC3 in New Delhi is now open. 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 or to register for the conference, please complete the forms at the Conference website at: [mindinganimalsconf3.in](http://mindinganimalsconf3.in)

**REMINDER: END of CALL for ABSTRACTS  
15 AUGUST**

**REMINDER: END of EARLYBIRD REGISTRATIONS  
31 AUGUST**

## Minding Animals Conference 3 Documentary Festival

A short documentary festival will be run during the conference in New Delhi. Do you have a documentary, short film or other cinematic item that you would like presented at the New Delhi Conference?

If you do, please contact the organisers of that event on: [mindinganimalsdocos@gmail.com](mailto:mindinganimalsdocos@gmail.com)

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## Minding Animals Conference Working Schedule

Our Minding Animals Conference working schedule is as follows:

1. End of call for Abstracts: 15 August, 2014
2. Close of Earlybird Registrations: 31 August, 2014
3. Review of abstracts: 18 August - 24 September, 2014
4. First round offers sent: 6 October, 2014
5. Final date for successful first round authors to advise if they intend coming: 24 October, 2014
6. Second round offers sent: 3 November, 2014
7. Final date for successful second round authors to advise if they intend coming: 14 November, 2014
8. Onsite Registration commence: December 1, 2014 Onwards
9. Last date of registration by authors of accepted abstracts: 19 December

## 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)

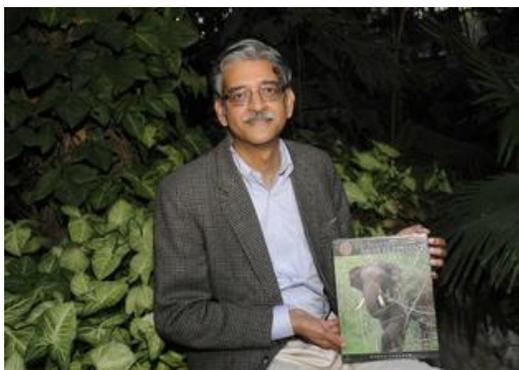
## Invited Speakers

The following Invited Speakers will join our already announced distinguished Plenary Speakers at the conference in New Delhi.

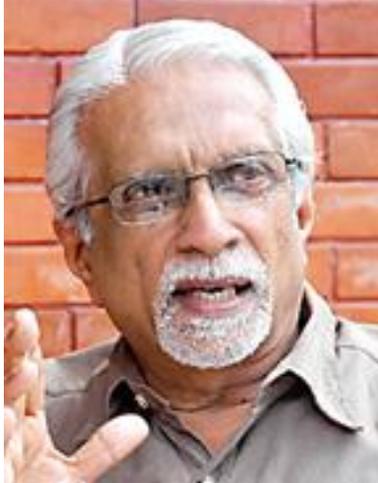
**Professor Raman Sukumar** is a leading Indian ecologist best known for his work on the ecology of the Asian Elephant and wildlife-human conflict. He also works on climate change and tropical forest ecology. In 1986, Raman also helped design the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, the first of its kind in India. In 1997, he set up the Asian Nature Conservation Foundation, a public charitable trust that incorporates the Asian Elephant Research and Conservation Centre, an organisation that has carried out several field projects in India and other Asian countries on elephants and their habitats. In 2006, he was awarded the International Cosmos Prize. He was also commended by the Prime Minister of India for contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that shared the Noble Peace Prize in 2007. Other awards have included:

- 1991 Presidential Award of the Chicago Zoological Society, USA
- 1997 Order of the Golden Ark (The Netherlands)
- 2000 Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences
- 2003 Whitley Gold Award for International Nature Conservation, UK
- 2004 T.N.Khoshoo Memorial Award for Conservation Science, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, India
- 2005 Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy
- 2006 International Cosmos Prize, Japan
- 2006 Fellow, Geological Society of India
- 2013 Fellow, The World Academy of Sciences, Italy

He obtained his BS from the University of Madras and a Masters in Botany from the same university. He obtained his PhD from the Indian Institute of Science in 1985. He was a Fulbright Fellow at Princeton in 1991 and was the Chair at the Centre for Ecological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science for over eight years (2004–12). He continues to pursue conservation based scientific research as a Professor at this Centre and is often called upon to represent Indian wildlife scientists in a number of international, national and regional governmental committees.



**Jayantha Jayewardene** is the Managing Trustee of the Biodiversity and Elephant Conservation Trust, a trust registered for the express purpose of conserving Sri Lanka's biodiversity, and especially, their elephants. He is one of Sri Lanka's most well known naturalists, and is an internationally recognised expert on Asian elephants. He is the author of several books on elephants and wildlife conservation.



**Professor Olutayo Charles Adesina** is Professor of History and Fellow, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He earned his PhD from the Department of History, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, after which he joined the faculty of the Department of History, University of Ibadan. He served as the Sub-Dean (General), Faculty of Arts, and as the Head, Department of History from 2001-2003 and 2006-2008. He is a fellow of the Atlantic History, Charles Warren Center, Harvard University, the African Visiting Fellow, Rhodes Chair of Race Relations, St. Antony's College, Oxford University, and as a Fellow in the Institute of Advanced Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His publications include *Globalization and Transnational Migrations: Africa and Africans in the Contemporary Global System* and *Marginality and Crisis: Globalization and Identity in Contemporary Africa*. Olutayo is currently a Visiting Professor in the Department of History and Philosophy at Kennesaw State University in the USA.



# Wildlife, Conservation and Animal Studies Satellite Event

**Organiser:** Assoc Prof Sindhu Radhakrishna  
National Institute of Advanced Studies  
Indian Institute of Science Campus  
Bangalore 560012 India

**For further information:** [sindhu@nias.iisc.ernet.in](mailto:sindhu@nias.iisc.ernet.in)

## **The Event**

Animals are very central to the practice of biology, but few biologists engage wholeheartedly with issues related to animals in non-objective, non-reductionist ways. A prime example of this is the tumultuous area of wildlife conservation. Biodiversity conservation is built on the premise that every species is critically important in the functioning of existing ecosystems, yet in practice the operation of wildlife conservation rests on prioritisation of some animal species over others.

Evolutionary uniqueness or low numbers signifying high probability of extinction are the usual touchstones that determine whether a wildlife species is worthy of conservation efforts or not. Such paradigms of conservation however are challenged by wildlife species that are ubiquitously found (indicating low probabilities of extinction), are not distinguished by unusual biological characteristics or phylogeny, and are involved in conflict scenarios with humans.

The complex issues of animal agency, the value of an animal species, and human attitudes towards wildlife that such a scenario raises, should be of central concern to biology; yet, rarely is the subject matter paid much attention in the discipline.

This satellite event proposes to bring together some of the most stimulating minds in the fields of biology and animal studies to discuss how science impacts wildlife conservation and how practices related to wildlife conservation provide insights into the nature of human interaction with animals. Drawing upon examples from their work, the speakers will exchange their views on three main themes:

- (i) animal prioritisation and pragmatic conservation;
- (ii) wildlife conservation and species popularity; and
- (iii) wildlife, science and animal studies.

**Speakers** (in alphabetical order) will include:

- Dr Vidya Athreya
- Dr Jet Bakels
- Dr Maan Barua
- Dr Agustin Fuentes
- Professor Dale Jamieson
- T R Shankar Raman



**Vidya Athreya** is an ecologist who is interested in the interactions between different species, particularly those between large carnivores and humans. She holds an MSc in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Iowa, USA and a PhD from Manipal University, India. A Research Associate with WCS-India since 2007, Vidya has over a decade's experience working in the landscapes of Western Maharashtra where leopards share spaces with humans. A member of the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, she has assisted in formulating state and national level policy guidelines on managing human-leopard conflict and also works closely with Protected Area managers and the public to mitigate conflicts involving big cats. Vidya's research work has led to an increased awareness of large carnivores outside Protected Areas in India and she is recipient of many honors and awards, notably the Carl Zeiss Wildlife Conservation Award in 2011, TN Koshoo Memorial Award in 2012 and the Maharana Udai Singh Award in 2013.



Jet Bakels is an ethnologist specialised in human–animal relations, with a special interest in dangerous and categorially ambiguous animals, both in the wild and in captivity. She holds a PhD from Leiden University, the Netherlands and is associated with the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Leiden University. Bakels has conducted extensive fieldwork in several locations in Indonesia. As a museum curator – now at Artis, the Amsterdam zoo – and writer of children's books, she strives to bring issues around human–animal relations to a wider public.



**Maan Barua** is a human geographer whose research examines the politics of biodiversity conservation. His DPhil at Oxford, entitled 'The Political Ecology of Human Elephant Relations in India', was a critical analysis of the diverse forms of human-animal encounters, practices of conservation cartography and the political role of materials in social life. At present, Maan is working on the cultural geographies of species extinction, examining the origins of the concept of extinction, its mobilising power in global conservation regimes, and the ways through which the irreversibility of extinction is contested by technological and biogeographic practice. Maan is continuing his research on the social, political and economic dimensions of elephant conservation through (1) a study of elephant corridors in India, and (2) an assessment of conflict compensation schemes. Maan is a Research and Teaching Fellow at the School of Geography and the Environment, and Junior Research Fellow at Somerville College, Oxford, UK.



**Agustín Fuentes**, trained in Zoology and Anthropology, is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Notre Dame, USA. His research delves into the how and why of being human. His current foci of interests include cooperation and bonding in human evolution, ethnoprimateology and multispecies anthropology, evolutionary theory, and public perceptions of, and interdisciplinary approaches to, human nature(s). Fuentes' recent books include *Evolution of Human Behavior* (Oxford University Press), *Centralizing Fieldwork: Critical Perspectives from Primatology, Biological and Social Anthropology* (Co-edited, Berghahn press), *Biological Anthropology: concepts and connections* (McGraw-Hill), *Monkeys on the Edge: ecology and management of long-tailed macaques and their interface with humans* (co-edited, Oxford University Press), and *Race, Monogamy, and other lies they told you: busting myths about human nature* (UC Press).



**Dale Jamieson** is currently Professor of Environmental Studies and Philosophy, Affiliated Professor of Law, and Director of the Animal Studies Initiative, at New York University, USA. Formerly he was Henry R. Luce Professor in Human Dimensions of Global Change at Carleton College, and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he was the only faculty member to have won both the Dean's award for research in the social sciences and the Chancellor's award for research in the humanities. Dale's research interests are extensive and diverse, to say the least, with publications in bioethics, climate studies, environmental philosophy and animal studies. He is the author of *Reason in a Dark Time: Why the Struggle to Stop Climate Change Failed--and What It Means For Our Future* (Oxford, 2014), *Ethics and the Environment: An Introduction* (Cambridge, 2008), and *Morality's Progress: Essays on Humans, Other Animals, and the Rest of Nature* (Oxford, 2002). He is also the editor or co-editor of nine books, most recently *Reflecting on Nature: Readings in Environmental Philosophy* (Oxford, 2012) with Lori Gruen and Chris Schlotmann, and has published more than one hundred articles and book chapters. Dale is a member of the Board of Minding Animals International.



**Shankar Raman** describes himself as a wildlife scientist, working on the ecology and conservation of tropical forests and wildlife, mainly in the Western Ghats in India. He obtained an MSc in Wildlife Science from the Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun and a PhD in ecology from the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. A founder-trustee member of Nature Conservation Foundation, a conservation organisation based out of Mysore in India, Shankar Raman is primarily involved in the conservation of fragmented tropical landscapes in southern India. Along with like-minded colleagues, he works to restore degraded rainforests amidst extensive plantations of tea and coffee and to reduce conflicts between people and large wildlife species such as Asian elephants and leopards. Another significant part of Shankar Raman's work are his writings on ecology, natural history, and conservation for a wider readership in blogs and in other media. As a writer, he tries to grapple with and come to terms with conflicts in the external and the internal world, through his non-fictional, reflective essays on nature and conservation.

## Schedule for MAC3 in 2015

13 January - Interfaith Service, Opening of Registrations and Welcome

14 January - Opening of Conference and Keynote Address by Minister Maneka Gandhi, Protecting the Animals Seminar Series, and Opening of Arts Festival

15 and 16 January - Conference continues

17 and 18 January - a weekend of special events, including a Critical Animal Studies Satellite Event

19 January - Conference continues

20 January - Conference concludes

## Our Themes

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

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 unforgivable 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, you can be assured that you may 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.

## 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.

## 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 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:

- **17 to 20 July, 2014: Sheffield, England - *Reading Animals: an International English Studies Conference***
- **20 August, 2014: Trondheim, Norway - *Norwegian Animal Ethics Conference***
- **2 to 3 September, 2014: Cape Town, South Africa - *Animal Absence/Animal Presence***
- **20 to 21 September: Nuremberg, Germany -**
- **25 to 27 September, 2014: Bonn, Germany - *Human-Animal Relationships in Religious Traditions***
- **15 to 17 November, 2014: Sacramento, USA - *All Things Great and Small: Interdisciplinary Interspecies Community***
- **4 to 5 December, 2014: Edinburgh, Scotland - *Between Apes and Angels: Human and Animal in the Early Modern World***

### **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: 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 encourage comparative reflection on representations of animals and interspecies encounters in terms of both literary-historical period and overarching interpretive themes. Keynotes 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.

### **20 August, 2014: Trondheim, Norway**

#### ***Norwegian Animal Ethics Conference 2014***

Hosts: Minding Animals Norway, the Norwegian Council for Animal Ethics, Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM, University of Oslo) and Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)

Venue: Trondheim Spektrum

Theme: Fiskelykke [Luck in Fishing / Fish Happiness]

Websites: <http://mindinganimals.no> and <http://dyreetikkonferansen.no>

Further information regarding this conference is available on the websites, or by contacting Morten Tønnessen at: [mortentoennessen@gmail.com](mailto:mortentoennessen@gmail.com)

## **2-3 September, 2014: Cape Town, South Africa**

### ***Animal Absence/Animal Presence***

Hosts: University of the Western Cape and Minding Animals Southern Africa

The Fourth UWC Minding Animals International affiliated Colloquium invites abstracts in relation to animal absence/ animal presence.

Due date for abstracts: 14 July - should you require acceptance of your paper before this date for funding purposes, please submit abstract earlier

Respond to: [wendywoodward97@gmail.com](mailto:wendywoodward97@gmail.com)

Wild' animals' lives are increasingly threatened by poaching and the diminishing of their habitats. Animals commodified and farmed for human consumption are kept out of sight. Yet representations of 'real' and symbolic animals proliferate in the media, in literature, in art, in ethical debates and in the transdisciplinary Animal Studies.

## **20-21 September, 2014: Bonn, Germany**

### ***Minding Animals Germany Seminar***

Host Institution: Minding Animals Germany

Venue: Nuremberg Academy of Music, Germany

Language: German

There will be lectures from 15 distinguished academics and activists from across the German-speaking community

Contact Details: Jessica Ullrich, [jesmarullrich@t-online.de](mailto:jesmarullrich@t-online.de)

## **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

## **15-17 November, 2014: Sacramento, USA**

### ***All Things Great and Small: Interdisciplinary Interspecies Community***

Host: Nonhumans UC Davis Interdisciplinary Animal Studies Research Group

Keynote speakers: Frans de Waal

Venue: UC Davis campus, Sacramento

Inquiries: Ted Geier at: [tegeier@ucdavis.edu](mailto:tegeier@ucdavis.edu)

Website: <http://nonhumans.org/november-2014-conference/>

An innovative interdisciplinary conference of animal science and medicine, contemporary humanistic approaches, and other fields engaging the key problems and prospects of interspecies community, traditional Animal Studies, and current directions in order to challenge and provoke new work.

Exciting new directions in Animal Studies are producing some of the most compelling contemporary scholarship across the entire academy. The UC Davis Interdisciplinary Animal Studies Research Group will host a three day conference Saturday, November 15th through Monday, November 17th, to explore work from the sciences and humanities through the conference theme of interspecies community. This innovative interdisciplinary conference will bridge new and established work in cognition and emotional experience, veterinary medicine, ethics and law, agriculture and food studies, and historical human-nonhuman bonds with historical trends and current directions in indigenous and postcolonial studies, post- and nonhuman theory, environmental studies, intersections with critical race studies, literature, and religious nonhumans to engage the challenges and prospects of new work in a more complete animal studies field.

The conference will also feature plenary speakers working in theoretical, historical, and other animal studies fields, including a Director's Talk and film preview of *Canine Soldiers* with filmmaker Nancy Schiesari, and talks by David L. Clark, Claire Jean Kim, Tom van Dooren, and more.

The conference will feature interdisciplinary roundtables and special guided excursions to area animal rehabilitation centres, including the P.A.W.S. Elephant sanctuary and the UC Davis Raptor Centre, as well as animal use facilities such as the UC Davis Meat Lab. Conference participants will be able to register separately for these events. As of current plans, conference registration fees may be \$40 for faculty, \$30 for community, and \$20 for graduate student attendees, but organisers are striving to secure full institutional support in order to make the event free and open to the public. Registration includes complimentary coffee and other beverage service throughout the conference, light fare, and a conference luncheon. More information on the group, local lodging, travel, dining, special sessions and excursions, and graduate student scholarships will be available on the Interdisciplinary Animal Studies Group website in the near future.

## **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, with others including Ingrid Tague, Juliana Schiesari, Karen Edwards, Peter Edwards, Richard Almond & Susan Wiseman

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

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>

## Report from seminar on animal welfare in poultry production in Norway's parliament

Minding Animals Norway was incorporated in 2011 and was in 2012 one of the founders of the annual conference series *the Norwegian Animal Ethics Conference* (Dyreetikkonferansen). On April 7<sup>th</sup> 2014 we reached another milestone, as we co-organised a seminar on animal welfare in poultry production with the Norwegian Green Party, in the Norwegian Parliament.

We got the idea of arranging a seminar in Parliament a year ago or so. Our chances for making it happen improved as one Minding Animal Norway board member (Une Aina Bastholm) was elected deputy MP for the Green Party in September last year (elected for the period 2013–2017), and now has the Norwegian parliament as workplace. The topic of the seminar – how to achieve better animal welfare in poultry production – was chosen in dialogue with Rasmus Hansson, the Green Party's first MP in Norway. He also participated in a panel discussion at last year's Norwegian Animal Ethics Conference.

In Norway, poultry production has increased significantly the last 10–20 years, as “white meat” has become increasingly popular. At the same time, a couple of thousand small and mid-size farms are shut down each year, as animal husbandry is being industrialised and remaining farmers are becoming ever-more productive. Chicken farmers hold up to 20.000 chickens in one-hall barns, and almost all production is based on the hybrid Ross 308. Individuals of this hybrid “broiler” race live for less than a month before they are “harvested”, and can hardly be said to live natural lives. Though various improvements are possible, including access to daylight (which only a few have today) and environmental stimuli, it is doubtful whether sustainable production with decent animal welfare is possible as long as Ross 308 is being used.

Participating at the seminar was by invitation only. We wanted to keep the seminar policy oriented and create good conditions for strategic and political discussions among important stakeholders. Altogether some 30 persons participated, representing around 12 NGOs (including animal rights/protection NGOs), research institutes and industry bodies, as well as public administration and two MPs (Rasmus Hansson and Karin Andersen of SV, the Socialist Left party). The programme included presentations by representatives of *Norwegian Food Safety Authority* (Mattilsynet), *The Council for Animal Ethics* (Rådet for dyreetikk), *Norwegian Veterinary Institute* (Veterinærinstituttet) and the poultry industry itself. Also, a farmer (running *Holte gård*) presented his experiences after investing in animal welfare. Following the presentations, we opened the floor to a debate on the main topic, namely: which conditions, and what sort of changes, are important to achieve better conditions for chickens in the poultry industry?

This was the second seminar on animal welfare ever to be held in the Norwegian parliament (the first being organised in 2013). To many of the participants, it was the first time they met, and at least their first experience of actually listening to each other's arguments as equals. Although there were no clear-cut conclusions from the seminar, we believe this was an important first step towards defining some main problems, increase understanding and interest in poultry welfare, and not least: towards putting poultry welfare on the actual, political agenda as any other, common political issue.

Following the seminar, one of us (Morten) appeared on national radio (P2, the program “Verdibørsen”) talking about the welfare and living conditions of chickens in poultry production (podcast is available – the interview appears in the last 5 minutes).

*Morten Tønnessen, Chair of Minding Animals Norway*

*Une Aina Bastholm, Board Member of Minding Animals Norway*