



## Welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the Minding Animals Bulletin

Welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the Minding Animals Bulletin. In this bulletin you will find information on the third Minding Animals Conference in New Delhi and Partner Events.

Are you going to the third Minding Animals Conference in New Delhi and would like to chair a session? If so, please let us know at the following email address by 14 November:  
[mindinganimals@gmail.com](mailto:mindinganimals@gmail.com)

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# Important Visa Information for Minding Animals Conference Participants - *Please Read Carefully*

Due to security issues, all conferences that are held in India need to be granted approval by the Indian Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs. Approval was granted.

Please note that the majority of delegates that are NOT from India, must submit an online Visa application. **Please apply for your visa by 1 December as the rules are being tightened.**

People from most countries need to apply for a Visa – please contact your travel agent or Indian High Commission or Embassy to clarify if you are exempt. Visa restrictions for some countries can be quite complex, particularly for nationals from Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and China.

In submitting your application form, you must send all the relevant information requested on the online Visa Application Form, including your Passport and photograph (note that this is NOT a standard Passport sized passport photo). Your travel agent can help you with all this. You MUST supply four letters with your application, namely:

1. A copy of the letter from the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs
2. A copy of the letter from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs
3. A copy of the letter from the Indian Ministry of the Environment, Forests and Climate Change
4. A copy of an Invitation letter from the conference organisers. This letter was sent to all successful abstract authors, and will be sent to all delegates after they register, including abstract co-authors.

NB. We stress that the earlier you register, the less likely you will have any hold-ups.

In answer to some of the questions which we have received about the advanced timing of the close of abstracts, it is for this very reason that abstracts were needed to close so early.

## Additional Speaker

### Dinner Speakers

Minding Animals International is proud to announce the following Dinner Speakers:



**Dashor Paljor Dorji**, known as Benji, is the cousin of Bhutan's King. He is the Minister for Environment in the Kingdom and is a respected environmental and animal activist. He has served the government of Bhutan since 1966. He was appointed Chief Justice of Bhutan in 1985 to 1987, and then Deputy Minister of

the Ministry of Social Services. In 1991, he was sent to Geneva as Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva and also was accredited to Austria, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, EU (Brussels) IFAD (Rome) and FAO (Rome). From 1994 to 1998 Benji served as Deputy Minister of the National Environment Commission and currently he is a special advisor to the National Environment Commission. Benji has been a long-time advisor to the Bhutan Foundation in particular on Bhutan's environment and conservation programs. He is the Founder of the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature in Bhutan (RSPN), Bhutan's First Environmental NGO and the Founder President of the Bhutan Ornithological Society as well as the Bhutan Ecological Society June 2010 (BEST).



**Anthony 'Ace' Bourke** was born in Sydney in 1946. Ace is one of Australia's leading art curators; a pioneer in the field of Aboriginal art and a colonial art specialist. After school and university in Australia he travelled to London where he and a friend John Rendall purchased a lion they named Christian, and returned to the wild in Africa. He lives in Sydney with his two cats. A Lion Called Christian will be screened just prior to Ace's dinner speech.

## Invited Speakers

The following Invited Speakers have now accepted a speaking role at MAC3:

- **Raman Sukumar**
- **Dale Jamieson**
- **Tara Gandhi**
- **Kim Stallwood**
- **Jayantha Jayewardene**
- **Donald Broom**
- **Parveen Goel**
- **Princess Augusta von Bayern of Munich**
- **Anindya Sinha**
- **MK Ranjitsinh**
- **Nuggehalli Jasyasimha**
- **Vinay Srivastava**
- **Gajender Sharma**
- **Olutaya Charles Adesina**
- **Sunanda Madhumbhandara**
- **Natalie Warren**
- **Cindy Milburn**

## Minding Animals 4: Call for Expressions of Interest

This is the second call for expressions of interest to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Minding Animals Conference in 2018. Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are invited from academic institutions and or larger animal protection organisations (including collaborations) that can organise and host a large conference of potentially over 500 participants. We are especially interested in receiving EOIs from the USA, Canada or Mexico. If you are interested, you are initially asked to log on to the following web link: <http://mindinganimals.com/about/objectives/> The link details the objectives of Minding Animals International Incorporated and some detail on what is expected of a Minding Animals Conference host. If you are interested in sending an EOI, please send an email to: [mindinganimals@gmail.com](mailto:mindinganimals@gmail.com)

## Minding Animals (MAI) Board Matters

Nominations have been received for a Minding Animals Editor and will be considered at the next Board meeting to be held in New Delhi on 17 January. Matters for discussion at the Board include establishing the Bulletin as a more formal and regular newsletter, as well as establishing an academic journal that is dedicated to discourse on all matters relevant to the concept of *Minding Animals*.

Further nominations are most welcome. Please send nominations to [mindinganimals@gmail.com](mailto:mindinganimals@gmail.com)

## 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:

- **16 to 17 November, 2014: Los Angeles, USA - *Third Annual 'Animals and Society Lecture Series – Wild and Endangered***
- **15 to 17 November, 2014: Sacramento, USA - *All Things Great and Small: Interdisciplinary Interspecies Community***
- **4 to 6 December, 2014: Edinburgh, UK - *Between Apes and Angels: Human and Animal in the Early Modern World***

### **16-17 November, 2014: Los Angeles, USA**

#### ***Third Annual 'Animals and Society Lecture Series – Wild and Endangered***

The 3rd Annual 'Animals & Society' Lecture Series, which is themed this year 'Wild & Endangered', is being held - for the first time - in two locations, both at the National Museum of Animals and Society and the University of Redlands. The first lectures entitled *Dolphin Confidential: Confessions of a Field Biologist*, were held on 21 and 22 September. The following lectures follow:

*The Case Against Keeping Elephants in Captivity* with Catherine Doyle

Sunday, October 19, Museum, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Museum / Los Angeles)

Monday, October 20 Orton Center, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (University of Redlands)

*The Natural Healers: Why Wild Horses Belong* with Craig Downer

Sunday, November 16 Museum, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Museum / Los Angeles)

Monday, November 17 Orton Center, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (University of Redlands)

Full details available at: <http://www.museumofanimals.org/#/lectures-2014/4550748>

## **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)

Further details, see website: <http://nonhumans.org/november-2014-conference/>

## **4-6 December, 2014: Edinburgh, UK**

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

Host Institution and Venue: University of Edinburgh

The conference is supported by the Wellcome Trust, the Society for Renaissance Studies and the University of Edinburgh, and in partnership with Minding Animals International.

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: Sarah Cockram, Stephen Bowd and Andrew Wells and at [s.cockram@ed.ac.uk](mailto:s.cockram@ed.ac.uk)

Further details, see website: <http://www.apesandangels.ed.ac.uk>

Study of the history of human-animal relations in the Renaissance and early modern world has expanded enormously in recent years, and with it has come a focus on questions concerning humanity, animality, society, culture, and nature. This two-and-a-half-day international conference brings together some of the biggest names in historical animal studies and scholars from all career stages.

The conference will examine human-animal relations of all kinds, and creatures as diverse as insects, horses, mules, dogs, cats, cattle, sheep, birds, lions, rats, apes and – of course – humans.

Themes of the conference include: philosophy, religion, and intellectual history; human-animal boundaries; attitudes and feelings towards animals; bodies, human and animal; animals and people of the New and Old Worlds; performance and display. The conference also addresses how we attempt to 'do' the history of human-animal relations today, asking: Why study human-animal relations? What specific social/cultural/political/intellectual consequences are there to this branch of intellectual inquiry? What are our methodologies? What problems do we encounter? How can/do we overcome them? What can we learn from other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, and from the natural sciences and beyond? What insights can research into human-animal relations in the past offer into man's interaction with the natural world today?

## Announcements

It has been the practice of the MAI Board to limit announcements in the Bulletin due to issues of spamming and cross-networking. Limited numbers of announcements will now be added to the end of each Bulletin. If you would like to have a small advertisement placed, please send your advertisement (MS Word format) to [mindinganimals@gmail.com](mailto:mindinganimals@gmail.com)

### POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN ANIMAL STUDIES

The Department of Philosophy at Queen's University invites applications for a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Animal Studies. This is a one-year non-renewable 12-month fellowship. The successful applicant will have a demonstrated expertise in animal ethics, law and public policy, show evidence of teaching potential, and be able to participate constructively in departmental and collegial activities. While we interpret animal ethics, law and public policy broadly, and welcome applications from various disciplines that study human-animal relations including political science, law, philosophy, sociology, geography, and environmental studies, we are looking in particular for research that critically examines the moral, legal and political dimensions of how human-animal relations are governed. A recipient of the Fellowship is expected to reside in Kingston, to teach a University course in animal studies, and to help organize a workshop or conference in the field. The Fellow will work under the supervision of Prof Will Kymlicka.

The 2015-16 fellowship will start on July 1, 2015. Applicants must have submitted their doctoral dissertation by that date, and must be within five years of having received their doctorate. The salary for the postdoctoral fellowship will be \$40,000, which includes remuneration for teaching a half-course in animal ethics or a cognate subject. Applications are due by January 15th, 2015. The fellowship is one of several new initiatives regarding Animals in Philosophy, Politics, Law and Ethics at Queen's. For more information, visit <http://www.queensu.ca/philosophy/jobs.html> or contact Prof Kymlicka at [kymlicka@queensu.ca](mailto:kymlicka@queensu.ca)

### ANIMALS AND MEDIA WEBSITE

Media scholars Debra Merskin and Carrie Freeman are proud to announce the new website: <http://www.animalsandmedia.org/>

The website serves as a styleguide for media makers (in journalism, public relations, advertising, and entertainment) to produce responsible and respectful media representations of animals and animal protection issues. Please share this website with your members and networks and invite them to Like the corresponding facebook page for the site (<https://www.facebook.com/animalsandmedia>) that provides examples of putting the guidelines into action.

Debra and Carrie created these style guidelines for media practitioners in the professions of journalism, entertainment media, advertising, and public relations to offer concrete guidance for how to cover and represent nonhuman animals in a fair, honest, and respectful manner in accordance with professional ethical principles. Given the scope of industrialized animal oppression and environmental crisis globally, we believe fellow animals, as sentient living beings, warrant not only increased attention in media and popular culture, but coverage that encourages human society to transform our relationships with various animal species in ways that foster less domination and exploitation and more respect, care, and ecological responsibility. The lives and habitats of the world's animals are largely dependent on the cultural values and worldviews promoted in the media, such as encouraging humans to identify as animals ourselves.

Contacts:

Debra Merskin at: [dmerskin@uoregon.edu](mailto:dmerskin@uoregon.edu)

Carrie Freeman at: [cpfreeman@gsu.edu](mailto:cpfreeman@gsu.edu)

# Travel Advice to India

## 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, 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.

## Luggage

Most overseas visitors require a visa to enter the country, some with particular restrictions, such as from Iran, Pakistan, China 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.

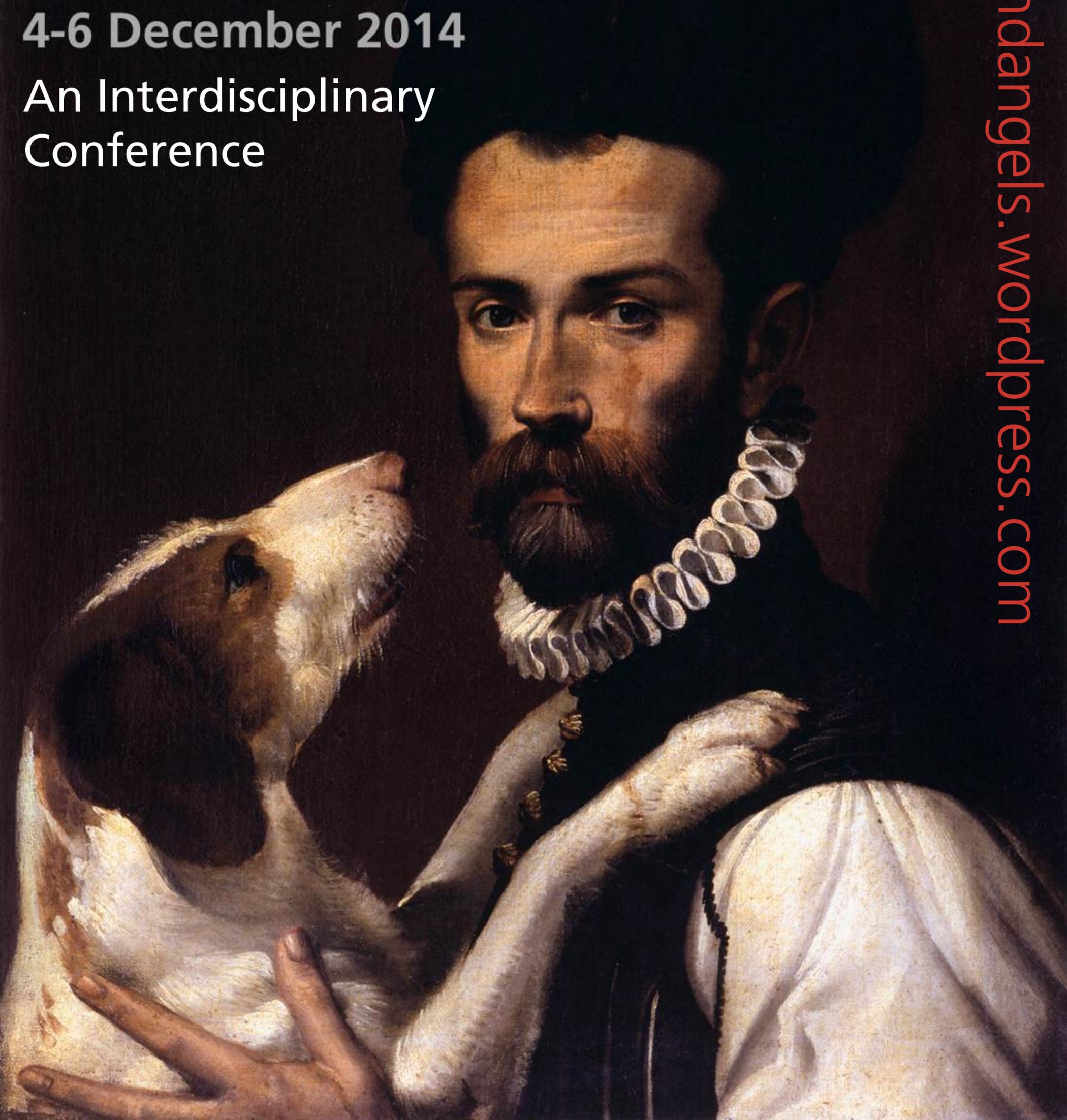
# Between Apes and Angels: Human and Animal in the Early Modern World

University of Edinburgh

4-6 December 2014

An Interdisciplinary Conference

apesandangels.wordpress.com



Supported by

**welcometrust**



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



*Society for Renaissance Studies*



**Minding Animals**

Scan the QR Code to visit the conference website and register

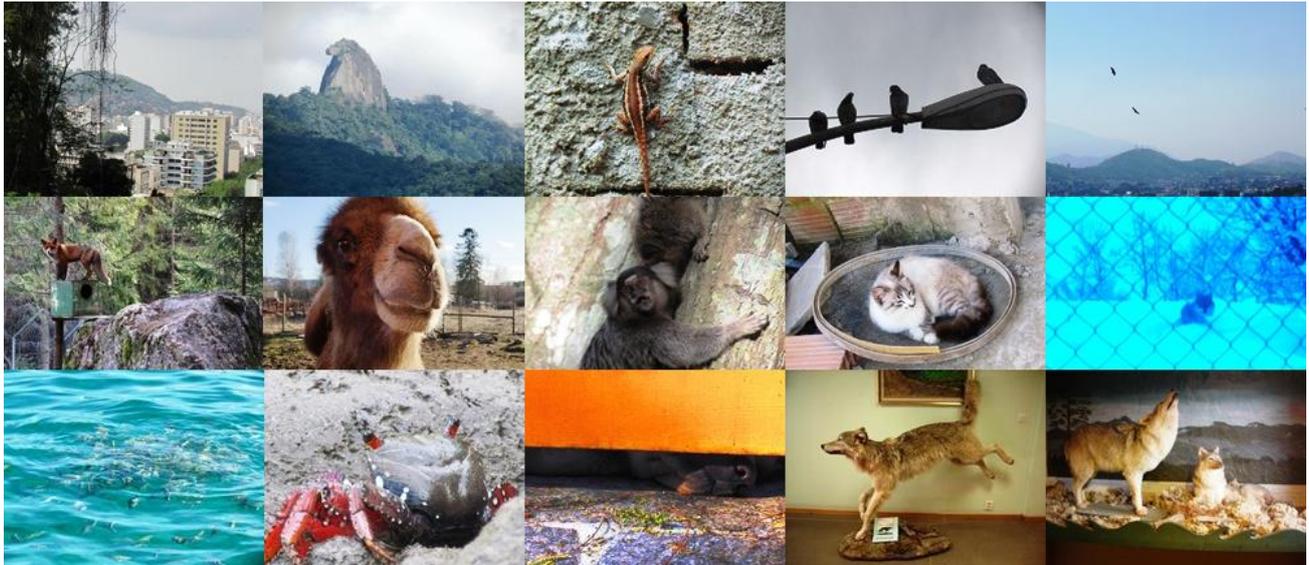


FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

# Animals in the Anthropocene

Human–animal relations in a changing semiosphere

Stavanger, Norway, 17–19 September 2015



**Organised by** the Norwegian research group of the Norwegian-Estonian research project “Animals in Changing Environments: Cultural Mediation and Semiotic Analysis” (EEA Norway Grants/Norway Financial Mechanism 2009–2014 under project contract no. EMP151). The research project is carried out in cooperation between [University of Stavanger](#) (Norway) and [University of Tartu](#) (Estonia).

**Co-organised by** [Minding Animals Norway](#).

**Venue:** Kjell Arholms hus, [University of Stavanger](#) (Ullandhaug campus)

**Confirmed keynote speakers** (more to be announced):

Almo Farina (Italy)

Gisela Kaplan (Australia)

Dominique Lestel (France)

Loise Westling (USA)

## Theme

Environmental change occurs at various levels, from the global to the local. As the environment undergoes change, the living conditions of animals change, and people’s perception of animals change. The dynamics of these processes are

complex – in some cases, environmental change directly influences human–animal relations, in others human cultural mediation of animals contributes to environmental change.

Most but not all of current environmental change is anthropogenic. The term *the Anthropocene* (the era of humankind) is increasingly acknowledged as suitable for our current geological epoch. Some think that the beginning of the Anthropocene coincided with the industrial revolution or the massive ecological changes that have followed it. Others argue that humankind's global impact, and thus eventually the Anthropocene era, started shortly after the advent of agriculture.

At any rate adaptation to environmental change is in our time an important factor in the lives of most animal species, whether they are domesticated or captive, or wild. By establishing a global *colonial organism* of sorts, humankind has in effect installed an ecological empire, hierarchically organised with *Homo sapiens* on top and with crop species, pets and livestock in privileged positions. Thereby we have further provided global *breeding grounds* for other species that might not otherwise have been able to spread at a global scale – from rats and doves to bugs and microbes of various sorts.

Studying the nature of the relations between animals, environmental change, and human cultural mediation has pivotal importance for understanding ecological and ethical conflicts involving animals. Such studies furthermore have the potential of helping to induce better practices of species protection and wildlife management, husbandry practices, and environmental communication. A useful tool for these studies is semiotics, including semiotics of nature, where Juri Lotman's notion of the 'semiosphere', originally meant for cultural semiotics, has been expanded to denote the space, or sphere, of signs in a biosemiotic sense. All animals relate to signs and make use of signs – they live in worlds of signs (i.e., *Umwelten*, in Jakob von Uexküll's terminology), and their perception and action is always mediated by signs. The global semiosphere therefore coincides with the biosphere.

We welcome submissions with paleontological, archaeological, historical, contemporary and future-oriented perspectives. Submissions may present local or global case studies, or consist of theoretical/methodological contributions. Relevant fields of study include in particular:

- human-animal studies/anthrozoology, critical animal studies
- semiotics of nature (biosemiotics, ecosemiotics, zoosemiotics), cognitive semiotics
- environmental humanities, ecocriticism, ecolinguistics, posthumanism
- paleontology, archaeology, environmental history

The following fields of study are also potentially relevant:

- anthropology, environmental sociology, green criminology, political science, ecological economics
- biology (ethology, comparative psychology, conservation biology, ecology, veterinary medicine)
- geology, earth science, climate research
- philosophy (philosophy of biology, philosophical anthropology, eco-phenomenology, animal ethics, environmental ethics)

### **Session proposals**

Theme session proposals should introduce the proposed theme and explain its relevance to the overall conference theme. Length: 400-600 words. Please include your full name and affiliation, and full name and affiliation of co-chairs, if any.

Theme session proposals may or may not include a list of pre-arranged abstracts (oral presentations). However, all abstracts must be submitted by the prospective presenters themselves.

Deadline for submission of theme session proposals: *December 15<sup>th</sup> 2014*.

Notification of acceptance of theme session proposals will be given by *January 15<sup>th</sup> 2015*.

Please submit your theme session proposal to [anthropoceneanimals@uis.no](mailto:anthropoceneanimals@uis.no).

### Abstracts

Abstracts (oral presentations) should describe a relevant topic, how the prospective presenter(s) approaches it, and results/conclusions. Length: 200-400 words. Abstracts may be submitted at any time from the first call for papers appears and until the deadline. Please include your full name(s) and affiliation(s).

Deadline for submission of abstracts (oral presentations): *March 1<sup>st</sup> 2015*.

Notification of acceptance of abstracts (oral presentations) will be given by *April 30<sup>th</sup> 2015*.

Please submit your abstract to [anthropoceneanimals@uis.no](mailto:anthropoceneanimals@uis.no).

### Second call for papers

A second call for papers, including a list of accepted theme sessions, will be distributed in January 2015.

### Registration

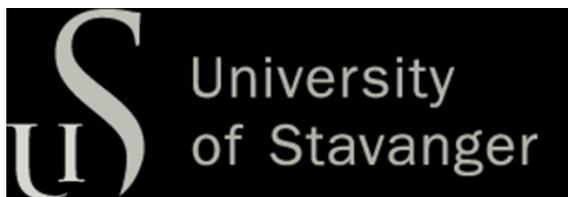
Registration for the conference will open in May 2015. The conference registration fee will cover lunch (vegetarian) and coffee breaks for three days, and a program booklet. Registration for conference dinner and a guided tour is optional.

More information on the [conference website](#).

See also the [homepage of the Norwegian research group](#) and the [homepage of our Estonian partner](#).

**Local Organising Committee:** Morten Tønnessen (Chair), Laura Kiiroja (Communication officer), Kristin Armstrong Oma, Paul Thibault.

**Scientific Advisory Committee:** Frode Bakke Bjerkevik, Laura Kiiroja, Timo Maran, Nelly Mäekivi, Kristin Armstrong Oma, Silver Rattasepp, Paul Thibault, Kadri Tüür, Morten Tønnessen.



Minding Animals Norge