



Welcome to the 27th edition of the Minding Animals Bulletin

Welcome to the 27th 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.

The third Minding Animals Conference is just over one month away. Please register now so as not to miss this once in a life time event at mindinganimalsconf3.in

Note that the next Minding Animals Bulletin will not appear until February, 2015, after the upcoming conference in India. In that edition we will feature new Partner events and some of the highlights of the New Delhi conference.

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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.

Final MAC3 Speaker List

Keynote Speaker

Maneka Gandhi

Plenary Speakers

Lori Gruen (Marti Kheel Memorial Lecture)
Lisa Kemmerer
Erica Fudge
Will Kymlicka
Jill Robinson
Clive Phillips
Dietmar Todt
Mahesh Rangarajan
Vivek Menon

Dinner Speakers

Dashor Paljor Dorji
Anthony 'Ace' Bourke

Invited Speakers

Dale Jamieson
Donald Broom
Raman Sukumar
Tara Gandhi
Kim Stallwood
Jayantha Jayewardene
Parveen Goel
Lisa Kemmerer
Princess Auguste Marie Philippa von Bayern of Munich
Anindya Sinha
MK Ranjitsinh
Nuggehalli Jasyasimha
Cindy Milburn
Vinay Srivastava
Gajender Sharma
Sunanda Madhumbhandara
Heather Bacon

Minding Animals 4: Call for Expressions of Interest

This is the second call for expressions of interest to host the 4th 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

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. In this Bulletin, you will find details on the following events:

- **June, 2015: Erlangen, Germany - *Animal Agency***
- **17 to 19 September, 2015: Stavanger, Norway - *Animals in the Anthropocene: Human–animal relations in a changing semiosphere***

June, 2015: Erlangen, Germany

Animal Agency

This proposed event will be a two day conference accompanying an exhibition on animals in art and will be dedicated to animals as authors/actors in art, literature, film and music.

The main organiser is the exhibition hall called Kunstpalais, with partners the University of Erlangen and University of Music in Nuremberg.

17 to 19 September, 2015: Stavanger, Norway

Animals in the Anthropocene: Human–animal relations in a changing semiosphere

This event is being organised by the Norwegian research group of the Norwegian–Estonian research project ‘Animals in Changing Environments: Cultural Mediation and Semiotic Analysis’. The research project is carried out in cooperation between University of Stavanger (Norway) and University of Tartu (Estonia).

The event is co-organised by Minding Animals Norge.

Venue: Kjell Arholms hus, University of Stavanger (Ullandhaug campus)

Confirmed keynote speakers are Almo Farina (Italy), Gisela Kaplan (Australia), Dominique Lestel (France) and 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 on 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 have, furthermore, 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 (that is 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.

Submissions are welcomed with paleontological, archaeological, historical, contemporary and future oriented perspectives. Submissions may present local or global case studies, or consist of theoretical/methodological contributions.

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 are to be sent by 15 December, 2014 to: anthropoceneanimals@uis.no

Notification of acceptance of theme session proposals will be given by 15 January, 2015.

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): 1 March, 2015.

Notification of acceptance of abstracts (oral presentations) will be given by 30 April, 2015.

Please submit your abstract to anthropoceneanimals@uis.no.

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.

Information:

More information on the conference website or on the attached flyer at the end of this Bulletin.



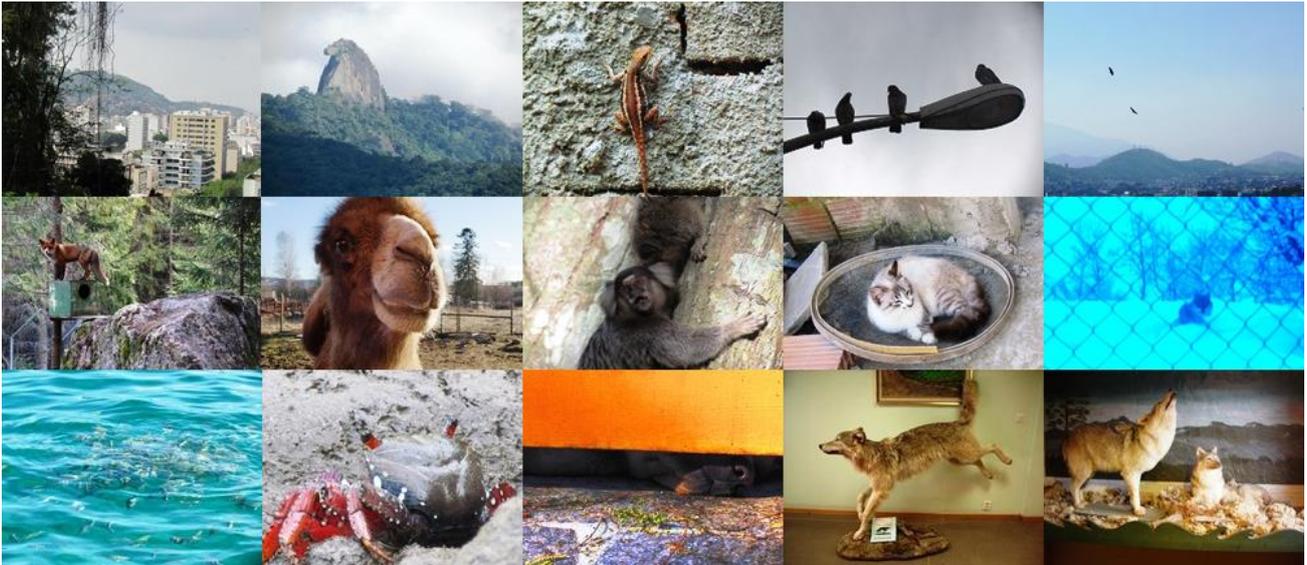
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FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

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 15th 2014*.

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

Please submit your theme session proposal to 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 1st 2015*.

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

Please submit your abstract to 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