



Minding Animals[®]

Welcome to Minding Animals Bulletin 28

In this bulletin you will find information on new Partner events, news from the Minding Animals Board and some of the highlights of the New Delhi conference.

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Minding Animals 4: Final Call for Expressions of Interest

This is the third and last 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 have received nominations from a number of institutions which are being considered, but are still interested in receiving further EOIs, especially 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

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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:

- **9 to 10 April, 2015: Birmingham, England - *Ethics and/or Politics: Approaching the Issues Concerning Nonhuman Animals***
- **12 to 13 June, 2015: Erlangen, Germany - *Animal Agency***
- **17 to 19 September, 2015: Stavanger, Norway - *Animals in the Anthropocene: Human–animal relations in a changing semiosphere***
- **7 to 8 October, 2015: Lisbon, Portugal - *Human and Nonhuman Animals: Liberation, History and Critical Animal Studies – Fourth European Conference of Critical Animal Studies***

9 to 10 April, 2015: Birmingham, England

Ethics and/or Politics: Approaching the Issues Concerning Nonhuman Animals

The conference is held in association with, and supported by: the *Society for Applied Philosophy*, the *Mind Association*, the *Aristotelian Society*, *Minding Animals International* and the *University of Birmingham College of Arts and Law*.

Guest speakers include:

- Gary Steiner (Bucknell University)
- Elisa Aaltola (University of Turku/University of Eastern Finland)
- Robert Garner (University of Leicester)
- Tony Milligan (University of Hertfordshire)
- Alasdair Cochrane (University of Sheffield)
- Tatjana Visak (Saarland University)
- Oscar Horta (University of Santiago de Compostela)
- Steve Cooke (University of Sheffield)
- Kay Peggs (University of Portsmouth)

The recent turn in nonhuman ethics - from ethics to political theory - has raised many questions of how is best to approach theorising about, and the most effective and convincing practical solutions regarding, nonhuman animals. At the same time individual issues in nonhuman ethics continue to be debated and increase in both social and political importance; yet the connection between the recent turn and these issues, and what the effects may be, remains untapped.

This conference shall consider this current political question in how nonhuman ethics ought to proceed and ask how this relates to practical issues within the area, and the effect it will have on society.

The conference will address (but is not limited to) issues such as:

1. 'How we ought to intervene for nonhumans (peacefully, not at all, violently, and so on)' and whether the introduction of political/legal/ethical questions affects our conclusions on these matters.

2. 'Whether concepts of personhood are adequate in nonhuman ethics when politics/law is introduced (for example, companies and items can be legal persons, what effect does/should this have if we open the field)'.
3. Which approach ought we to take towards 'animal ethics' and its issues; ethics, politics, or both? Would the introduction of political and legal approaches affect our conclusions on the issues? (for example, such as on 'personhood'). If there are effects what would this mean for issues relating to humans (such as poverty, hunger, activism, and civil disobedience).
4. Other issues that relate to the theme (such as what the impact of this move/these questions could have on areas that concern humans; for example, civil intervention, protest aims, hunger, and so on).
5. Different approaches towards traditional problems (for example, factory farming, experimentation, and so on) and newer debates (for example, in-vitro meat, debates on what to do about (and our relations with) wild and 'liminal' nonhumans, and questions about 'living space' (both within and without human habitation))
6. What the human relation with nonhumans is or should be, what this means for the human, what approach (ethics/politics, et al) would be more adequate for this, and what this means for 'animal ethics' and its issues (for example, human relation to the biosphere and its implications).

The aim of the conference is to bring the 'political turn' question into relation with the issues, not just the general theory, and to apply them to actual, practical concerns that can be put forward for a real-world impact. The purpose of this is three-fold: (1) this link has yet to be explored, (2) such questions raise new and interesting avenues in the debates that will have a practical impact on the discipline and, hopefully, social aims, and (3) nonhuman issues, in current academia (at least in the UK) is often swept aside under current 'practical/economic concerns' - this conference aims to show that nonhuman ethics (and each discipline involved) has practical impact, interdisciplinary reach, and real-world relevance.

By drawing on interdisciplinary views the conference aims to move theorising within the area forward while also providing insight into the most effective approach for both practical and theoretical issues, as well as providing further thought for research.

As the conference will be interdisciplinary, we especially welcome abstracts from philosophy, political sciences, law, and sociology.

As well as the above, some topics might include (though any other topic is welcomed):

- Humans *as* Animals
- The Importance speciesism/human chauvinism (and so on) takes on with this change
- Rights
- Justice
- Activism

The conference is free and open to all, including postgrads – though registration via email confirming intent to attend will be required. Registration emails should be sent to: savingnonhumansbham2015@gmail.com

All information is (and all updates will be) available on the conference website at: <http://savingnonhumansbham2015.github.io/>

For any information, please contact: Andrew Woodhall or Gabriel Garmendia da Trindade at any of the following email addresses:

savingnonhumansbham2015@gmail.com

acw269@bham.ac.uk

gxc322@bham.ac.uk

12 to 13 June, 2015: Erlangen, Germany

Animal Agency

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

The event is organised by the Kunstpalais in Erlangen in cooperation with Dr Jessica Ullrich, lecturer Human Animal Studies at the Philosophical Faculty of Friedrich Alexander University, Erlangen Nuremberg, and the Nuremberg University of Music.

Confirmed speakers: Professor Roland Borgards, Dr Karsten Brensing, Dr Arianna Ferrari, Professor Sabine Nessel, Professor Mieke Roscher, Dr Aline Steinbrecher, Professor Martin Ullrich, and Professor Markus Wild

Venue: Kunstpalais, Bürgersaal, Marktplatz 1, 91054 Erlangen, Germany

Conference language will be German.

From 17 April to 21 June, 2015, the Kunstpalais in Erlangen presents the international group exhibition #catcontent. Based on central art works from the Municipal Collection Erlangen the exhibition deals with the varied forms of animal images: from the depiction of the animal as metaphor and symbol up to the newer perspectives on the dealings with digital pictorial worlds and the question of animal agency. Thereby, different perspectives on the complex animal human relationship are being integrated. Among others, the following artists taking part in the exhibition are Joseph Beuys, Björn Braun, Annika Eriksson, Eckart Hahn, Eva Kot'átková, Mathilde Rosier, Dieter Roth and Wolf Vostell.

The conference #catcontent is part of the extensive program accompanying the exhibition. The aim is to especially examine the topic of animal agency in a socio political context. Traditional agency theories are often based on the assumption of rational human acting; only in latter contributions the translation of agency across creature borders has been discussed. However, a comprehensive interdisciplinary reflection of animal agency remains to be done in the German speaking world. The conference #catcontent is supposed to initiate a deepened discussion about animal agency and the relationship between animal and human being. In order to enable a preferably wide ranging discourse, speakers from different disciplines are invited. In a panel discussion about agency and ethics, the results and approaches of the conference shall be discussed and references elucidated. The contributions will be published as part of the exhibition catalogue.

Contact: Sarah Lampe, Curator of Education.

Phone: +49 (0) 9131 86 2621; Email: sarah.lampe@stadt.erlangen.de; Website: www.kunstpalais.de

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, Gisela Kaplan, Dominique Lestel, David Rothenberg, Bronislaw Szerszynski and Louise Westling.

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): 15 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 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.

Please see updated brochure at the end of this Bulletin.

7 to 8 October, 2015: Lisbon, Portugal

Human and Nonhuman Animals: Liberation, History and Critical Animal Studies – Fourth European Conference of Critical Animal Studies

Hosts: Faculty of Human and Social Sciences/ New University of Lisbon (Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas - Universidade Nova de Lisboa), Portugal, and ICAS-EU

Where and When: 7 and 8 October, 2015, in Lisbon, at the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences/New University of Lisbon (Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas - Universidade Nova de Lisboa), Portugal

Keynote speakers: Erika Cudworth (University of East London), Rhoda Wilkie (University of Aberdeen) and Richard Twine (Edge Hill University)

Conference contacts: rduarte@fcs.unl.pt or W.J.Boisseau@lboro.ac.uk

Until recently animals have been practically invisible in the social and human sciences. However, animals have evoked a growing interest to the point that today it is almost impossible to ignore their presence in many disciplinary fields. The rise in such scholarship over the last two decades has made it possible to talk about an “animal turn” which has brought about the consolidation of interdisciplinary fields such as “animal studies”, with a production that has been growing in quantity, quality and visibility. Many of these works not only show the difficulty in continuing to look at nonhuman animals in isolation, as objects deprived of autonomy or as strange beings alien to our condition, but also demonstrate that the understanding of human animals themselves – in their cultural and social relations, in their ideas, in their forms of organization and thought – is severely impoverished if we persist in ignoring the relationship to other species and their presence throughout history.

Studying the relationship between human and nonhuman animals has enabled scholars to view, in a new light, many of the underlying logics to the forms of discrimination between humans that prevailed throughout history and persist in the present. Such scholarship has led to an understanding of the establishment and development of certain mechanisms of power and authority; as well as allowing for a reassessment of the great cultural and social transformations seen in the last centuries. The “animal turn” has facilitated a reassessment of our understanding of the role that animals played in processes of social and cultural transformations, either by the way in which they conditioned those processes, or by their direct intervention. Ultimately, these works brought about recognition of animals as social and historic agents, leading us to reevaluate the way in which they have been – and still are – treated, exploited and used by humans.

The Institute for Contemporary History (Instituto de História Contemporânea), New University of Lisbon, will be holding a conference between 6 and 7 of October 2015 to explore the recent developments in studies that reflect the intersection between human and nonhuman animals. The conference has three broad and intersecting themes – liberation, history and critical animal studies – and welcomes proposals dealing with any aspect of these thematic strands. We intend for one of the conductive axis of the works to be history and we aim to adopt the emancipatory approach of scholar activists working in the field of critical animal studies.

The conference aims to critically explore developments in the history of the animal condition, including the agency of nonhuman animals and the relationship between the exploitation of nonhuman animals and the oppression and marginalization of certain humans on the basis of categories such as class, race or gender. We are interested in scrutinizing activist assertions that ‘animal liberation is human liberation’ and examining slogans such as ‘one struggle, one fight: human freedom, animal rights’. We encourage not only papers that continue the analysis and discussion about nonhuman animals in history and about their relationship with humans, but also papers that reflect upon the contributions and impact of “animal studies” for historiography and social theory. Papers that intend to explore or take stock of animal studies, in particular those that emerged in social and human sciences in the last decades, are also welcome.

We welcome proposals from a variety of scholars and disciplines, including radical academics, independent researchers, students and community activists. Papers may focus on any aspect of the three stands, including but not limited to the following themes:

- Anarchism and animal liberation
- Marxism and animals
- Social Justice and animals
- Animals and social theory
- Animals and agency
- Animals and social classes
- Animals and colonialism
- Feminism and animals
- History of animal liberation movements
- History of vegetarianism/ veganism
- Prison industrial complex and animals
- Veganism as a social movement
- The meaning of ‘liberation’

Please note that there will be a 30€ registration fee for the conference. Prospective speakers are invited to submit abstracts of 500 words, and a brief biography including name, affiliation and contact details to: rduarte@fcsh.unl.pt and W.J.Boisseau@lboro.ac.uk

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 18th April 2015; Decisions on abstracts: 4 May, 2015

For more information about the conference, or to submit an abstract, please email the organising committee: rduarte@fcsh.unl.pt or W.J.Boisseau@lboro.ac.uk

See also the event website: <http://animalsconferencelisbon.blogspot.pt/>

MAI Board Meeting matters

A meeting of the Board of Minding Animals International Incorporated (MAI) was held on 17 January, during the Minding Animals Conference held in New Delhi. Naturally, votes of appreciation to the Wildlife Trust of India and JNU were unanimously carried for holding such a momentous conference, as well as to Sarah Griffin and David Wolfson at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP who have recently supported MAI in incorporating and attaining US tax deductible status for MAI.

Significantly, the Convenor of MAC3, Vivek Menon, was made a Patron of Minding Animals. Vivek now joins JM Coetzee, Peter Singer AC and Jill Robinson MBE as a MAI Patron.

Other items of interest also discussed at the meeting included:

- Membership of MAI, including benefits for members
- Establishment of a Minding Animals Journal
- Appointment of Tanja Schwalm from the University of Canterbury in New Zealand and the National Groups Convenor for Asia, the Pacific and the Americas
- Further development of the website and the Minding Animals Bulletin

- Development of a donations scheme [note that as an incorporated body in the US State of Delaware, MAI is exempt under the US Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, and as an official charity, all donations made to MAI Inc. in the USA qualify to receive tax deductibility].

Announcements will be made shortly as to how you may become a supporter ('member') of MAI and how you may be able to provide a US tax deductible donation.

At the Board meeting, a number of Minding Animals National Groups were officially approved, including:

- Minding Animals India
- Minding Animals China
- Minding Animals France
- Minding Animals Mexico
- Minding Animals New Zealand
- Minding Animals USA
- Minding Animals UK

Contact persons and email addresses for these and all other groups will be made available in the next Bulletin.

MAI Summer School postponed

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone the Minding Animals Summer School, due to lack of institutional support from the University of Milan. Alternative arrangements are being discussed by the local organisers.

The Minding Animals Toolkit

At its Delhi meeting in January, the Board of MAI decided to establish the MAI Toolkit, that will also act as a subpage of the MAI webpage. Morten Tønnessen (Chair of Minding Animals Norway and MAI Africa and Europe National Groups Convenor) was charged with the task of acting as the MAI Toolkit Editor, with Rod Bennison (Chair of MAI) and Kim Stallwood (Executive Director of MAI) reviewing content.

The Minding Animals International Toolkit will present information on activities that have been carried out in the name of Minding Animals. The purpose of the MAI Toolkit is to contribute to the spread of ideas about possible activities, and thus to inspire action that promotes the transdisciplinary field of Animal Studies (incorporating Animal Studies, Human Animal Studies, Anthrozoology, Critical Animal Studies, Animality Studies, Animal-Assisted Therapies and Human Wildlife Studies) and builds fruitful relations between academia on one hand and activism, policy makers and society at large on the other hand. The MAI Toolkit will be a resource for MAI members in general and for MA national groups in particular.

In the MAI Toolkit, each activity will be presented first in general terms and then in form of specific examples of activities already conducted (or planned) in the name of Minding Animals.

Examples of activities carried out or planned to date include:

- Conferences (international or in a national language, strictly scientific or popular scientific, one-time event or annual conference, as a MA Pre-conference or Partner Event)
- Distribution of business cards, posters and folders and use of banners and the MA logo
- Distribution of regular newsletter to national members
- Establishment of national and international Minding Animals awards
- Incorporation of national groups as NGOs (incl. national statutes and membership)
- Letters to the editor, chronicles, and so on, in newspapers
- Establishment of a Minding Animals Journal and continuing the MAI Bulletin
- Maintaining a blog and a webpage
- Media appearances in form of interviews (radio, newspapers, magazines)
- Screenings of documentaries and feature films
- Participation in activist campaigns
- Profiles in social media including Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube and Vimeo
- Recruitment of contact persons at universities and animal protection groups
- Sale of relevant books
- Seminars (research seminars and popular scientific seminars)
- Facilitating MA Study Circles and related conference workshops

The MAI Toolkit will also include (links to) information on all three Minding Animals Conferences, Partner Events, recognised national groups, affiliated groups, contact information for key MA persons, MA logo, objectives and policies, and so on.

Please contribute to the Minding Animals Toolkit. Contributions (which should normally be maximum 200 words per entry) should be sent to mortentoenessen@gmail.com, with **subject line: Contribution to MAI Toolkit**. Contributions will be edited, and might be shortened. Contributors will be acknowledged by name and role in MA (please include information about this). You may attach photos (with copyright statements) and provide links to further information if relevant.

The New Delhi Conference

The Board of Minding Animals International would like to congratulate the hosts of the third Minding Animals Conference in New Delhi in January - the Wildlife Trust of India and Jawaharlal Nehru University - for taking on and delivering such a momentous event.

The WTI team was headed by the Conference Convenor, Vivek Menon, who was ably assisted by Prajna Panda and Mayukh Chatterjee. They produced a truly outstanding conference. The efforts of WTI staff, along with Kuoni Meetings Management, proved seamless - with all involved being friendly, accommodating and helpful.



The New Delhi Conference Organising Committee: Kim Stallwood, Prajna Panda, Rod Bennisson, Vivek Menon, Rakesh Batabyal and mayukh Chatterjee. Photo courtesy WTI and Achintya Tripathi.

Minding Animals International and Animal Studies scholars more generally are truly indebted to the efforts of Vivek and his team.

One outcome from the conference that should be mentioned here is the announcement by JNU Vice Chancellor that an Animals Studies Centre will be established at JNU - the first centre of its kind in India. Minding Animals International and the Wildlife Trust of India will help with this establishment. This was coupled with the announcement by both Ministers from the Indian Government present at the Opening Ceremony that an Animal Welfare Centre will also be funded.

I am going to leave my commentary to a series of photos taken at the conference, located elsewhere in this Bulletin., but would like to draw your attention to four articles produced after the conference. The first three of these are reproduced below.

<http://www.kimstallwood.com/>

<http://knowinganimalspastandpresent.blogspot.com.au/2015/01/minding-animals-3-new-delhi-india.html>

<http://sydney.edu.au/environment-institute/blog/indian-street-dogs-and-the-minding-animals-conference/>

http://blog.sina.com.cn/s/blog_64679e1a0102vvh.html (in Chinese)

New Delhi Conference Award Recipients

We would like to congratulate the following conference delegates on receiving the 2015 Conference Awards.

Best Presentation Award: **Helena Telkanranta**



Best Presentation Student Award: **Adam See**



Special Commendation Student Award for Contribution to the Young Academics Panel: **Yuan-Chih Lung**



New Delhi Conference Blogs

By: Kim Stallwood; Published: 17 February, 2015:

<http://www.kimstallwood.com/>

The mission of Minding Animals International is to advance animal studies worldwide. Every three years we partner with a like-minded organisation or a university to co-produce an international conference for scholars, advocates, policy makers, artists, veterinarians, and others. By 'we' I mean me, as volunteer Executive Director, and my colleague Rod Bennison, founder and chair of the board, as well as all the other directors.

The first conference ('MAC1') was in Newcastle, Australia in 2009 and attracted 520 delegates from 23 countries. In 2012, MAC2 was produced in partnership with the University of Utrecht and was attended by 690 delegates from 42 countries.

MAC3 was held in January and was hosted by the Wildlife Trust of India, in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi. It attracted more than 320 delegates from 35 countries.

Discussions are already underway for MAC4 in 2018. Details will be announced later this year.

The MAC3 six-day conference program reflected the trans-disciplinary nature of animal studies. The program included special events, plenaries, workshops, and plenty of opportunities to network.

At the Pre-Conference Interfaith Programme and Multi-Faith Prayer Service at Baha'i House of Worship, Lotus Temple, representatives from the Hindu, Christian, Islam, Jain, and Baha'i faiths spoke about their respect for animals. It ended with me making some closing remarks. The irony!

Keynote presentations were made by Government of India Ministers Maneka Gandhi, Minister of Women and Child Development and Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. I recall when we were at MAC2 in Utrecht, Vivek Menon, WTI's Founder and CEO, said he wanted to host MAC3 because the will help to put animal studies on the map in India. Vivek's dream maybe coming true as there was a discussion among the government ministers of the possibility of federal government funding for an animal studies centre on the JNU campus. Clearly, this major development needs to be carefully monitored to ensure its fruition.

The program was full and diverse thereby reflecting the richness of animal studies. For example, Lori Gruen gave the first Marti Kheel Memorial Lecture. Other speakers included Will Kymlicka, co-author, *Zoopolis*; Jill Robinson, *Animals Asia*; Lisa Kemmerer, author, *Animals and World Religions*; and Clive Phillips, author, *The Animal Trade*. A particular focus of the conference was on differing aspects of animals in India. For example, Raman Sukumar spoke about 'Gajatame and Ganesha: the sacred elephant of Asia' and Norma Alvares and Varda Mehrotra, Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations, led a seminar on 'Building a Movement for Animal Protection: The Experience from India'. I also presented my paper about Topsy, the 'elephant we must never forget'.

One of MAC3's unexpected successes was an impromptu presentation I had to organise as one of our plenary speakers, Mahesh Rangarajan, was unable to join us at the last minute. Following on from the previous day's panel which I chaired that was organised by Ken Shapiro, my fellow co-founder of the Animals and Society Institute, which considered the state and future of animal studies and included Lori Gruen, Colin Salter, Joe Lancia, Donald Broom, and Sandra Swart, I commissioned a panel of young animal studies scholars. This panel consisted of Upasana Ganguly, Jessica Ison, Yuan-Chih Lung, Kelsi Nagy, and Adam See. Each one rose to the challenge with 24 hours' notice to speak about how they understood animal studies and saw the challenges they face in the field. Rod and I feel strongly that at MAC4 we would like to invite these scholars back as a panel to assess how things have progressed (or not!).

MAC3 was very successful. Among the many highlights was hearing speak for the first time the legendary Maneka Gandhi, who berated Indian governments for not doing enough for animals. It was encouraging to be told by delegates how much they valued the conference. Many spoke about making friends with others

coming from different countries who share like-minded interests. I recall one delegate expressing delight at discovering a colleague from their university who was also interested in animal studies. This anecdote truly represents for me the strength and mission of Minding Animals International: to advance animal studies globally.

MAC3 also gave me my first opportunity to visit India – a country I had always wanted to visit. But this was no time for sight-seeing, which had to wait to afterwards. The post-conference tour will be the focus of another post here.

By Siobhan O’Sullivan; Published: 26 January, 2015:

<http://knowinganimalspastandpresent.blogspot.com.au/2015/01/minding-animals-3-new-delhi-india.html>

My animal studies year got off to the perfect start when I attending Minding Animals 3. Having attended the first conference (which was also the third Australasian Animal Studies Association conference in Newcastle, Australia) and then the second in Utrecht, it was my great pleasure to be at the third. This time Minding Animals was held at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi, India. Much of the conference organisation was undertaken by the Wildlife Trust of India: <http://www.wti.org.in>.

MAC3 had some misgivings about visiting India. Some people love the country, but others told me that after visiting once they would never return. Thankfully I am one of the people who love India. While I didn’t travel too far out of Delhi, I loved being there and I hope to return soon.

Some regular Delhi visitors commented that the number of animals living on the streets of Delhi is now far smaller than in previous years. The city was also in a particular mode as it prepared for US President Obama’s visit.

Yet despite the apparent clean up efforts – both long and short term – I did still see many animals on the street. Most evident were dogs. Dogs appeared to fall into two categories. Those who were clearly ‘owned’ as evidenced by being on a lead or wearing a winter coat, and those who appeared to be un-owned and simply living their own life on the street. The dogs were overwhelmingly healthy looking, friendly and social. Many dogs had cuts in their ears indicating that they had been de-sexed and vaccinated.

Cows were also clearly visible in the city. They did walk among the traffic and did appear to have right of way. I was told that many cows who I would have assumed were street cows were actually ‘owned’ and their movement around the city during the day is simply free time. At night they are collected up by small dairy owners and then milked in the morning, before being released again the next day.

One of the most disturbing things I saw during my trip was a documentary called ‘Plastic Cows’. You can watch it online here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SifRIYqHfcY>. The streets of India are full of rubbish, much of which is plastic waste. The cows eat the plastic and it gets lodged in their first stomach, never to be passed. It creates the illusion that the cows in Delhi are well fed. In fact they are often starving and the bulk is plastic. It is very sad to see.

Monkeys were less present in the city, although we did see some. I didn’t see a single elephant the entire time I was in India.

India truly is the land of vegetarianism. Veganism is (as far as I could tell) almost unheard of. But vegetarianism reigns supreme. My hotel had a daily breakfast buffet. It featured around 12 dishes, 11 of which were always vegetarian. Meat eating is the exception and relegated to the margins of society. This suited me just fine.

The conference featured regular keynotes and parallel sessions. My favourite keynote was by Will Kymlicka: <http://post.queensu.ca/~kymlicka/>. Writing with his partner Sue Donaldson, Kymlicka spoke about whether we are providing animal citizens with adequate choice in their lives. I live tweeted Kymlicka’s paper and you can read the tweets @so_s #MAC3.

I also enjoyed hearing Erica Fudge talk about animals in wills in the early modern period. See: <http://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/courses/english/staff/fudgeericaprof/> She is trying to understand whether animals were given names during that period. Erica will be a keynote at the upcoming Australasian Animal Studies Association (AASA) conference at the University of Melbourne in July 2015: <http://humananimal.arts.unimelb.edu.au/event/animal-publics-emotions-empathy-activism-conference>.

But the conference wasn't just about the keynotes, or even what was said during the sessions. It was also very much about networking, learning who is doing what in the field, and sharing ideas informally.



Networking drinks. The conference seemed to be dominated by Australians. We are quite a loud people!

It was a pleasure to meet Lori Gruen: <http://lgruen.faculty.wesleyan.edu> who hosts the Animals and Society Institute fellowship each year. See: <http://www.animalsandsociety.org/pages/human-animal-studies-fellowship>

It was great to reconnect with Fiona Probyn-Rapsey who heads up the Human Animal Rights Network (HARN) at the University of Sydney: <http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/harn/> and to meet Peter Chen: http://sydney.edu.au/arts/government_international_relations/staff/profiles/peter.chen.php who is also based at Sydney and conducts research into policy networks and animal protection. Now that I have moved to the University of New South Wales (UNSW) I will hanging out with the Sydney crew more and more.

But I shouldn't get into naming individuals because I met and reconnected with so many people that it really isn't fair to single out just a few. However, it wasn't all hard conferencing work. The closing night started on a fascinating note as we heard from Ace Bourke: <http://www.alioncalledchristian.com.au>, one of the people featured in the book and documentary 'A Lion Called Christian'. See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sju3kSTAzdI>.

Following the formalities we were treated to an Indian dance show Bollywood style and then a disco. It was so much fun!

Lots of people in India wanted to have their photo taken with me (for some reason) (see photos at end of Bulletin).

Thank you to everyone who made Minding Animals 3 so special. I look forward to the next one in 2018!

By Fiona Probyn-Rapsey; Published: 14 February, 2015:

<http://sydney.edu.au/environment-institute/blog/indian-street-dogs-and-the-minding-animals-conference/>

I got back from India last week to an unseasonably cold Sydney day, not that different to the wintry cold days of New Delhi, the location for the recent Minding Animals Conference 3, held at Jawaharlal Nehru University. The conference was fantastic, the presentations and discussions were great and being in India for the first time was amazing. For me, there was a particular pleasure in getting to and from the Convention Centre by auto-rickshaw, a 20 minute ride through the busy streets of New Delhi, onto a large, forested campus populated with dogs and peacocks (and also macaques and deer, but I never saw them).

Stepping out of the rickshaw and into the driveway of the Convention Centre there were more dogs, friendly, tail wagging, eager for a pat. To me they look a lot like dingoes (though I think I'm starting to see dingoes everywhere), with their curly tails and ginger coats. The dogs lie around on the lawns, under the trees, with a respectful distance between each of them. They'd come up to the lunch area for a pat and by day 3, we seem to have sorted ourselves into favourites.

Such free roaming dogs are rarely seen in Australia. We seem to have only 1 place for dogs in our communities: the pet. Either you're a pet or a stray. And, as a stray your only options are to be sent off to the pound to await adoption or killing. There is no possibility of not being someone's pet. This is probably why the average age of dogs in Australia is so low (around 3.5 years – similar to the street dogs in India) – hardly any dogs in Australia are lucky enough to die of old age.

The dogs that I saw in the streets around where I was staying (a residential area called Saket) looked pretty healthy and the guy who ran the Bed & Breakfast explained that many of the dogs are looked after by the locals: wormed, fed and sometimes de-sexed. They earn their keep by acting as security guards – keeping away other dogs and other visitors. The dogs at JNU certainly knew they were on to a good thing in the form of conference delegates, sneaking the occasional biscuit to them, as well as plenty of pats for those who wanted them.

The contrast between Australia and India in regards to living with animal wildlife/streetlife was significant in other ways too. I came away with the impression that the baseline for human/animal interactions in India is less violent than it is over here, as if reaching for the gun or the poison is an Australian reflex, while over there, there is more tolerance for living alongside animals, a stronger expectation of having to share the landscape, the cities, the spaces.

Which is not to say that there isn't violence, because of course there is, but that there is perhaps a greater expectation that humans and animals must adjust to each other's needs because there's nowhere else to go. This was brought home to me by Shankar Raman's presentation about wildlife conservation work he and his team from Wildlife Trust of India had been doing in villages that had experienced human deaths caused by elephants. Wanting to avoid culling 'problem' elephants, the team of conservation biologists worked out that the conflict between human and elephants could be mitigated by adjustments to workplace practices. It was poor human management on tea plantations, for example, that had resulted in people being put in danger of being killed by elephants – culling/killing of the elephants was thus avoided, much to everyone's relief.

Shankar Raman and Sindhu Radhakrishna's presentations also highlighted the importance of Conservation biologists taking up what they described as an Animal Welfare approach; something which they complained had been neglected within their field. Both of their papers pointed out that it was no longer satisfactory to see conservation biology as concerned only with governable metrics of population and species, while Animal Welfare was deemed to concern itself with 'individuals'.

Too often conservation and welfare are posed as opposites. This is something that I complained about in question time too – I get a bit annoyed with the idea that animal studies 'people' are concerned more with 'individual' animal welfare. Don't we also spend a lot of time considering the billions of chickens, cattle, sheep etc raised for slaughter throughout the world? A scale that makes that little 'etc' so nasty. Massification of animal bodies is a problem that can be challenged by individuation, but that does not mean that animal studies is only interested in individuals, but in the ethical work that individuating can help to

achieve. Both population and individualized perspectives are needed in order to arrive at stronger ethical frameworks for wildlife management. It was great to hear Raman and Radhakrishna's papers express excitement at the ways in which Animal studies affords them a space in which to bring together both 'welfare' and 'conservation' approaches.

The conference was particularly interesting in relation to the breadth of political options explored. Maneka Gandhi's keynote address at the start of the conference was a stand-out, berating Indian society at large for an expanding live export cattle trade, the cruelties of dairy, and all committed against the supposedly sacred cow. She advocated a stronger role for public policy debate and legislative change, and greater accountability within Indian society for the fate of its animals.

Will Kymlicka's keynote also highlighted the possibilities for extending citizenship rights to animals, particularly by engaging with disability studies and its development of advocacy roles for citizens with limited access to direct participation in democratic processes. Lori Gruen's keynote explained the grounds of her new book - *Entangled Empathy* - where she shifts the emphasis away from a rights-based framework towards the need to cultivate more empathetic relations with non-human animals. Building on the feminist care tradition, Gruen insists that empathy alone is not enough (just as affect is not enough) to build social change upon - the 'entangled' addition comes in the form of ethical reflection. To do entangled empathy one must not just be empathetic but also one must consider how one's empathy actually impacts upon the lives of others. In other words, empathy is not particularly useful without ethics. I moderated this session and had a bit of fun being a mean chair, cutting people off with 'is there a question in there?' and insisting that women got to ask as many questions as the men.

At times the conference seemed a bit male heavy, with a number of the panels being stacked out with male presenters, not unlike what happens at Environmental Humanities events also. The problem with gender representation came up for discussion at the 'Women and Animals' study circle, where we discussed the long history of feminist engagement with animal studies and whether or not this was recognized at an institutional level, or whether or not the 'pussy panic' continues on (See Susan Fraiman on 'pussy panic'). From my perspective, I think a good old-fashioned 'works cited' list at the end of every presentation would help highlight the contribution of feminist scholars to the field - and if yours doesn't have a good swathe of women writers, then it's clear that something's amiss!

The conference covered six full days, each with 6 concurrent sessions, keynotes and invited talks. The papers were mostly social science/humanities oriented and the ones that were from the more science-y side were clearly committed to entering into interdisciplinary dialogue. To me, that represents a real maturing of the field - we're getting more accustomed to having our work heard and discussed by those outside of our disciplinary homes. This is something that I find incredibly exciting about Animal studies - its interdisciplinarity - but this is also what makes it tricky too. Having said that, I get the sense that we've moved on from one of the major stumbling blocks from the early days of the field. I did not find myself mumbling (much) at the conference: animals are not (just) metaphors!

Many people that I spoke to at the conference commented that there seemed to be loads of Australian delegates. It was true - there did seem to be a lot of us. For some this seemed to suggest that we must have a lively and popular animal welfare/conservation commitment in Australia. I put a bit of a downer on this by talking about how Australia leads the world in extinction rates etc, but I did confirm that we do seem to have a very vibrant animal studies community, including a very strong up and coming generation of future scholars (there was a great panel at the conference from the 'young uns').

International conferences like *Minding Animals* (MAC3, MAC2 and MAC1) are a really important part of this process, as well as enlivening the internal debates within the field of animal studies, they also demonstrate by sheer numbers the growth of this field across many countries. I'm looking forward to the next one in 2018 (which might possibly be in North America).

Finally, a big thanks to the organising team, particularly Vivek Menon (Executive Director and CEO of the Wildlife Trust of India, and Chair of the MAC3 Organising Committee), Prajna Panda and Rod Bennison and Kim Stallwood of *Minding Animals International*.

New Delhi Conference Photos

























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Photo Log

Photos courtesy of Rod Bennison (MAI) and Achintya Tripathi (WTI).

Page 16:

Three photos of traditional Indian dance forms from the MAC3 Welcome Dinner and Drinks, particularly note the spectacular Sikkimese Lion Dance.

Page 17:

JNU Convention Centre Main Hall.

Rod and Kim with the young academics forum – Upasana Ganguly, Jessica Ison, Kelsi Nagy, Yuan-Chih Lung and Adam See. Delegates from China and India – Li Jianjun, Hongsheng Wang, Yuan-Chih Lung, MK Ranjitsinh and Vivek Menon.

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At the Interfaith Service

Professor Lisa Kemmerer, Plenary Speaker, introducing Jill Robinson.

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Keynote Speaker, Maneka Gandhi.

Lighting the Lamp at the Inaugural Ceremony, with Smt. Maneka Gandhi (Hon. Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India), Dr Rod Bennison (MAI Chair), Vivek Menon (CEO WTI), JNU Vice Chancellor Professor Sudhir Kumar Sopory, and Shri. Prakash Javadekar (Hon. Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India).

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Rod Bennison, Opening Address.

Jill Robinson MBE, Plenary Speaker.

Delegates at Opening Ceremony.

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Clive Phillips and Siobhan O'Sullivan.

Lori Gruen, Plenary Speaker, and Kim Stallwood, MAI Executive Director.

Will Kymlicka, Plenary Speaker.

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Special Panel Session on the Future of Animals Studies with Kim Stallwood (Chair), Ken Shapiro (Panel Organiser), Lori Gruen, Colin Salter, Joe Lancia, Donald Broom and Sandra Swart.

Delegates.

An animated MAI Treasurer, Jeff Sebo.

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Canadian delegates at Conference Dinner, with Alice Horvoka.

Erica Fudge and Sandra Swart listen to Ace Bourke about his friendship with Christian the Lion.

Vivek Menon and Rakesh Batabyal getting into the swing at the Closing Dinner and Dance.

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Plenary Speaker, Clive Phillips.

Plenary Speaker, Erica Fudge.

Rod Bennison with the Conference Whale Shark.

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Traditional dance at Closing Dinner.

Delegates from Australia and the USA.

Plenary Speaker, Dietmar Todt, and friends from WTI.

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Yvette Watt, Siobhan O'Sullivan and friend at Closing Dinner.

Dancing at the Closing Dinner.

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Siobhan O'Sullivan in the middle of the traditional dance.

Your photographers Rod Bennison and Achintya Tripathi.

And last, and ever-present at the conference reminding all delegates about what we were all there for, one of the friendly JNU street dogs.