



Minding Animals[®]

Welcome to Minding Animals Bulletin 29

In this shorter bulletin you will find information on an Animal Studies Survey, new Partner events and some announcements.

Update on Minding Animals 4

The Board of Minding Animals International is currently making a decision regarding who shall host MA4. There are three nominees: one from Canada, one from the USA and one from Mexico. An announcement shall be made in a forthcoming Bulletin.

Animals Studies Survey

Deadline: 15 July

We would like to invite you to participate in an anonymous online survey about Animal Studies.

The survey is being conducted by three researchers: Dr Fiona Probyn-Rapsey (University of Sydney), Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan (University of NSW) and Dr Yvette Watt (University of Tasmania).

The survey is aimed at scholars (research higher degree students and staff at Universities and Colleges, as well as independent scholars) who are familiar with, and work within, the relatively new field of Animal Studies (or HAS). We are hoping that this survey will help build a picture of the different ways that AS is currently developing as a field, and the sorts of practitioners and practices it attracts and enables. We are also interested in finding out more about how institutions (be they universities, colleges or research networks) support the work that is being done in Animal Studies today. The survey consists of 39 questions, mostly multiple choice, and should take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Further information can be found on the Participant information sheet, accessible on the first page of the survey.

If interested, please follow: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AnimalStudiesSurvey>

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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:

- o **9 to 11 July, 2015: Melbourne, Australia – 2015 ICAS Oceania Conference: Conflict & Struggle, Resistance & Change**
- o **17 to 19 September, 2015: Stavanger, Norway - Animals in the Anthropocene: Human–animal relations in a changing semiosphere**
- o **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 11 July, 2015: Melbourne, Australia

2015 ICAS Oceania Conference: Conflict & Struggle, Resistance & Change This

In a world of conflict and struggle, resistance and change, there is an ever present need for discussion and analysis. For the third annual ICAS Oceania conference we aim to focus on the multiplicities of struggle and resistance in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. By undertaking a Critical Animal Studies analysis of both the local and the global issues arising from interlocking oppressions and repression, we seek to foster new discussions on how to facilitate change.

The conference will kick off on Thursday night with a lecture from Dr Dinesh Wadiwel titled Animals and Capitalism: Use Value, Exchange Value and Surplus Value This will also be a book launch for his book "Animals And War" <http://www.criticalanimalstudies.org/public-lecture/>

For more information visit <http://www.criticalanimalstudies.org/oceania-conference/>

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.

Registration for the conference has opened. 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.

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@fcsch.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.

Please note that there will be a 30€ registration fee for the conference. For more information about the conference, please email the organising committee: rduarte@fcsb.unl.pt or W.J.Boisseau@lboro.ac.uk

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

Announcements

Call for Papers - Otherness: Essays and Studies 6.1

The peer-reviewed, open-access e-journal *Otherness: Essays and Studies* is now accepting submissions for its special issue: **Animal Alterity**, Autumn 2015. *Otherness: Essays and Studies* publishes research articles from and across different scholarly disciplines that critically examine the concepts of otherness and alterity. We particularly appreciate dynamic cross-disciplinary study.

In recent years, scholars within the humanities and social sciences have shown increasing interest in relations between humans and nonhuman animals to a degree where many now speak of an “animal turn” within these broad fields and where a new interdisciplinary field – often termed human-animal studies – has emerged. A significant part of this has been the imagining – from various perspectives, not least literary and philosophical – of nonhuman subjectivities and what these may mean for our contemplation of human-animal relations, of nature, of humanity, animality and alterity within various disciplines. As Derrida has been moved by contemplating the significance of his cat’s non-human gaze on his naked body, so have scholars across various disciplines come to reassess the role of non-humans and animal alterity in culture, literature, media, ethics, and politics, and what that may mean for how we (should) think of ourselves as well as others – both human and nonhuman – and the world we live in.

While the concept of Otherness is often considered in light of the human – as a matter of the multi-, trans-, inter- or cross-cultural – its significance to human relations with the nonhuman should not be forgotten or underestimated. Indeed, as human relations to nature and nonhuman animals are the subjects of increasingly heated debate, their role in and for culture as well as the boundaries between the “human” self and the “animal” other should be continually interrogated and explored. How do our understandings of “animal” alterity affect our ideas of humanity or our relation to that which is not human? What contribution can intersubjective approaches focusing on the nonhuman make to our understanding of the world? How are our views of human others tied to our perspectives on nonhuman ones? How are ideas of the posthuman connected to thoughts on nonhuman otherness? What are the implications of technological and medical innovations and procedures that can be read as challenging human-animal boundaries (e.g. biotechnology, xenotransplantation etc.)? How can studies into the nonhuman further our understanding of otherness and alterity?

For this special issue of *Otherness: Essays and Studies*, we invite papers that explore these questions and any other issues that join together human-animal studies and the study of otherness and its theoretical foundations in various ways.

Welcome topics include but are not limited to:

Approaches towards and Discourses on Nonhuman Animals as Others in Public Spaces and Debates
Representations of Animal Otherness in Various Genres of Literature and Film, Fictional and Non-Fictional
Research and Analysis on Otherness and Nonhuman Animals Related to: Language, Space, Body, Time, History, etc.

Issues of Power: Perspectives on Nonhuman Animals in Dominant and Peripheral Cultures

Intersectional Alterities: Nonhuman Animals and Gender, Race, Class, etc.

Philosophy, Ethics and Nonhuman Otherness

New Technologies, Medical Innovations and Animal Alterity

Human and Posthuman Identities and Lifestyles Tied to Human-Animal Relations

Places and Spaces: Otherness and “Animal” Geographies

Nonhuman Otherness and Global Transformations

Critical Approaches to Otherness through Perspectives on the Nonhuman

Theory Formation/Conceptualization of Otherness in the Study of Nonhuman Animals

Articles should be between 5,000 – 8,000 words. All electronic submissions should be sent via email with Word document attachment formatted to Chicago Manual of Style standards to the guest editor Sune Borkfelt at otherness.research@gmail.com

Further information: <http://www.otherness.dk/journal/>

The deadline for submissions is October 15, 2015.

MA in International Studies on Media, Power, and Difference

The Department of Communication at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain, invites applications to a new 1-year graduate programme fully taught in English: **The MA in International Studies on Media, Power, and Difference**.

More information about the programme is provided on the website. Please share it with your students or anyone who may be interested. I will be pleased to answer any question candidates may have.

Núria Almiron

Programme Leader

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<http://www.upf.edu/mediapoweranddifference/en/>