



## Minding Animals Bulletin 32

### Dates and Venue for Minding Animals Conference 4

The next Minding Animals conference will be held from 17 to 24 January, 2018, inclusive, at the Centro de Exposiciones de la UNAM (UNAM Conference Centre) at the Mexican National University in Ciudad de México (UNAM). We had to move the conference from July due to the logistics related to the Mexican Presidential election.

The conference will be jointly hosted by the Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo, located in Morelia, and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) located in the southern suburbs of México City. Other universities in México will become partners within the coming months.



The conference co-organisers are Ana Cristina Ramírez Barreto from Morelia and Beatriz Vanda from the Universitario de Bioética at UNAM. Contact details for the conference will be made available shortly. In the meantime, you are welcome to contact [mindinganimals@gmail.com](mailto:mindinganimals@gmail.com) for further information. A conference website and logo are in the process of design.

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The official conference language will be English but, like all previous conferences, abstracts from other languages will be welcome and translation and special language sessions offered. Abstracts in Spanish and Portuguese are especially welcome from our host nation and the broader Americas. Plenary sessions and other major presentations will be translated between English and Spanish.

Our keynote and plenary speakers will be announced throughout 2016 and 2017, as will details of how you will be able to lodge abstracts, register for the conference, and book accommodation for your stay in México. And remember, start saving your money – Minding Animals Conferences lasts for seven days and cultural events form a major component of the week.

Our first round of Plenary and Invited Speakers were announced in Bulletin 31 and include:

- Carol Adams will deliver the second Marti Kheel Memorial Lecture
- Donna Haraway will be a plenary speaker
- Marita Gimenez-Candela will also be a plenary speaker
- Lori Gruen will talk about the work of Marti Kheel, introduce Carol Adams and participate in a special Panel Session dedicated to the life and work of Tom Regan

Our second round of Plenary and Invited Speakers are announced below.

## Second Round of Plenary Speakers for MAC4

We are proud to announce the second round of our Plenary Speakers:

### Bruno Latour



Bruno Latour is one of the world's leading social theorists. Possibly best known in Animal Studies for developing Actor Network Theory (with Michael Callon and John Law), and although his studies of scientific practice were at one time associated with social constructionist approaches to the philosophy of science, he has diverged significantly from such approaches. He is best known for withdrawing from the subjective/objective division and redeveloping the approach to work in practice.

From 1982 to 2006, he was professor at the Centre de sociologie de l'Innovation at the Ecole nationale supérieure des mines in Paris and, for various periods, visiting professor at UCSD, at the London School of Economics and in the History of Science Department of Harvard University. He is currently located at Sciences Po, Paris, where he is the Director of the Médialab of Sciences Po Paris. As of October 2013, he has also been the Centennial professor at the LSE, London, and from October 2015, professor-at-large at Cornell University.

After field studies in Africa and California he specialized in the analysis of scientists and engineers at work. In addition to work in philosophy, history, sociology and anthropology of science, he has collaborated in many studies in science policy and research management. He has written *Laboratory Life*, *Science in Action*, and *The Pasteurization of France*. He also published an essay on symmetric anthropology *We Have Never Been Modern*. He has also gathered a series of essays, *Pandora's Hope: Essays in the Reality of Science Studies* to explore the consequences of the 'science wars'. After having directed several theses on various aspects of the environmental crisis, he published a book on the political philosophy of the environment *Politics of Nature*.

In a series of books, he has been exploring the consequences of science studies on different traditional topics of the social sciences, such as religion and of social theory in Paris. A new presentation of the social theory which he has developed with his colleagues in Paris is entitled *Reassembling the Social, an Introduction to Actor Network Theory*. After having curated a major international exhibition in Karlsruhe at the ZKM Centre, *Iconoclash: beyond the image wars in science, religion and art*, he also curated *Making Things Public: the atmospheres of democracy* with Peter Weibel. While in Sciences Po, he established the Médialab, to seize the chance offered to social theory by the spread of digital methods and has created, together with Valrie Pihet, a new experimental program in art and politics (SPEAP).

## John Baird Callicott



J. Baird Callicott, University Distinguished Research Professor at the University of North Texas, Denton. He was instrumental in developing the field of environmental philosophy and in 1971 taught the world's first course in environmental ethics. He is a University Distinguished Research Professor and a member of the Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies and the Institute of Applied Sciences at the University of North Texas. Baird held the position of Professor of Philosophy and Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point from 1969 to 1995, where he taught the world's first course in environmental ethics in 1971. From 1994 to 2000, Baird served as Vice President then President of the International Society for Environmental

Ethics. Other distinguished positions include visiting professor of philosophy at Yale University, the University of California Santa Barbara, the University of Hawai'i and the University of Florida.

Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* is one of environmental philosophy's seminal texts, and Baird Callicott is widely considered to be the leading contemporary exponent of Leopold's land ethic. Baird's book *In Defense of the Land Ethic* explores the intellectual foundations of Leopold's outlook and seeks to provide it with a more complete philosophical treatment; and a following publication titled *Beyond the Land Ethic* further extends Leopold's environmental philosophy. *Earth's Insights* is also considered an important contribution to the field of comparative environmental philosophy. Baird is Coeditor in Chief with Robert Frodeman of the award winning, *A-Z Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy*. He is also author of numerous journal articles and book chapters in environmental philosophy and has served as editor or coeditor of many books, textbooks, and reference works in the same field.

For 26 years, Baird lived and taught in the northern reaches of Wisconsin's sand counties, located on the Wisconsin River, just ninety miles from Aldo Leopold's storied shack and John Muir's first homestead on Fountain Lake, the region that stirred the souls of these two very influential environmental thinkers. Baird has written that 'the landscape that had helped shape and inspire the nascent evolutionary ecological thought of the youthful Muir and that of the mature Leopold was the perfect setting for me to inaugurate my life long vocation as a founder of academic environmental philosophy'.

## Francisco Galindo Maldonado



Francisco Galindo Maldonado is Professor in the Department of Ethology, Wildlife and Laboratory Animals, in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science at UNAM. He obtained a degree in Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science from UNAM in 1990, and later a PhD in Animal Behaviour and Welfare from Cambridge in 1996. In 1995, he was appointed as Head of the Department of Ethology at UNAM and since then started teaching Animal Behaviour and Welfare to undergraduate veterinary students and applied ethology to graduate students. Francisco has supervised several MSc and PhD thesis on areas related to applied ethology and welfare of farm animals, companion animals, as well as wildlife and zoo animals.

Francisco has been Coordinator of the Animal Welfare Committee of the National Animal Health Council in México, as well as Programme Coordinator for the Latin American office of the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Through this work he contributed to the elaboration of Animal Welfare Legislation in México and in other Latin American countries. Francisco has a strong interest in the integration of animal welfare and environmental issues, and has been doing research on the relationships between animal welfare, conservation and the provision of ecosystem services in grazing systems. He is co-editor of *Etología Aplicada*, published in 2004, one of the first publications of the topic in Spanish.

## Second Round of Invited Speakers and Panelists Announced for MAC4

### Jill Robinson



Jill Robinson MBE, Dr.med.vet. h.c. has been a pioneer of animal welfare in Asia since 1985 and is widely recognised as the world's leading expert on the cruel bear bile industry, having campaigned against it since 1993. In 1998, she founded Animals Asia, an organisation that is devoted to ending the barbaric practice of bear bile farming and improving the welfare of animals in China and Vietnam by promoting compassion and respect for all animals, and working to bring about long-term change. From starting Animals Asia out of her front room, Jill has built the organisation into a respected international NGO with over 300 staff, an annual turnover of more than US\$9 million, award winning bear sanctuaries in China and Vietnam (with over 700 rescued bears), headquarters in Hong Kong, and offices in Australia, China, Germany, Italy, the UK, US and Vietnam.

Among other awards, Jill has an honorary doctorate from the University of Zurich, is Asia World Animal Day Ambassador, Council Member World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies Herbal Committee, and Member of the USA Society of Woman Geographers. In 1998, Jill was awarded an MBE by Queen Elizabeth of the UK, and in 2010 awarded 'You Bring Charm to China', along with 12 prominent foreign people who have enriched life in China. Jill is a Patron of Minding Animals International and will be an Invited Speaker at MAC4.

### Dale Jamieson

Dale Jamieson is Professor of Environmental Studies, Director of Environmental Studies, Director of the Center for Bioethics, Director of Animal Studies Initiative, Professor of Philosophy and Affiliated Professor of Law. Formerly, he was Henry R. Luce Professor in Human Dimensions of Global Change at Carleton College, and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he was the only faculty member to have won both the Dean's award for research in the social sciences and the Chancellor's award for research in the humanities. He has held visiting appointments at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Cornell, Princeton, Stanford,

Oregon, Arizona State University, and Monash and the University of the Sunshine Coast in Australia. He is also past president of the International Society for Environmental Ethics.



Dale is the author of *Ethics and the Environment* and *Morality's Progress*. He is also editor or coeditor of nine books, most recently *Reflecting on Nature: Readings in Environmental Philosophy* (with Lori Gruen and Chris Schlottmann). Dale has published more than one hundred articles and book chapters, and is on the editorial boards of several journals. Dale's research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the US Environmental Protection Agency, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Office of Global Programs in the National Atmospheric and Aeronautics Administration. He is currently Principal Investigator on a National Science Foundation Project on 'Assessing Assessments: A Historical and Philosophical Study of Scientific Assessments for Environmental Policy in the Late 20th Century', with Michael Oppenheimer and Naomi Oreskes. He is also writing a book on the moral and political challenges of climate change, a topic on which he has worked for more than twenty five years. He was previously as Patron of MAI before becoming a Director. Dale will be an Invited Speaker.

## Peter Singer



Peter Singer is Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics in the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University, a position that he now combines with the position of Laureate Professor at the University of Melbourne. He is the author of *Animal Liberation*, sometimes credited with triggering the modern animal rights movement, and never out of print since its publication in 1975. His other books include *Practical Ethics*, *The Ethics of What We Eat* (with Jim Mason), *The Life You Can Save*, *The Point of View of the Universe*, and most recently, *The Most Good You Can Do*. He also has edited *In Defense of Animals* and its successor, *In Defense of Animals: The Second Wave*. Together with Paola Cavalieri, he cofounded The Great Ape Project, an attempt to gain

basic rights for great apes, and co-edited an anthology, also called *The Great Ape Project*. In 2014, the Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute ranked him third on its list of Global Thought Leaders (and 16<sup>th</sup> in 2015), and *Time* has named him among the world's 100 most influential people. An Australian, in 2012 he was made a Companion to the Order of Australia, his country's highest civilian honour. He is also President of Animal Rights International and a Patron of Minding Animals International. Peter will participate at MAC4 via skype in two special panel sessions.

## Leonora Esquivel Frías



Leonora Esquivel Frias was born in México and has a degree in philosophy from the University of Barcelona where she undertook an honours thesis on environmental ethics addressing the problem of sustainability and responsibility towards the environment. Leonora has committed her life to defend the interests of nonhuman animals. She undertook her doctorate at UNAM where she won the Norman Svedlin Award for the best thesis and the Gabino Barreda medal for the best career average for philosophy. Leonora is the Founder and President of Animanaturalis International, a Spanish American organisation for Animal Rights, present in 7 countries, including Colombia and México. She has conducted many interviews on television and radio in Spain and México and given talks at many Mexican universities on animal rights and environmental ethics. Leonora was an independent candidate for Federal Deputy for the XV district of Benito Juarez in the 2009 Mexican elections. Leonora believes that animal rights are the most pressing moral revolution of this century. Visit Leonora's blog at <http://blogs.eluniversal.com.mx/leonimal/> Leonora will be an Invited Speaker at MAC4 and will participate in one of three dedicated panels.

## Mylan Engel Jr.

Mylan Engel Jr. is a professor of philosophy at Northern Illinois University. He was born in Alabama and educated at Vanderbilt University and the University of Arizona, and came to the Northern Illinois University in 1988. Mylan has also served as Guest Professor at the University of Innsbruck, Austria (1999) and University of Maribor, Slovenia (1999–2002). Mylan's specialties are epistemology, philosophy of religion, Scottish philosopher Thomas Reid, animal ethics and environmental ethics.

Mylan is a vegan and believes that we are morally obligated to refrain from eating meat, and has argued that virtually all humans hold beliefs that, if consistently applied, would make them vegans as well. In his spare time, Mylan practices the ancient art of karate and offers a beginners course for students at Northern Illinois University. He has been Executive Secretary of The Society for the

Study of Ethics and Animals since 2002. Mylan is an Invited Speaker at MAC4 and will participate in the Tom Regan Special Panel Session.



## Kim Stallwood

Kim Stallwood is an independent scholar and author on animal rights. He has more than 35 years of personal commitment and professional experience in leadership positions with some of the world's foremost animal advocacy organisations in the United Kingdom and United States of America. This includes Compassion In World Farming, British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and The Animals' Agenda magazine. He cofounded the Animals and Society Institute in 2005. He is ASI's European Director.



Kim's client organisations include Compassion In World Farming, League Against Cruel Sports, GREY2K USA and Alley Cat Allies. He served on the boards of directors of the Vegan Society UK and RSPCA, and was founding president of the Canton Community Association in Baltimore, where he lived for 18 years, which founded the city's first dog park. He became a vegetarian in 1974 after working in a chicken slaughterhouse, and has been a vegan since 1976. His book, *GROWL: Life Lessons, Hard Truths, and Bold Strategies from an Animal Advocate*, (Lantern Books) examines forty years of personal commitment and professional advocacy for a vegan, animal rights world. He holds dual citizenship in the UK and US. His website is [www.kimstallwood.com](http://www.kimstallwood.com). He is Minding Animals Executive Director. At MAC4, Kim will preside over the Tom Regan Special Panel Session and present an Invited Lecture.

## Alejandro Herrera Ibáñez



Alejandro Herrera Ibáñez is a faculty member of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas Department. He has been a full time researcher since 1986, the year he obtained his PhD with a minor in linguistics from the University of Indiana with a thesis entitled *Leibniz on Existence*. He obtained his Master's degree from the same university in 1978. Alejandro's three areas of specialization are Leibniz's philosophy, environmental and animal ethics, and argument and fallacies. His first degree was obtained at UNAM. He has also dabbled in philosophy of language, ontology, bioethics, and the teaching of logic and philosophy of education. Alejandro arrived at UNAM after eight years of study as a Salesian seminarian. After a philosophical training that was originally dedicated to Thomist theory he has since abandoned Catholicism and considers himself an atheist. He is a vegetarian, and has taught and written extensively on animal rights and environmentalism. Alejandro will participate in the Tom Regan Special Panel Session.

## Vivek Menon



Vivek Menon is a conservation biologist, environmental commentator, author and photographer with a passion for elephants. He is member of Project Elephant Steering Committee, the Committee to revamp the National Wildlife Action Plan, CITES Advisory Committee as well as the Central Zoo Authority. A Senior Advisor to the International Fund for Animal Welfare, he is also a member of the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN and on the International Jury of the Future for Nature Awards. He is the Founder, Trustee, Executive Director and CEO of the Wildlife Trust of India, our host for Minding Animals 3 in New Delhi. Vivek was the Convenor for MAC3 in New Delhi.

## **First Panel Session Announced**

### ***Tom Regan – his work and philosophy***

The publication of *The Case for Animal Rights* by Tom Regan in 1983 is a key moment in the history of the relationship between human and nonhuman animals. Regan argued that if sentient beings were ‘subjects of a life’ that, regardless of species, they were entitled to rights, with the right to respect being the most fundamental. Professor Regan is a moral philosopher who is internationally recognised for his contribution to, not only animal rights, but also to environmental ethics and the relationship between them. In honour of his life’s work, Kim Stallwod will chair a roundtable discussion on Tom Regan and his philosophy at MAC4. The participants will be:

- John Baird Callicott, former University Distinguished Research Professor and Regents Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Texas
- Mylan Engel, Department of Philosophy, Northern Illinois University
- Lori Gruen, William Griffin Professor of Philosophy and Professor of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Environmental Studies at Wesleyan University
- Alejandro Herrera Ibáñez, Professor of Philosophy in the Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas Department at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
- Peter Singer (via Skype), Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University

## **Second Panel Session Announced**

### ***Bullfighting, Cockfighting and Dogfighting***

Bullfighting is a well known practice in Spain, southern France and in México. Bullfighting is most deeply rooted in México, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador, with about 9,000 bulls slaughtered every year at bullrings in México alone where bullfighting dates back to the 16th century. Bullfighting is now being banned in many cities and some states in Spain and México, and some political parties like the Green Party in México taking up the cause. Cockfighting, and to a lesser extent dogfighting, remain as underground cultural traditions in many parts of the Americas. These barbaric abuses of nonhuman animals will be put under the spotlight at MAC4 by our three distinguished panelists:

- Leonora Esquivel
- Beatriz Vanda
- Claudia Edwards

A third exciting panel will be announced in *Minding Animals Bulletin* 33.

## **Themes: What Should Your Abstract Consider?**

As for the previous three *Minding Animals* Conferences, MAC4 will be open to no end of papers dedicated to animal studies and animal protection. We would like to stress that *Minding Animals International Inc.* (MAI) works to further the development of animal studies internationally and to help establish legal and moral protections for all nonhuman animals.

As such, Minding Animals Conferences are available for animal academics and activists alike, and provides an avenue for the transdisciplinary field of Animal Studies in all its guises (Human Animal Studies, Anthrozoology, Critical Animal Studies and so on) to be more responsive to the protection of animals. It is recognised that animal protection in this context encapsulates environmentalism, animal liberation, animal rights, wildlife protection, animal welfare and animal law and justice, veterinarian and the zoological sciences (in no particular order of importance).

MAI aims to enable discourse between the various interests (from the arts, literature, feminist studies, queer studies, philosophy, law and public policy, to the humanities and cultural studies, to name just a few) within this rapidly developing transdisciplinary field in ways that will improve the status of nonhuman animals and alleviate nonhuman animal exploitation. As such, MAI also facilitates research in Animal Studies. So we will soon be calling for abstracts from all these areas of interest. That said, MAC4, like all past conferences, will have dedicated themes that may help you focus your presentation. Our six themes and some possible topics for your consideration are outlined below.

We stress to all delegates that they should participate in Minding Animals Conferences in a spirit of honesty and cooperation, accepting that other delegates may have divergent opinions, but always with the overall objective of protecting animals, no matter in what form or time frame. Nonetheless, we urge critical debate and active engagement with your fellow delegates.

## **I. Wildlife, Compassionate Conservation and Climate Change**

1. The Wild and the Captive
2. The Individual and the Species
3. Conservation Biology and Biodiversity Conservation
4. Environmental Enrichment for Captive Animals
5. Freedom, Captivity, Hunting
6. Animal Agriculture, Climate Change and the Impact on Animals

## **II. Animals, Bioethics and Law**

1. Animal Sentience, Rights, Ethics and the Law
2. Animal Use, Legislation and Regulations
3. Ethics and Animal Health Professions
4. Working Animals and Obligations towards Animals

## **III. Animals in the Arts**

1. Performance Art
2. Wildlife
3. Photography, Portraits and Sculpture
4. Drawings and Paintings through the Ages
5. Animals in Graffiti
6. Animals Representations through History

#### **IV. Animal Minds and Welfare**

1. Ethology and the Mental and Cognitive States of Animals
2. Animal Emotions
3. The application of the Five Freedoms
4. Animals in Education
5. Relationships and Communication Systems between Animals

#### **V. Animals in Theology and Religions**

1. Nonhuman Animals in Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism
2. Nonhuman Animals in East Asian Religions
3. Nonhuman Animals in Christianity, Islam and Judaism

#### **VI. Animals in Sport, Entertainment and Traditions**

1. Bullfighting, Cockfighting, Dogfighting, Horsefighting, Camelfighting
2. Greyhound Racing and Coursing
3. Horse Racing
4. Circuses, Rodeos and Mounting traditions
5. Canned Hunting

## **Partner Events**

### **30 April, 2016: Geneva**

#### ***Représentations animales: what is anthropomorphism?***

Host: Society for Human-Animal Relationship Research & Education (SHARRE)

Venue: Geneva University Hospitals, Auditoire Marcel-Jenny, Rue Gabrielle-Perret-Gentil

Conference language: French

For information regarding this conference, please visit the website or contact the conference organiser, Rachel Lehotkay at: [info@sharre.ch](mailto:info@sharre.ch).

Website: <http://www.sharre.ch/>

### **12 to 13 May 2016: Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

#### ***Animal Agency: Language, Politics, Culture***

Host and Venue: University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

For more information and to register, please contact Eva Meijer or Clemens Driessen [e.r.meijer@uva.nl](mailto:e.r.meijer@uva.nl) or [clemens.driessen@wur.nl](mailto:clemens.driessen@wur.nl), or visit: <https://animalagency.wordpress.com>

Recent work in political philosophy, animal studies, and ethology, asks us to view nonhuman animals as subjects with their own perspective on life. Other animals have their own languages and cultures, and co-shape practices that are often understood as exclusively human. They actively

relate to others of their own and different species and some argue they should be seen as political and social actors in mixed human-animal community.

Viewing other animals as subjects or political actors shifts research questions from how we, humans, should treat them, animals, to a different set of questions: What kind of relationships do they have with each other and humans? What kind of relationships they may desire to have with us? And how can we, collectively, find new ways of co-existing?

Challenging human exceptionalism, speciesism, and anthropocentrism in theory and practice asks not only that we investigate other animals' capabilities, desires, and relations; we also need to rethink concepts such as language, politics, and culture, with them. This conference addresses the question of nonhuman animal agency from different theoretical directions, ranging from philosophy to ethology, aiming to critically reflect on the exclusion of other animals from thought and practice, and to explore alternatives.

This intensive two-day seminar welcomes a broad range of responses from a variety of disciplines, including philosophy, anthropology, sociology, geography, literary studies, art history, politics and critical studies. Companion animals are welcome to join, if so inclined. As are proposals to (non-intrusively) mediate the active presence of wildlife or liminal creatures.

**20 to 21 August, 2016: Kelaniya, Sri Lanka**  
***Asian Elephants in Culture and Nature***

Venue: Centre for Asian Studies, University of Kelaniya

For further information, visit [www.kln.ac.lk](http://www.kln.ac.lk)



The International Conference on  
**“Asian Elephants in Culture & Nature”**

20th & 21st August 2016

Centre for Asian Studies  
University of Kelaniya  
**Sri Lanka**  
More Information: [www.kln.ac.lk](http://www.kln.ac.lk)

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## **11 to 13 November, 2016: Leusden, The Netherlands**

### ***Animal Politics: Justice, Power and the State***

Venue: ISVW, Leusden, The Netherlands

Keynote speakers: Robert Garner, Lori Gruen, Will Kymlicka, Steven Wise, Laura Wright

The focus in animal ethics has long been on the moral standing of sentient individuals. It was argued that because nonhuman animals have interests strong enough to lay a claim on others, they deserve certain inviolable rights, similar to how this works in the human case. In recent years, political philosophers have used the idea of moral animal rights as a starting point for thinking about political rights. It is argued that interests of nonhuman animals should be taken into account in liberal democracies for reasons of equality, democracy, or justice.

The political approach to animal rights provides us with a new perspective on human-animal relations. Conceptualising groups of animals as social or political groups can help shed light on relations, and clarify rights and duties, beyond the micro-level. Using political concepts, such as citizenship or democracy, in relation to nonhuman animals also brings to light their agency in human-animal relations, and shows us how they co-shape what we usually perceive as the product of human activity. Drawing on existing ideas about human social justice can show us how similar patterns work in relation to nonhuman animals, for example with regard to stereotyping and silencing. These insights can also create interspecies solidarity. The new perspective also raises many questions, with regard to nonhuman animal agency, power relations, justice, and democracy. This conference aims to address these questions on the following and related subjects:

- Political animal agency.
- Animals and the government.
- Animal justice
- Animal freedom.
- Animals and democracy.
- Intersectionality.
- Animals and capitalism.
- Animals and the environment.
- The future of animal rights activism.

Scholars in the broad field of animal studies (including, but not limited to, philosophy, ethics, political and legal studies, geography, anthropology and sociology), as well as professional activists are invited.

Organising committee: Eva Meijer (University of Amsterdam), Janneke Vink (University of Leiden), Floris van den Berg (Utrecht University), Harry Wels (VU Amsterdam), Joost Leuven (University of Amsterdam) and Erno Eskens (ISVW). For more information, please email Eva Meijer at [e.r.meijer@uva.nl](mailto:e.r.meijer@uva.nl)

## **25 to 27 November, 2016: Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany**

### ***Animal Encounters: Human Animal Contacts in the Arts, Literature, Culture and the Sciences***

Hosts: Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg in cooperation with Nuremberg University of Music

Organisers: Alexandra Böhm and Jessica Ullrich

Venue: International Conference at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Department for German and Comparative Studies

Confirmed keynote speakers: Lori Gruen (Wesleyan University) and Roland Borgards (Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg)

For further information, please email: [conference-animal-encounters@fau.de](mailto:conference-animal-encounters@fau.de)

Conference languages are German and English

One of the main convictions of Animal Studies is the apprehension that conceptions of the human and the animal necessarily depend on each other. TW Adorno already formulated this idea in the 1940s in his philosophical fragment *Mensch und Tier* and recently Giorgio Agamben has taken up this notion in his influential study *The Open. Man and Animal*. Even the natural sciences have confirmed this in the meantime; new theories of domestication assume that dogs and humans co-evolved together. Both species can only be understood in their dependency on one another and through a relational historiography.

Bruno Latour's actor network theory, developed in the 1990s, also proved to be extremely influential for Animal Studies with regard to Latour's view of societies as relational networks. Human and nonhuman animals are permanently situated in relation to one another and are mutually defined as the 'other'. If this referral to the other is not only comprehended as an abstract relationship, but rather analysed in its concrete cultural and social manifestations, the term 'encounter' becomes crucial. In the modern world, in which, as John Berger famously observed, 'real' animals increasingly disappear, encountering the non-human other is not granted. An encounter, in its emphatic sense, requires for example openness for the other, a special attunement (Heidegger) as well as the ability to respond (Derrida). In *Entangled Empathy*, Lori Gruen has recently argued for an alternative ethics of human animal relations, which focuses on the needs of individual animals and their entanglement with human lives.

However, the arts and literature as well as cultural and scientific practices like zoology or ethology abound with manifold human animal encounters, whose significance as constitutive entanglements have already been noticed, but not systematically and exhaustively analysed for the cultural sciences.

What happens in an encounter of self and other, human and non-human animals? The notion of an encounter between humans and animals which creates a contact zone of becoming - crucial to Donna Haraway's concept of 'companion species'. In her seminal text *When Species Meet*, Haraway writes: *to knot companion and species together in encounter, in regard and respect, is to enter the world of becoming with, where who and what are is precisely what is at stake*. Belgian philosopher and psychologist Vinciane Despret also conceives the encounter of humans and animals as transformative for both species involved. She analyses the anthro-zoo-genetic practice of the animal experiment, or of ethology, but also in the mundane life of humans, who live with animals.

Despret holds that the exchange between human and non-human animals is constitutive for the encounter and makes them enter a becoming-with, engendering new identities. For Despret, this involvement of creatures is a form of agency, which for her is always interagency or shared agency, creating a fully functioning agent only in their togetherness.

The subject of the conference invites contributions from the literary, historical, visual, film, media and musical sciences as well as from animal philosophy and animal theory, which examine cultural, social, and historic manifestations and practices that can be read with an emphatic understanding of 'encounters' and inquire into the structure, possibility and the meaning of encounters between humans and animals.

## Book Announcements

We would like to highly recommend the following Animal Studies publications for our Bulletin readers. The first is by Lisa Kemmerer entitled *Eating Earth: Environmental Ethics and Dietary Choice*. Exploring the environmental effects of animal agriculture, fishing, and hunting, *Eating Earth* exposes critical common ground between earth and animal advocacy. At the end of each chapter, Kemmerer examines possible solutions to problems presented, such as sustainable meats, organic and local, grass fed, aquaculture, new fishing technologies, and enhanced regulations. *Eating Earth* offers a concise examination of the environmental effects of dietary choice, clearly presenting the many reasons why dietary choice ought to be front and centre for environmentalists. *Eating Earth* is supported by nearly 80 graphs and summary slides, is clear, straightforward, and punctuated with wry humour. You can see other titles by Lisa Kemmerer at [lisakemmerer.com](http://lisakemmerer.com)



The second recommended book is by Patricia Sumerling and is entitled *Elephants and Egotists: In Search of Samorn of the Adelaide Zoo*. Samorn, the Adelaide Zoo's last elephant, was adored by generations of zoo visitors. A gift from the Thai government in 1956, she was transferred thirty five years later to Monarto Zoo to live out her days. When she died there in 1994, there was an outpouring of sadness from all who knew or grew up with her. *Elephants and Egotists* is a tribute to Samorn, but also tells of other elephants sent to South Australia and the colourful characters who decided their fate. Elephants, particularly those in Southeast Asia, are now a critically endangered species needing our concern and immediate action. As Sir David Attenborough asks: 'The question is, are we happy to suppose that our grandchildren may never be able to see an elephant except in a picture book?'

Lastly, we recommend *Ockham's Razor: A User's Manual* by Elliott Sober. Elliott Sober's book is a welcome and impressive contribution to current philosophy of science literature on confirmation and scientific reasoning. Ockham's razor is, roughly, the idea that simpler or more parsimonious explanations, hypotheses, or models should be preferred, other things being equal. In this book, the ABCs of probability theory are succinctly developed and put to work to describe two 'parsimony paradigms' within which this problem can be solved.

While the idea that simplicity is a theoretical virtue is familiar to scientists and philosophers and some philosophical literature exists on the topic, Elliott's book is the only up to date philosophical monograph on the topic today. Of particular interest to many Animal Studies scholars would be Chapter 4 that looks at parsimony in arguments about attributing mind reading abilities to chimpanzees.

*Eating Earth: Environmental Ethics and Dietary Choice*

Author: Lisa Kemmerer

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Publication: 2014

*Elephants and Egotists: In Search of Samorn of the Adelaide Zoo.*

Author: Patricia Sumerling

Publisher: Wakefield Press

Publication: 2016

*Ockham's Razor: A User's Manual*

Author: Elliott Sober

Publisher: Cambridge University Press

Publication: 2015

Don't forget these six important Animal Studies publications announced in Bulletins 30 and 31:

*Bird Minds: Cognition and Behaviour of Australian Native Birds*

Author: Gisela Kaplan

Publisher: CSIRO Publishing

Publication: 2015

*Political Ecologies of Meat*

Editors: Jody Emel and Harvey Neo

Publisher: Routledge Studies in Political Ecology

Publication: 2015

*Becoming Salmon: Aquaculture and the Domestication of a Fish*

Author: Marianne Elisabeth Lien

Publisher: University of California Press

Publication: 2015

*Wild Life: The Institution of Nature*

Author: Irus Braverman

Publisher: Stanford University Press

Publication: 2015

*The Ethics of Killing Animals*

Editors: Tatjana Višak and Robert Garner

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Publication: 2015

*The Animals Trade*

Author: Clive J.C. Phillips

Publisher: CAB International

Publication: 2015

