



Animal Studies Journal

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AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL STUDIES GROUP

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AASG's quarterly *Bulletin* is a quarterly digest of news and events in the field of animal studies within Australia and beyond. It includes information on recent and forthcoming conferences, exhibitions and other events, calls for papers, and information about new books, special issues of journals, and films. The *Bulletin* is available on our website or by email on request.

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Contents

Notes on Contributors _____ i

Editorial _____ v

Special Issue: Animals, Place and Humans

Guest Editors Gavan P. L. Watson and Traci Warkentin

Introduction: Animals, Place and Humans _____ 1

Alette Willis

Bearing Witness: Re-storying the Self in Places that are Always More
Than Human Made _____ 8

Christine Lowther

In Pursuit _____ 28

Erin Luther

Tales of Cruelty and Belonging: In Search of an Ethic for Urban
Human-Wildlife Relations _____ 35

Ryan Hediger

Dogs of War: The Biopolitics of Loving and Leaving the U.S. Canine
Forces in Vietnam _____ 55

Perdita Phillips

Observing across scales: Broome Bird Observatory as a site of
multiple exchanges _____ 75

Ike Kamphof

Linking Animal and Human Places: The Potential of Webcams
for Species Companionship _____ 83

Poems _____	105
Catherine Cole	
Animal Dreaming _____	105
Wendy Woodward	
Talking to Jasper, in the garden _____	106
Zuzana Kocourkova	
<i>Winner of the Vox Animalia Student Essay Prize 2012</i>	
Why Do Animals Matter in Contemporary Australia? _____	108
Deirdre Coleman	
Menageries and Museums: John Simons' <i>The Tiger that Swallowed the Boy</i> (2012) and the Lives and Afterlives of Historical Animals _____	116
Wendy Woodward	
Wild and Dangerous Performances: Animals, Emotions and Circus. 2012. Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan _____	135

Notes on Contributors

Professor Catherine Cole is chair of Creative Writing at University of Wollongong. She has published three novels, a memoir and non-fiction and has edited anthologies. Her essays, poetry and short stories have been published nationally and internationally. Catherine also writes book reviews for the national media and has judged some of Australia's leading literary prizes.

Professor Deirdre Coleman holds the Robert Wallace Chair of English at the University of Melbourne. Her research centres on eighteenth-century literature and cultural history, focusing in particular on racial ideology, colonialism, natural history, and the anti-slavery movement. She has published in *ELH*, *Eighteenth-Century Life* and *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, and is the author of *Romantic Colonization and British Anti-Slavery* (Cambridge University Press, 2005). Her most recent book (with Hilary Fraser) is *Minds, Bodies, Machines, 1770-1930* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011).

Dr Ryan Hediger is Assistant Professor of English at Kent State University, Tuscarawas, in the United States. His research focuses on the environment, animals, violence, and American literature. He has edited two volumes of essays: *Animals and War: Studies of Europe and North America* (Brill 2013) and *Animals and Agency: An Interdisciplinary Exploration* (Brill, 2009, co-edited with Sarah McFarland). He has published essays on animals in *The Hemingway Review*, *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment (ISLE)*, and elsewhere, and is currently at work on a manuscript studying posthumanism, American literature, and homesickness.

Dr Ike Kamphof is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Maastricht (The Netherlands). Her fields of expertise include post-phenomenology, new media, and the relation of aesthetics and ethics. Her research focuses on technologically mediated networks of care, in nature conservation and in telecare applications. She is currently involved in a research project on telecare for elderly people with dementia, and in several artistic projects

in the field of human-animal relationships. Recent publications include *Iedereen Voyeur* (2013) (Everyone a voyeur), essays on everyday structures of surveillance. An earlier article on animal webcams, 'Webcams to save nature. Online space as affective and ethical space' appeared in *Foundations of Science* 16.2-3 (2011): 259-274. She holds a PhD in philosophy from the University of Leuven (2002, Belgium) on the aesthetic writings of J. F. Lyotard.

Zuzana Kocourkova completed a BA (History major; awarded the George Vari Prize in Medieval and Early Historical Studies) at the University of Sydney where she is currently enrolled in a Cultural Studies Diploma. With a view to continue pursuing her passion for animals academically, Zuzana plans to undertake Honours followed by further postgraduate studies. She works as a volunteer at the Cat Protection Society in Sydney.

Christine Lowther is the author of *Half-Blood Poems* (Zossima Press), *My Nature* (Leaf Press), *New Power* (Broken Jaw Press), co-editor and co-author of *Writing the West Coast: In Love with Place* (Ronsdale Press) and *Living Artfully: Reflections from the Far West Coast* (The Key Publishing House Inc.). Her work has appeared in *subTerrain*, *Other Voices*, *The New Quarterly*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Walk Myself Home*, *Crowlogue*, *Wild Moments: Adventures with Animals of the North* and *Salt in Our Blood*. Work will appear in 2013's *Force Field: 77 Women Poets of British Columbia*, edited by Susan Musgrave, and *LAKE*: journal of arts and environment.

Erin Luther is a doctoral student in Environmental Studies at York University, Canada, whose research focuses on human-animal relations and environmental communication. She has also been involved in community wildlife conflict education in the non-profit sector for over a decade.

Dr Perdita Phillips is a Western Australian environmental artist who works across the media of site-specific environmental projects, walking, drawing, installation, photography and sound art. Her work explores the gathering of living and nonliving interests which will shape the coming environmental futures. She has written an encyclopaedia about termites (2000) and created the 53rd Annual 'Where is the Best Salmon Gum?' Competition for the Shires of Kellerberrin and

Tammin (2001) and made work with bowerbirds (2007-8, Australia Council SymbioticA Artist in Residence for *Green, Grey or Dull Silver: art and the behavioural ecology of the Great Bowerbird, Chlamydera Nuchalis*). Phillips was artist in residence at Murdoch University School of Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences which resulted in the solo show *In Vetland* (2009). Exhibitions include *Yonder* (2012, PICA), *Visceral: The Living Art Experiment* (2011, Science Gallery, Dublin), *Animals, People – A Shared Environment* (2011, POP Gallery), *The System of Nature* (2007, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery) and *Thinking skin* (a collaboration with Jane Mulcock at *Animals and Society II: Considering animals*, Hobart, 2007). Recent publications include *A simple rain* (with Vivienne Glance), *Fieldwork with bowerbirds* in *Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture* and *Walk 'til you run out of water* in *Performance Research: A Journal of the Performing Arts* in 2012 and *birdlife* (with Nandi Chinna, Michael Farrell, Graeme Miles and Nyanda Smith) and *The case of the lengthening legs: cane toads in northern Australia* in *Animal Movements • Moving Animals: essays on direction, velocity and agency in humanimal encounters* (Uppsala University) in 2011. She currently works as a sessional academic at Curtin University and Edith Cowan University.
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The first 'chapter book' **Dr Alette Willis** ever read was Farley Mowat's childhood memoir *Owls in the Family*, and she's never looked back. She did her PhD at the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University, Canada on ecological memoirs and ethics. Her interest in stories, identity and ethics has taken her to Counselling and Psychotherapy at the University of Edinburgh where she currently holds a Chancellor's Fellowship. In her spare time, she is a published author of fiction for adults and children and an organiser of 'green' book groups.

Dr Traci Warkentin is an Assistant Professor of Geography at The City University of New York (CUNY), Hunter College, and a member of the advisory board for the CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities. Her current research on the relational spaces of human-animal interactions in urban environments combines her interests in animal geographies, feminist environmental ethics, and experiential learning contexts. Earlier work investigated opportunities for reciprocity in whale-human encounters and opportunities for environmental education in aquariums, involving extensive fieldwork in the U.S., Canada and Australia. Reflecting the

interdisciplinary nature of Traci's work are her recent publications in *Ethics and the Environment*, *Journal of Geography*, *Hypatia*, *Canadian Journal of Environmental Education*, and *AI & Society*, entries in the *Encyclopedia of Human-Animal Relationships*, as well as book chapters on decolonizing zoos, methods for studying animal minds, and whale agency in captivity.

Dr Gavan Watson works at the University of Guelph where he supports graduate students in their development as teaching assistants and instructors in higher education. His doctoral research was located at the intersection of environmental education, environmental philosophy and animal studies. He is interested in the multiple practices of watching the non-human, specifically birds, and how technology, education and experience all impact how birds and the landscapes in which they can be found are shaped. Previous research examined children's conceptions of nature and the role of place in environmental education. Gavan is currently most active in the fields of environmental education and teaching and learning in higher education, including publications in the *Canadian Journal of Environmental Education*, *Environmental Education Research* and recent chapters with a focus ranging from ring-billed gulls as trash animals to the use of microblogging in classrooms of higher education.

Professor Wendy Woodward is Deputy Dean at the University of the Western Cape, where she teaches southern African Literature, Animal Studies and Creative Writing in the English Department. *The Animal Gaze: Animal Subjectivities in southern African Narratives* (Wits University Press, 2008) was awarded the Deputy Vice Chancellor's Book Award for 2006-2008 and her second volume of poetry, *Love, Hades and other Animals* (Protea) was published in 2008. She organised the Colloquium, *Figuring the Animal in Post-Apartheid South Africa*, (May 2011), at which the Animal Studies Round Table in Africa (ASRA) was formed. Her current research focuses on the urban animal photographs of Fanie Jason, as well as on the practices of animal-reading, affect and ethics.

Editorial

This special issue of the *Animal Studies Journal*, with Guest Editors Gavan Watson and Traci Warkentin, has the theme ‘Animals, Place and Humans’. Gavan, from Canada, and Traci, from New York, present six essays and creative works by scholars and artists from around the world who address this important theme.

In addition, there is a review of Peta Tait’s new book *Wild and Dangerous Performances: Animals, Emotion Circus*; an article on the lives and afterlives of animals caught in the exotic animal trade, which includes a discussion of John Simon’s new book *The Tiger that Swallowed the Boy*, and a small selection of poetry. We are also pleased to include Zuzana Kocourkova’s essay which won the *Vox Animalia* Student Essay Prize 2012, established by HARN: Human Animal Research Network at the University of Sydney and supported by a grant from Voiceless: the animal protection institute.

We invite scholarly and creative submissions for future editions of the journal – please see our website for details of how to submit online.

But for now – happy reading!

Melissa

Editor

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