



Animal Studies Journal

Volume 10, Number 1

2021



Animal Studies Journal is a fully refereed journal, published twice-yearly, devoted to multidisciplinary scholarship and creative work in the field of Animal Studies.

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Cover Acknowledgement

Cover image by Dr Yvette Watt

ISSN 2201-3008

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Editorial: Special Issue on Covid-19

This edition of *Animal Studies Journal*, guest edited by Chloë Taylor (University of Alberta), Kelly Struthers Montford (Ryerson University) and Eva Kasprzycka (University of British Columbia), is a Special Issue on the impacts of Covid-19 on human-animal relations. These have ranged from the emptying of animal shelters due to mass adoptions for companionship during lockdowns, to the emptying of farm facilities due to mass killing of other species on the grounds of their own susceptibility to the virus. Media coverage of the impact of human lockdowns on wild animals ranged from celebrations (and occasionally fabulations) of wildlife reclaiming the spaces ceded, to concerns about the limited ability of conservationists to undertake monitoring of vulnerable populations. The impacts, in other words, have been wide-ranging and diverse. What these collected papers bring into focus, however, is the broader picture of how these various situations are connected by the narratives of human exceptionalism and entitlement that shape them, and that shape zoonosis itself.

As well as this timely collection of papers, which addresses pressing global issues, we include a selection of reviews of recent publications in animal studies.

We feel sure you will find this edition informative and thought-provoking.

Melissa Boyde and Sally Borrell

Animal Studies Journal

Contributor Biographies

Esther Alloun recently completed a PhD at the University of Wollongong (on unceded Dharawal Country). Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in Israel and Palestine, her thesis examines the politics of human and animal rights activism in the region and it also intervenes in ongoing debates in Animal Studies on intersectional approaches to animal justice. Her work can be found in *Settler Colonial Studies*, *the Journal of Intercultural Studies* and the *Animal Studies Journal*.

Paula Arcari is a Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow within the Centre for Human Animal Studies at Edge Hill University, UK. Her three-year project ‘The Visual Consumption of Animals: Challenging Persistent Binaries’ aims to support transformational change in the way humans conceive and interact with nature and other animals. She completed her PhD on ‘ethical’ meat and animals at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia in 2018. Her primary research focus is understanding how both societal change and stability are constituted, particularly in relation to the oppression of nonhuman animals, the expropriation of nature, and climate and environmental change.

Charlotte E. Blattner is a senior researcher and lecturer at the Institute for Public Law, University of Bern. Dr. Blattner worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Philosophy at Queen’s University, Canada, specializing in animal labour as part of *Animals in Philosophy, Politics, Law, and Ethics (APPLE)*, and at Harvard Law School’s *Animal Law & Policy Program* to explore critical intersections of animal and environmental law. She is the author of *Protecting Animals Within and Across Borders* (2019) and co-editor of *Animal Labour: A New Frontier of Interspecies Justice?* (2020). Blattner has argued several cases in court, including the well-known ‘Primate Rights Case’ at the Swiss Federal Supreme Court.

Darren Chang is a PhD student at the University of Sydney. His research interests broadly include interspecies relations under colonialism and global capitalism, practices of solidarity and mutual aid across species in challenging oppressive powers, and social movement theories. His current research explores how animal sanctuaries could be a generative site for the emergence of solidarity between animal liberation and decolonization, and for prefiguring just multispecies relations. Darren's case study examining the tensions between Indigenous and animal advocacy struggles in the commercial seal hunt was recently published in *Colonialism and Animality: Anti-Colonial Perspectives in Critical Animal Studies* (2020), edited by Kelly Struthers Montford and Chloë Taylor.

Lauren Corman is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Brock University. She teaches in the areas of environmental thought, contemporary social theory, and critical animal studies. Her research centralizes anti-racist, anti-colonial, and feminist analyses of social relations and the more-than-human world. Broadly, her scholarship investigates the subjectivities of oppressed groups. She hosted the Toronto radio show *Animal Voices* for about a decade. She recently published 'He(a)rd: Animal Cultures and Anti-Colonial Politics' in Kelly Struthers Montford and Chloë Taylor's collection, *Colonialism and Animality: Anti-Colonial Perspectives in Critical Animal Studies* (Routledge, 2020). Dr. Corman is currently working on a text about the cultural and colonial histories of particularly vilified animals.

Kendra Coulter holds the Chancellor's Chair for Research Excellence and is chair of the department of labour studies at Brock University in Canada. She is a fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, and an invited member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists, the Canadian Violence Link Coalition Coordinating Committee, and the Government of Ontario's Provincial Animal Welfare Services Advisory Table. She is the author of *Animals, Work, and the Promise of Interspecies Solidarity* (Palgrave Macmillan), and the co-editor, with Charlotte Blattner and Will Kymlicka, of *Animal Labour: A New Frontier of Interspecies Justice?* (2002).

David Herman is an independent researcher and writer based in the US. His recent contributions to human-animal studies include *Narratology beyond the Human: Storytelling and Animal Life*, *Animal Comics: Multispecies Storyworlds in Graphic Narratives*, and *Creatural Fictions: Human-Animal Relationships in Twentieth- and Twenty-First-Century Literature*, as well as a chapter in *The Palgrave Handbook of Animals and Literature* on ‘Self-Narratives and Inter-Species Identities’.

Alexandra Isfahani-Hammond is Associate Professor Emerita of Comparative Literature and Luso-Brazilian Studies at the University of California, San Diego. Her publications on Critical Animal Studies and the legacies of African enslavement include ‘Haunting Pigs, Swimming Jaguars: Mourning, Animals and *Ayahuasca*’ (2019), ‘Akbar Stole My Heart: Coming Out as an Animalist’ (2013), and *White Negritude: Race, Writing and Brazilian Cultural Identity* (2008). Her current book project, ‘Home Sick’, blends theory with creative nonfiction to meditate on grief, end of life, the medical-industrial complex, Islamophobia and the commodification of (human and nonhuman) animals. In addition to her scholarly publications, Alexandra has written for popular media including *The Advocate*, *CounterPunch*, *Ms. Magazine*, *Truthout* and *Persianesque*.

Eva Kasprzycka is a critical and creative writer who’s interested in the moral status of nonhuman animals in Western politics and philosophy, identity formation, and social justice movements. She’s a PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia and her research examines the interstices between critical theory and environment, extinction and animal studies.

Tessa Laird is an artist, writer and Lecturer in Critical and Theoretical Studies at the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, University of Melbourne. Her research looks at intersections between animals, ecologies, and creative and cultural practices. She is the author of *Bat*, a cultural history of bats, which forms part of Reaktion’s *Animal* series. She recently edited a special issue of *Art + Australia* with the theme ‘Multinaturalism’. Current research projects include an exhibition titled *Baroquetopusand*, a monograph on the concept of ‘cinemal’: the becoming-animal of experimental film.

Angela Lee is an Assistant Professor at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada. Her research interests lie at the intersections of law and policy, technology and innovation, the environment, society, and various forms of justice (including intergenerational, intragenerational, and interspecies). Her work on food, animals, and discourse has been published in journals such as the *Animal Law Review*, *Canadian Food Studies*, *Food Ethics*, the *Dalhousie Law Journal*, the *Windsor Review of Legal and Social Issues*, and the *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law*. She is a co-editor of *Food Law and Policy in Canada* (Toronto: Carswell, 2019).

Dana Medoro is professor of American literature at the University of Manitoba. Her publications include chapters and articles on factory farming and animal-rights. She has fought for almost two decades to liberate hens and sows from intensive-confinement operations.

Catherine Oliver is a postdoctoral researcher, currently working on the ERC-funded project *Urban Ecologies* (Grant Number 759239) at the University of Cambridge. Her current research with backyard chickens and chicken-keepers in London asks how we can rethink the city from beyond-human perspectives. Her first monograph, *Veganism, Animals, and Archives* is forthcoming with Routledge in 2021. Catherine is also a Wiley-Royal Geographical Society Digital Archives Fellow, exploring the archive for stories of animal collaboration, labour, and conflict. Catherine's wider research in feminist geographies explores 'dis-belonging' and the reproduction of neoliberal hierarchies in academia. She can be found on twitter at @katiecmoliver.

John Simons, Emeritus Professor of History, lives in Tasmania. He had a long career working in universities in the UK, the USA and Australia and retired as DVC (Academic) at Macquarie. He has published numerous articles and some 22 edited or single author books on topics ranging from Medieval chivalric romance to the history of cricket. Over the last 20 years or so he has worked more or less exclusively on animals and his books include *Animal Rights and the Politics of Literary Representation*, *The Tiger that Swallowed the Boy*, *Rossetti's Wombat*, *Kangaroo*, and *Obaysch: a Hippopotamus in Victorian London*. He has just completed a new book on fish and the Victorians and is currently working on an article on cephalopodomania.

Kelly Struthers Montford is Assistant Professor of Criminology at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada. Her research bridges settler colonial studies, punishment and captivity, animal studies, and law, and has been published in *Radical Philosophy Review*, the *New Criminal Law Review*, *PhiloSophia: a journal of continental feminism*, the *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law*, *Societies*, and *PhaenEx: Journal of Existentialist and Phenomenological Theory and Culture*. Kelly is the co-editor of two Critical Animal Studies collections that were published in 2020 with Routledge: *Disability and Animality: Crip Perspectives in Critical Animal Studies* (with Stephanie Jenkins and Chloë Taylor), and *Colonialism and Animality: Anti-Colonial Perspectives in Critical Animal Studies* (with Chloë Taylor).

Peta Tait is Professor of Theatre and Drama at La Trobe University and she is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. She has written over 60 scholarly articles and chapters and her recent books include: the authored, *Theory for Theatre Studies: Emotion* (Bloomsbury 2021); the edited *The Great European Stage Directors: Antoine, Stanislavski and Saint-Denis*, volume one (Bloomsbury, 2018); the co-edited *Feminist Ecologies: Changing Environments in the Anthropocene* (Palgrave Macmillan 2018); the authored *Fighting Nature: Travelling Menageries, Animal Acts and War Shows* (Sydney University Press 2016); the co-edited *The Routledge Circus Studies Reader* (Routledge 2016); *Wild and Dangerous Performances* (Palgrave MacMillan 2012); She is currently writing *Forms of Emotion: Human to Nonhuman in Drama, Theatre and Performance* (under contract). Her most recent play, *Eleanor and Mary Alice* (Currency Press 2018), is about Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary Alice Evatt and human rights, art and war.

Chloë Taylor is Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. Her research interests include critical animal studies, food politics, Anthropocene studies, prison abolitionism, 20th-century French philosophy, the philosophy of gender and sexuality, critical disability studies and mad studies. She is the author of three monographs and the co-editor of four anthologies. She has published articles in journals such as *Hypatia*, *Feminist Studies*, *Foucault Studies*, *Postmodern Culture*, *Culture Theory and Critique*, *Philosophy Today*, the *Journal of Critical Animal Studies*, and *Social Philosophy Today*. In 2014 she was elected to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

Dinesh Wadiwel is Senior Lecturer in human rights and socio-legal studies at University of Sydney. He is author of the monograph *The War against Animals* (Brill, 2015) and is co-editor, with Matthew Chrulew of *Foucault and Animals* (Brill 2017). He is also co-editor of *Animals in the Anthropocene: Critical Perspectives on Non-Human Futures* (Sydney UP). He is a member of the Multispecies Justice research group at the University of Sydney, and Chair of the Australasian Animal Studies Association.

Wendy Woodward is Professor Emerita in English Literature at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. She is the author of *The Animal Gaze: Animal Subjectivities in Southern African Narratives*, Wits University Press 2008, and the co-editor, with Erika Lemmer, of a Special Issue of the *Journal of Literary Studies* on *Figuring the Animal in Post-apartheid South Africa* (2014). She is also co-editor, with Susan McHugh, of *Indigenous Creatures, Native Knowledges and the Arts: Animal Studies in Modern Worlds* (Palgrave, 2017).

Tessa Wotherspoon is an activist, multidisciplinary artist, and writer, presently located on the unceded Sylix/Okanagan peoples' territory where she lives with her family. She is an undergraduate student at the University of British Columbia (Okanagan Campus) with a double major in political science and sociology, and additionally works as a research assistant. Tessa's interdisciplinary activism and research is largely concerned with issues of class, labour, animal liberation, Western imperialism, and race, and the ways in which these topics intersect with literature and film. She has been published by thehub.lgbt, a British Columbia based online queer news source.