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Contents

Editorial

Dedication to Siobhan O'Sullivan (1974-2023) _____ i

Contributor Biographies _____ iii

Christian Hunold and Jennifer L. Britton

'Pooped in My Yard and Ate My Grass Last Night': Wild Burros and Tales of
Belonging in Riverside County, California _____ 1

John Enman-Beech

Can Animals Contract? _____ 33

Katerina Tsiopos

The Mouse Colony _____ 63

Lisa Kemmerer

Simply Caring _____ 67

**Jes Hooper, Thomas Aiello, Kristine Hill,
Michelle Szydlowski and Sarah Oxley Heaney**

Nothing More than 'Anti-Cull Activists': Accusations of Bias and the Politics
of Research that Advocates for Non-Human Animals _____ 70

David Herman

[Review Essay] Animal Worlds after Uexküll: Ed Yong. *An Immense World: How Animal
Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us*. New York: Random House, 2022. 449 pp. _____ 96

Wendy Woodward

[Review] Krishanu Maiti, editor. *Posthumanist Perspectives on Literary and
Cultural Animals*. Springer, 2021. Second Language Learning and Teaching:
Issues in Literature and Culture. 188 pp. _____ 116

Wendy Woodward

[Review] Matthew Calarco. *The Boundaries of Human Nature: The Philosophical
Animal from Plato to Haraway*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2022. 170 pp. _____ 120

Editorial

Dedication to Siobhan O'Sullivan (1974-2023)

This edition of the journal is dedicated to the memory of Siobhan O'Sullivan who died in the early hours of Saturday June 17, 2023. It was ovarian cancer which cut short the life of this indomitable advocate, activist, scholar and charismatic woman who deployed her abundance of energy, humour, intellect and compassion to bring awareness to the injustices wrought on other animals in this world.



The critical/animal studies network is close-knit in Australia and Siobhan played a leading role in finding ways to support the discipline as it developed. We first met in 2007 – a colleague and I were seeking funding for a national symposium on replacing animals in scientific and medical research, and I am certain Siobhan's presence on the funding committee had a great deal to do

with the decision to fund the event. Two years later I started working with Siobhan in a scholarly group formed to build and strengthen the then nascent field of animal studies – the Australian Animal Studies Group. It was the early days, our small group was diverse, productive and dynamic and our meetings were sometimes boisterous – Siobhan's voice and laugh rang out along the corridors! The group is now the Australasian Animal Studies Association (AASA) and the current chair, Dinesh Wadiwel, wrote after her death 'For those of us who knew Siobhan personally, she was experienced as something like an irrepressible force ... always the pulsing heart of any gathering she was part of'. In 2021 Siobhan funded two prizes, conceived as ongoing support for the field – the AASA Journal Article by an Early Career Researcher Prize and the AASA Popular Communication of Animal Studies Prize.

Siobhan is the author of *Animals, Equality, and Democracy* (2011) which, as Peter Singer writes: 'appeals to democratic values to argue that the way we treat many animals is unjustifiable, even when judged by the standards that citizens of most democracies already accept'. With Robert Garner she co-edited the important collection, *The Political Turn in Animal Ethics* (2016). However, Siobhan is perhaps most widely known to critical/animal studies scholars internationally through the podcast she founded in 2015, *Knowing Animals*, in which she interviews researchers and animal advocates about their work:

<https://www.knowinganimals.com/podcasts>

The love shown for Siobhan at her funeral a few days ago and the many hilarious stories told there by her family, friends and colleagues honoured a woman whose work, commitment, innovation and trademark humour and laugh will be greatly missed by us all.

Rest in peace Siobhan.

Melissa Boyde

Editor

Contributor Biographies

Thomas Aiello is a professor of history and Africana studies at Valdosta State University. He is the author of more than twenty books and dozens of peer-reviewed journal articles. He holds PhDs in history and anthrozoology and serves on the board of the Animals and Society Institute, the largest animal studies think tank in the United States. Learn more at www.thomasaiellobooks.com.

Jennifer Britton is a wild horse photographer and advocate who visits and documents wild and free-roaming horses across the United States (@jenbrittonphotography). As a volunteer for the nonprofit Assateague Island Alliance, she created the first educational field guide for the wild pony herd in the Assateague Island National Seashore, situated along the Atlantic coast of Maryland, USA. She has previously published 'Bordering Processes and Pony Wildness on Assateague Island' in *Society & Animals*, co-authored with Christian Hunold. In addition to wild horses and burros, her research interests include 20th-century American urban and suburban development; she has also published about Drexel's anchor-mission-driven practices and strategies as an institutional leader in that work in spaces like *Metropolitan Universities Journal* and *Planning for Higher Education*. She is the Executive Director of Drexel University's Sustainable Development Strategy, and holds an M.S. in Science, Technology, and Society.

John Enman-Beech is a lecturer in the law of contract at King's College London. They have published on the ways contract structures people's relationships with social media platforms, gig economy apps, and other businesses. Their work is methodologically diverse, encompassing both doctrinal approaches and feminist, queer and critical legal and economic theory.

David Herman is an independent researcher based in the US who works at the intersection of interdisciplinary narrative theory and human-animal studies. He is currently exploring ways to hybridise different kinds of discourse about animals – fictional, scientific, philosophical, and other – in a collection of posthumanist fables. His recent publications include ‘Dogs: A Diaspora’, in *Miracle Monocle* (2022), and ‘Lin May Saeed and Post-Anthropocentric Art’, in *Humanimalia* (forthcoming).

Kris Hill is completing her PhD in Anthrozoology with Exeter University. Her doctoral research focuses on cat-human relations in urban communities, and discourses surrounding roaming cats (*Felis catus*). Other areas of interest include more-than-human families, animal representations, and animals in tourism. <https://katzenlife.wordpress.com/>.

Jes Hooper is an Anthrozoology PhD candidate at the University of Exeter. Her research focuses on human-civet relationships including those involved in civet coffee, tourism, and conservation. Jes is the founder of the non-profit www.thecivetproject.com and works part time as a researcher for Badger Trust.

Christian Hunold is a professor in the Department of Politics and in the Center for Science, Technology and Society, Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA. In addition to his contributions to the study of environmental politics and political theory, Hunold’s work in human-animal studies engages the spatial dimensions of human-wildlife governance in the United States, with a focus on cities. His research on multispecies politics has appeared in *Nature and Culture*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Humanimalia*, *Environmental Values*, and *Society & Animals*. His latest publication is a chapter in *The Oxford Handbook of Animal Organization Studies: A Critical Reader in Ethics, Business and Society*, edited by Lindsay Hamilton and Linda Tallberg, titled ‘Social Media Images of Urban Coyotes and the Constitution of More-than-human Cities’. The present article is part of an ongoing collaboration with Jennifer Britton on the governance of free-roaming horses and burros in anthropogenic landscapes.

Sarah Oxley Heaney is an Anthrozoology PhD student with the University of Exeter. Her project ‘Kissing Sharks’ www.kissingsharks.com examines unique, co-developed shark-human relationships. Other anthrozoologic interests focus upon abandoned cats in Saudi Arabia, where her research-activist work continues.

Lisa Kemmerer is internationally known for her focus on animals, nature, and disempowered human beings in the field of ethics. Professor Emeritus Kemmerer is founder and director of the educational non-profit, Tapestry (tapestryofpeace.org). She has authored many articles, anthology chapters, and books (<http://lisakemmerer.com/publications.html>), including *Vegan Ethics: AMORE—5 Reasons to Choose Vegan; Animals and World Religions; Sister Species: Women, Animals, and Social Justice; Eating Earth: Environmental Ethics and Dietary Choice*; and two 2023 poetry chapbooks with Finishingline Press, *Affinity* and *Waterways*. For more information, please visit lisakemmerer.com.

Michelle Szydlowski earned her PhD in 2021. Her focus is on the intersection of humans and other-than-human animals in conservation and tourism settings. She studies pachyderms at the wild-captive interface and works toward equality for marginalized communities. Find her at www.internationalelephants.org.

Katerina Tsiopos is a poet and professor of English, as well as founding director of a university English program. She is the author of a poetry chapbook *Our Slow Migration North* (Finishing Line). She is completing *Our Slow Complicit in Green*, her second eco-poetry chapbook. Her poetry has been published in *Engage! Environmental Justice; ART/LIFE; River Styx; Bathtub Gin, Flying Island*, and archived in both *Indiana Historical Society Archive* and *Hellenic Museum Library* (Chicago, IL). Her poetry has been translated into Greek and Romanian. She has read her poetry at hundreds of venues such as Café Trieste (San Francisco), Portland Poetry Slam (Portland, OR), Skokie Public Library (Chicago), Indiana University, as well as Au Chat Noir cabaret (Paris, France).

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).