



Animal Studies Journal

Volume 3, Number 2

2014

AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL STUDIES GROUP

AASG COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Melissa Boyde

Deputy Chair: Fiona Probyn-Rapsey

Secretary: Jennifer McDonell

Treasurer: Yvette Watt

General committee: Sally Borrell, Clare McCausland, Christine Townend

WEBPAGE

Our website provides detailed information about AASG, including our aims and vision, committee profiles, list of members, past and present issues of the News Bulletin and material on AASG conferences. The News Page lists upcoming conferences, seminars and exhibitions, new publications and calls for papers and proposals. The website also includes resources for animal studies scholars and teachers, an art gallery, and links to national and international networks and groups.

<http://www.aasg.org.au/>

BULLETIN

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.

<http://www.aasg.org.au/bulletins>

BECOME A MEMBER OF AASG

Annual membership fees: \$40 waged members

\$20 for student, concession, or unwaged members

You can join AASG online, with fees payable by EFT. Hit the JOIN US button on the website:

<http://www.aasg.org.au/join-us>

Or scan, fax or email a completed membership form, available online, with your payment to:

Dr Yvette Watt

Treasurer

Australian Animal Studies Group

Box 4648

Bathurst Street Post Office

Hobart Tasmania Australia 7001

Email: yvette.watt@utas.edu.au

Fax: (From Australia) 03 6226 4308

(International) +61 3 6226 4308



Animal Studies Journal is the journal of the Australian Animal Studies Group. It is a fully refereed journal, published twice-yearly, devoted to multidisciplinary scholarship and discussion on animal studies.

Editor
Melissa Boyde

Associate Editor
Sally Borrell

Design
Liam Fiddler

Editorial Correspondence

Melissa Boyde
Editor
Animal Studies Journal
PO Box U393
Wollongong
NSW 2500
Australia

Email: boyde@uow.edu.au
Website: <http://ro.uow.edu.au/asj/>

ISSN 2200-9140 (Print)

© Copyright 2014 *Animal Studies Journal*

Copyright in articles remains vested in the authors. Except as permitted under the Copyright Act (1968) as amended (for example, a fair dealing for the purposes of study, research criticism or review), no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or communicated or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission.

All enquiries should be made to the Editor.

Published by the Australian Animal Studies Group.

Animal Studies Journal

Editor

Melissa Boyde, University of Wollongong

Associate Editor

Sally Borrell

Editorial Advisory Board

Phillip Armstrong, New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies, University of Canterbury

Steve Baker, University of Central Lancashire

Georgette Leah Burns, Griffith University

Una Chaudhuri, New York University

Matthew Chrulew, Curtin University

Deirdre Coleman, University of Melbourne

Barbara Creed, University of Melbourne

Natalie Edwards, Massey University

Elizabeth Ellis, University of Wollongong

Adrian Franklin, University of Tasmania

Erica Fudge, University of Strathclyde

Donna Haraway, University of California Santa Cruz

Susan Hazel, University of Adelaide

Andrew Knight, Fellow, Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics

Amanda Lawson, University of Wollongong

Susan McHugh, University of New England

Alison Moore, University of Wollongong

Cecilia Novero, University of Otago

Annie Potts, New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies, University of Canterbury

Fiona Probyn-Rapsey, University of Sydney

Denise Russell, University of Wollongong

John Simons, Macquarie University

Peta Tait, University of Wollongong

Helen Tiffin, University of Wollongong

Tom Tyler, Oxford Brookes University

Yvette Watt, University of Tasmania

Linda Williams, RMIT University

Cary Wolfe, Rice University

Wendy Woodward, University of the Western Cape

Contents

Notes on Contributors	i
Editorial	iv

Reviews

1. Peta Tait

The Logos of the Living World:

Merleau-Ponty, Animals, and Language by Louise Westling _____ 1

2. Fiona Probyn-Rapsey

Multispecies Mourning: Thom van Dooren's

Flight Ways: Life and Loss at the Edge of Extinction _____ 4

3. Stephanie S. Turner

The Breathless Zoo: Taxidermy and the Cultures of Longing by Rachel Polinquin _____ 17

4. Erica Fudge

Animals and Early Modern Identity, Pia F. Cuneo (ed) _____ 24

5. Richard Twine

Defining Critical Animal Studies: An Intersectional Social Justice Approach for Liberation,

Anthony J. Nocella II, John Sorenson, Kim Socha and Atsuko Matsuoka (eds) _____ 30

6. Leigh Dale

Only the Animals by Ceridwen Dovey _____ 36

7. Isa Menzies

Spirited: Australia's Horse Story, National Museum of Australia, Canberra _____ 41

Winner of the Vox Animalia Student Essay Prize 2013

8. Benjamin Bolton

'Posthumanism and Animal Rights: Rethinking "The Human", Rethinking the "Self"' _____ 48

Creative Work

9. Catherine Cole

'The Rabbit' _____ 57

10. Sandra Burr

'Love Myst' _____ 61

Elegy

11. Jen Webb

Counting Up My Dead (for Sandra Burr) _____ 64

Notes on Contributors

Benjamin Bolton has just completed his Honours thesis in Gender and Cultural Studies at the University of Sydney, Australia. His thesis concerns the relationship between assigned female at birth trans people and a negotiation of gender in the public spaces of Sydney, Australia. As well as trans gendered experiences he is also interested in questions of producing more positive animal/human relations, particularly with an attention to the possibilities of altering the boundaries of the human self. Benjamin is planning to undertake a PhD in the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies at the University of Sydney in 2015.

Sandra Burr taught creative writing and creative/cultural research at the University of Canberra where she was a member of the Centre for Creative and Cultural Research. She was on the editorial board of the journal *Axon: Creative Explorations* and managed the ARC-funded project *Understanding Creative Excellence: A Case Study in Poetry*. Sandra was a member of AASG who reviewed for this journal, gave papers at our conferences and wrote film reviews for our *News Bulletin*. Her PhD, completed in 2009, is 'Women and horses: a study of Australia's recreational horsewomen' with 'Writing riding: reflections of an Australian horsewoman'. Sandra writes: 'It was a period of study that set me on a path of action for animal rights through the trans-disciplinary field of human-animal studies. I firmly believe in the power of accessible language and hope, through my writing and my research activities, to improve the lives of animals by engendering more empathetic and positive attitudes towards them' (*AASG News Bulletin* Dec. 2011).

Catherine Cole is Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Wollongong. She has published novels, non fiction, memoir, poetry and short stories. She has been a writer in residence at the Cite International des Arts in Paris and an Asialink resident in Hanoi.

Leigh Dale is Professor of English at the University of Wollongong, Australia. She is the author of *The Enchantment of English: Professing English Literatures in Australian Universities* (Sydney UP, 2012), *Responses to Self Harm: An Historical Analysis of Medical, Religious, Military and Psychological Perspectives* (McFarland, forthcoming 2015), and editor of *Australian Literary Studies*.

Erica Fudge is Professor of English Studies at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, UK, where she is also the Director of the British Animal Studies Network. She is the author of several books and has recently had articles published in *Angelaki*; *History and Theory*; *New Formations*; and *Theory, Culture and Society*.

Isa Menzies is a PhD candidate at the Australian National University in Canberra. Her research centres on representations of the horse, and its place in the national imagination. She blogs about her research at www.horsesfordiscourses.wordpress.com

Isa has spent almost a decade working in museums across a variety of roles, including as the curator responsible for Phar Lap's heart at the National Museum of Australia from 2009-2011. She is very keen on horses, despite having an allergy to them.

Fiona Probyn-Rapsey is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies at the University of Sydney, Australia. Her research focuses on the intersections of race/gender/species. Currently she is working on a project on dingoes which examines the cultural politics of dingo eradication with reference to post-anthropocentric theories of (animal) death. She is the author of *Made to Matter: White Fathers, Stolen Generations* (Sydney UP 2013) and Co-Editor (with Jay Johnston) of *Animal Death* (Sydney UP 2013). Fiona is Co-Convenor of the Human Animal Research Network at the University of Sydney (HARN) and also Vice-Chair of AASG: Australian Animal Studies Association and Series Co-Editor (with Melissa Boyde) of a new animal studies book series called *Animal Publics*: http://sydney.edu.au/sup/about/animal_publics.html.

Peta Tait, FAHA, is a performance studies scholar and playwright who researches the interdisciplinary humanities fields of emotions and body based performance. She is Visiting Professorial Fellow at the University of Wollongong, Australia. Her books include: *Wild and Dangerous Performances: Animals, Emotions, Circus* (Palgrave 2012); *Circus Bodies: Cultural Identity in Aerial Performance* (Routledge, 2005); and *Performing Emotions: Gender, Bodies, Spaces*, (Ashgate, 2002).

Stephanie S. Turner is Associate Professor in the Rhetorics of Science, Technology, and Culture program at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC), USA. She recently co-curated the taxidermy multimedia exhibit 'Animal Skins: Visual Culture' at UWEC's Foster Gallery and has published the article 'Relocating "Stuffed" Animals: Photographic Remediation of Natural History Taxidermy,' in *Humanimalia*. Her current project focuses on visual representations of the current mass extinction of species.

Richard Twine is a Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences and Co-Director of the Centre for Human Animal Studies at Edge Hill University, UK. He is the author of *Animals as Biotechnology – Ethics, Sustainability and Critical Animal Studies* (Routledge, 2010), and co-editor, with Nik Taylor of Flinders University, Australia, of *The Rise of Critical Animal Studies – From the Margins to the Centre* (Routledge Advances in Sociology, 2014). He has published many articles and chapters on issues as diverse as veganism, antibiotics, ecofeminism, intersectionality, posthumanism, bioethics and physiognomy. His own website can be found at <http://www.richardtwine.com>

Jen Webb is Distinguished Professor of Creative Practice, and Director of the Centre for Creative and Cultural Research at the University of Canberra. Her research focuses on the relationship between art and society; she is currently working, with Kevin Brophy, Michael Biggs and Paul Magee, on an ARC-funded project that investigates creativity through a case study of contemporary poetry. Jen was Sandra Burr's doctoral supervisor, and subsequently worked with her on a number of research projects that investigated aspects of the creative field.

Editorial

In this special edition of the journal we are pleased to present reviews by a number of leading scholars of a selection of the monographs and collections which have recently been published in the flourishing field of animal studies.

Two edited collections are reviewed: Erica Fudge reviews *Animals and Early Modern Identity*, a selection of works on human-animal relations in the early modern period, while Richard Twine reviews a new book of essays on critical animal studies – *Defining Critical Animal Studies: An Intersectional Social Justice Approach for Liberation*.

There are reviews of three monographs – Peta Tait’s review of Louise Westling’s *The Logos of the Living World: Merleau-Ponty, Animals, and Language*; Fiona Probyn-Rapsey’s review of Thom van Dooren’s *Flight Ways: Life and Loss at the Edge of Extinction*, and Rachel Polinquin’s *The Breathless Zoo: Taxidermy and the Cultures of Longing* is reviewed by Stephanie S. Turner.

Exhibitions and fiction are not forgotten. Isa Menzies reviews an exhibition currently showing at the National Museum of Australia, *Spirited: Australia's Horse Story*; Leigh Dale reviews Ceridwen Dovey’s acclaimed short story collection, *Only the Animals*; and we are pleased to publish Catherine Cole's short story ‘The Rabbit’.

In this edition we also present the essay ‘Posthumanism and Animal Rights: Rethinking “The Human”, Rethinking the “Self”’ by Benjamin Bolton which was awarded the 2013 *Vox Animalia* Student Essay Prize, established by HARN – the Human Animal Research Network at the University of Sydney.

We were saddened to hear of the death in September of Dr Sandra Burr, a valued member of the Australian Animal Studies Group. We are very pleased to be able to include one of Sandra's poems in this edition and an elegy written by her close friend and colleague Jen Webb.

We hope you find this edition of ASJ interesting and enjoyable.

Melissa Boyde Editor

Sally Borrell Associate Editor

