



Animal Geography News: Research, Conference, Publication

ISSUE 1 VOLUME 12

MARCH 2021

Stay connected
with AnGSG!



AnGSG Google Group is the real-time-communication medium of the Animal Geography Specialty Group.

Through it, members can debate ideas, exchange news, organize paper sessions, post calls for papers, and request information from colleagues. Have your messages sent by email via angsg@googlegroups.com and/or log in directly to the Google Group and click "New Topic" to send a message

CONTENTS

A letter from the chair	1
Meet the AnGSG board	2
Highlighted AAG sessions	3
Graduate student competition	5
An Interview with Heidi J. Nast	5
New books and publications	7
Spotlight on research and awards	9
Activism and public conversations	10
Animal Geography Bibliography	11

A letter from the chair

Hello Animal Geographers,

I hope you and yours have been keeping well despite the challenging times we are living through. When I wrote the letter from the Chair last year, noting the upheaval that was just emerging, I scarcely thought we would be looking at another virtual AAG. Indeed, my sign-off was: "I look forward to seeing you in Seattle!" But here we are again. The difference is that this time, we are experts at Zoom presentations, unfazed by pet cameos in meetings, and proudly wear sweatpants with dress shirts regularly. We are truly ready for the virtual AAG 2021 annual meeting!

I am pleased to introduce our twelfth annual Animal Geography Specialty Group newsletter where you will find all sorts of

information about the exciting things our members have been up to over the last year. For example, there are lists of honors and awards our members have received, recently published books, and articles and media projects that will no doubt be of interest to many. This issue also includes an interview with our keynote speaker, Heidi J. Nast. We hope all will join us for her lively and fascinating lecture on dogs in China on Friday, April 9th at 3pm (PST).

We have tentatively scheduled the AnGSG social for just after this lecture. More details to come. Our Board also hopes to see many of you at our virtual business meeting on Thursday, April 8 at 6:15pm (PST).

To help you plan your conference schedule, a list of AnGSG-sponsored sessions and events is

included in the newsletters as well.

Finally, I also want to extend my thanks to our current and recently re-elected Board members. Courtney Berne and Carley MacKay have been re-elected as AnGSG's Graduate Student Officers for the 2021-2022 term. They also deserve special mention for putting together this wonderful edition of our newsletter. And our entire Board does amazing work in support of the specialty group and in service of animal geography more generally; thank you for all your efforts.

I look forward to seeing you virtually for AAG 2021.

All the best,
Stephanie Rutherford,

Meet the 2021 AnGSG Board



Stephanie Rutherford, Chair

Associate Professor in the School of the Environment at Trent University in Canada. Her research focused on the environmental humanities, animal geographies and biopolitics. Her current research explores a history of wolves in Canada.



Shari Wilcox, Secretary Treasurer

Texas representative for Defenders of Wildlife, Shari focuses on wildlife habitat connectivity and restoration; private landowner outreach; ocelot and jaguarundi conservation; and threatened and imperiled species including bears, raptors, bats, reptiles and amphibians.



John-Henry Pitas, Communication

Critical human geographer interested in waste, environmental justice, and urban politics. John-Henry is currently a PhD student at the University of Maryland and Adjunct Faculty at Coppin State University.



Jason K. Blackburn

Associate Professor of Geography and a principal investigator in the Emerging Pathogens Institute and the director of the Spatial Epidemiology and Ecology Research Laboratory (SEER Lab) at the Univ of FL. His research focuses on the ecology and spatio-temporal patterns of zoonotic diseases.



Ingrid Nelson

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and the Environmental Program at Univ of Vermont. Ingrid's research focuses on the political ecologies of changing land and other natural resource use and environmental activism in rural areas, specifically in Mozambique.



Angela Dawn Parker

2016 Concordia University graduate (Montreal, Canada) with a masters degree from the Department of Geography, Urban & Environmental Studies. Her research focused on human-animal (non-human) interactions within specific spaces, particularly farm animal sanctuaries.



Courtney Berne, Graduate student

PhD Student in the Geography and Urban Studies Department at Temple University. Her research focuses on human-equine relationships, specifically within urban environments as they pertain to racialized mobilities, bodily agencies, and redefinitions of spatial sovereignty.



Carley MacKay, Graduate student

Doctoral student in the Department of Geography at York University. Her research interests include human-animal relationality, animal subjectivity, animal agriculture, food politics, and animal geographies.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of GEOGRAPHERS

ANNUAL MEETING • April 7-11, 2021 • VIRTUAL

Highlighted AAG Sessions

A Research Agenda for Animal Geographies

Organizers: Alice Hovorka

Animal geographies reflects an innovative and thriving sub-discipline. Animal geographers seek to understand how humans think about, place, and engage with animals, how animals shape human identities and social dynamics, as well as how broader processes influence the circumstances and experiences of animals. Animals fully feature as meaningful subjects of geographical study and animal geographies advance multi-species theoretical and empirical understanding in the discipline. This Elgar volume entitled "A Research Agenda for Animal Geographies" is meant to inspire further growth and engagement among animal geographers by presenting recent forays into theories of power, methodological innovations unearthing animal lifeworlds, and commitments to praxis. The moment is upon the sub-discipline to 'bring the animals back out' of Geography and beyond to influence dialogue and actions to address the pressing issues of our time.

[JOIN SESSION](#)

Highlighted AAG Sessions continued

Animals and their use of space (Part 1 and 2)

Organizers: Claire Burch, Rebecca Loraamm

In this session, we invite papers examining questions of animal space use towards new ecological, biological or conservation knowledge. Included are studies dealing with themes such as animal movement, space use as adaptation, habitat selection, home range delineation, migration, territoriality, gene dispersal, group movement dynamics and site fidelity. Completed and ongoing studies, be they quantitative or qualitative in their methodology, are welcome. In addition to quantitative and qualitative evaluations of animal movement and use of space oriented around wildlife, we hope to bring human perspective and interactions to this discussion. We are also interested in seeing research that evaluates animal use of space with a human component, including topics such as human perception of animal migration and movement, animal movement and use of space in urban areas and interactions with human space, and other related topics that integrate how humans share space with animals. The organizers hope for a vibrant discussion accompanied by a diverse representation of geographic, ecological, and biological perspectives.

[JOIN SESSION](#)

Arts of Noticing: Learning, Writing and Being Affected in More-than-human Geographies (I, II, III)

Organizers: Loren March, Timothy Bristow

Geography's attention has increasingly turned to questions of relationality, embodiment, affect, and more-than-human encounter in recent years (Lorimer, 2012; Whatmore, 2006). These shifts challenge us to "do geography differently" (Dowling et al, 2017: 824) by following new methodological pathways and engaging with the political and ethical questions entailed in such work. Contributions from a variety of disciplines point to the affective, relational and potentially transformative dimensions of this kind of research and suggest that if we are to engage with more-than-human geographies we must start with the arts of "noticing" (Head et al, 2014; Poe et al, 2014; Singh, 2017, 2018; Tsing, 2015; Tsing et al, 2017). This session aims to explore geographical practices of noticing and translation, research and writing, attuned to affect, entanglement, liveliness, flux, complexity, and rupture. We seek transformative and generative ways of knowing and writing more-than-human worlds, ways of translating affective encounters, and ways of passing along messages. Examples of possible methodologies include (but are not limited to): arts-based practices; cross-disciplinary collaborations; decolonial Indigenous methodologies (Gómez-Barris, 2017, Kimmerer; Simpson, 2014; Todd, 2016; Watts, 2013); critical cartographies and counter-mapping (Buiani, 2018); experimental texts and fictocriticism (Stewart, 2007); visual methodologies (Gómez-Barris, 2017; Rose, 2011); film, video, and moving-image methodologies (Lorimer, 2010; Richardson-Ngwenya, 2014); soundscape practices (Gallagher et al, 2017); more-than-human ethologies (Hodgetts and Lorimer, 2015; Lorimer, 2007); atmospheric research (Hodgetts and Hester, 2017; Lorimer et al, 2019); multispecies and more-than-human ethnographies (Barua, 2014; Kirksey and Helmreich, 2010; Cruikshank, 2005; Lorimer, 2006; Pitt, 2015); multi-sensory ethnographies (Pink, 2015); visceral research (Sexton et al, 2017); and other self-consciously messy methods.

[JOIN SESSION](#)

Highlighted AAG Sessions continued

Animal Geographies Graduate Student Presentation Competition 2021

Organizers: Stephanie Rutherford

In this session, four panelists will present their work for the Animal Geographies Specialty Group Graduate Student Award.

Mollie Holmberg - "Constructing captive ecology at the aquarium: Hierarchy, care, violence, and the limits of control"

Jacquelyn Johnson - "Death in the dark: Ethical considerations of making animal death visible through public records data mining in multi-species research"

Robert Anderson - "Producing wolves: The (bio) political animal geography of wolf conservation in Washington state"

Courtney Berne - "Equine as equalizer: Human-equine mythologies & Black urban horsemanship"

[JOIN SESSION](#)

An Interview with Heidi J. Nast

We are thrilled to have Dr. Heidi Nast as this year's keynote speaker! Heidi J. Nast is a cultural geographer and interdisciplinary teacher/scholar in the International Studies Department at DePaul University. Her most recent work draws on the insights of psychoanalysis, queer theory, Black Geographies, geopolitical economy, and archaeology to explore the ontological-libidinal-continental divide between the maternal and the (m)other vis-a-vis the emergence of sexual difference and private property. Her Animal Geographies scholarship examines how this divide shapes all planetary life and includes, most recently: "Pets or meat?: A resource geography of dogs in China, from Chairman Mao (1949-1976) to the Pet Fair Asia Fashion Show (2015-2020)"; "For the love of life-- Coal mining and pit bull fighting in early 19th century Britain"; "Pit bulls, slavery, and whiteness in the mid-to late-19th century US--geographical trajectories, primary sources"; and "D is for Dog". She is currently working on a co-edited collection with Palgrave (London), *Spatial Futures: Difference and the Post-Anthropocene*.

Courtney: Do you consider yourself to be a geographer?

Heidi: Definitely. Geography is the most cutting-edge discipline that's out there. Our appreciation of the relationship between space and power and the 'physical' and the 'human' allows us to analyze and theorize across materialities and scales, from the planetary, to the bodily and microscopic. With the rise of finance capitalism and the globalization of extraction, species ruin, war, forced migration, surplus populations, and poverty, our analytical and tactical skills have become invaluable.

Courtney: If you were to place Donna Haraway's *When Species Meet* in conversation with your work on China's pet expos, competitive grooming competitions, and dog shows, what would that discussion look like?

Heidi: Life is mediated differently depending on your geopolitical economic circumstances. If you're a hunter and gatherer, say, you're pretty good friends with the universe. Once you stay in one place to farm, you begin more strenuously to organize the world. And, if you farm in a world of 'monogamy for women

only' (MFWO; which did not happen everywhere), the maternal body becomes the first instance of property to be enclosed; 'land' is enclosed secondarily in consideration of the 'labor' that the enclosed maternal generates. As farming unfolds (which happened way differently across planetary space-time), everything changes, including the value of the human-animal relation. My work on pet expos has to do with: finance capitalism and Deng Xiaoping's opening up of China to FDI; the state's cultivation of a capitalist elite and what is now the world's largest middle class; the tremendous sociospatial alienations experienced nation-wide; and the one-child policy. All of these have operated to make the dog into a site of emotional and financial investment. Haraway asks the question of what "significant otherness" is in relation to the dog. Rather than contextualizing that within a larger geopolitical economic conditions, she turns to dog agility training, where a dog is rewarded for continually looking for, and being able to follow, its owner's directions.

Courtney: What are your thoughts on the bio-politics of COVID-19 transmission and the future of animal/human relations?

Heidi: If the Anthropocene is an era of extraction wherein life's dyadism is crudely severed into two and fractally divided into ever smaller propertied parts, there can be no eco-logic and ultimately no planetary human future. The problem of private property and the commodity form, as I'm presently trying to theorize it, begins with the enclosure of the maternal body (MFWO) through bodily-spatial devices, such as seclusion, veiling and, eventually, the state. It is (only) through this maternal enclosure that the signifying Father 'appears' to take planetary hold, replacing cosmologies of the egg with those of the seed. In Paleolithic times, the pregnant maternal body was the first and most enduring signifier in sculptural art, its dyadism proliferating across nomadic lifeworlds, most extensively in Africa. While the inspiration for this relational eco-logic begins with the dyadism of the pregnant body, this relationality continues on ex-vitro forever, inaugurated and metered by the insistence of the infant's cries and the regularity of a maternal response. The exceptional and sustained vulnerability of the infant is what brings the human to (maternal) order, an order that extends well beyond the maternal body into domains of the animate and inanimate. With maternal enclosure, the value that resides in the drama of 'crying-attending' is disappeared,

An Interview with Heidi J. Nast continued

the Father approximates the relational through binary operations that mis-take life as something achieved through instrumental placement. Yet, as Covid19 shows us, life goes on as it chooses, escaping the grasp of the Fabulator. Unable to submit to maternal difference (life), the Father continually and anxiously cuts life back, assessing its relational plenitude as excess. This Sisyphean task of 'overwriting poeisis with accumulation' takes the Maternal for the binary, Mother + Child. The problem is not about returning to the mother, then, but to a dyadic relationality that allows us to be kin with other species and inanimacies.

Courtney: What can a geopolitical economic analysis add to our understanding of power relations between humans and animals outside of the exotic pet trade, in more liminal spaces: such as, for example with horses?

Heidi: Human-pet and human-animal relations are distinct if we think of one in terms of the commodity form and the other as a broader relation. That said, geopolitical economic circumstances structure and ontologize all human-animal relations. Think, for instance, of: the first nomadic pastoralists of the Eurasian steppes that domesticated the horse; Genghis Khan's post riders; horse-powered ploughs; ancient Bronze and Iron Age chariots; Cortez' re-introduction of the horse into Mexico; Westward expansion (in the US); horse mills; racecourses, riding stables and equine therapy. All of these speak to relational technologies that open up onto worlds of difference and difference-making, making it impossible to locate a singular human-horse distinction.

Courtney: Could you talk about the value of psychoanalytic analysis in geography and how it's been neglected as a discursive lens?

Heidi: One of the things that I'm trying to theorize at the moment is how the canine's evolutionary and increasingly in-bred sociality and devotion have come to assume special importance in light of capitalism's accelerating reproductive contradictions. To wit, in the majority of those wealthy nations expected to most consume, globally, total fertility rates (TFRs) have fallen below replacement level, an effect of economic precarity and automation. That these declines are so racially and geographically uneven has profound global implications for the future of the relational maternal, which is where subject-making and the unconscious lie. In previously privileged industrial nation-states, for instance, de-industrialization and automation have rendered the biological maternal (as generator of future labor) increasingly obsolescent, whereas in neo-industrializing contexts, today, capital is corralling and feeding off the maternal surplus that accrued during former colonial eras when indigenous peoples were not allowed the labor-saving privileges of the machine. What is happening, I believe, is that the dyadic commitments of the dog to the human are being over coded as the maternal, erasing the difference of the dog and taking attention away from the drama of the human.

Courtney: Non-academic question: after nearly a year of this pandemic, what is making you, Heidi Nast, happy right now?

Heidi: Number one, I'm an introvert, which makes a big difference in how happiness manifests. I'm also extraordinarily privileged by my whiteness and location in the world's wealthiest nation and by being employed in a higher educational institution that (at least for now) cannot easily fire me, pays me relatively well, and allows me substantial freedoms. I've been similarly advantaged by the 'academic-ness' of my neuroses, which includes an obsessive attention to detail. And then there is the fact that I own a small apartment building in a safe neighborhood; the list goes on and on.

All of these factors have made my 'pandemic' time into what feels like a privileged form of retreat. I re-started my yoga practice, made serious inroads in identifying and sorting out thorny personal contradictions, and am cooking more complicated foods, things that require chopping and stirring. (laugh) I've also begun catching up on scholarly projects and more

carefully planning the new. What has been especially enjoyable is realizing that, under these retreat conditions at least, I like the technologies that I had previously avoided, like Slack, Zoom, Instagram, Spotify. These inspired me to replace my 20-year-old tv with a ginormous OLED smart one, transforming my experiences of watching foreign film. Overall, it feels good to be a bit inside the z-generational present.

*Nast, Heidi J. 2020. D is for Dog. In Antoinette Burton and Renisa Mawani (eds), *Animalia: An anti-imperial bestiary for our times*, 45-55. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.*

*Nast, Heidi J. 2021. Pets or meat?: A resource geography of dogs in China, from Chairman Mao (1949-1976) to the Pet Fair Asia Fashion Show (2015-2020). Chapter 13 In Matthew Himley, Elizabeth Havice, and Gabriela Valdivia (eds), *The Routledge Handbook of Critical Resource Geography*, Chapter 13. New York: Routledge.*

For more information

Heidi J. Nast

International Studies Department
DePaul University

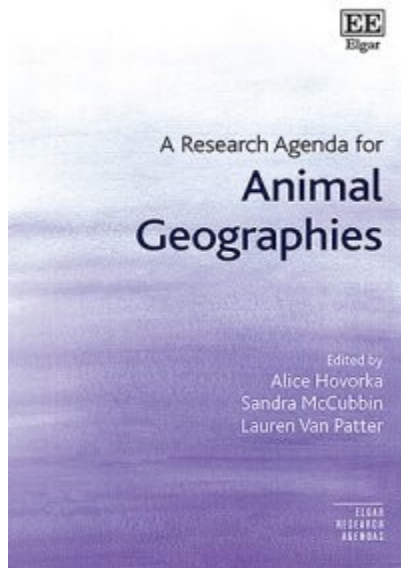
hnast@depaul.edu Phone: 773-325-7882

990 West Fullerton, Suite 4110
Chicago, IL 60616

NEW BOOKS AND CHAPTER PUBLICATIONS

A Research Agenda for Animal Geographies

Edited by Alice Hovorka, Sandra McCubbin, and
Lauren Van Patter
Edward Elgar Publishing, 2021



Elgar Research Agendas outline the future of research in a given area. Leading scholars are given the space to explore their subject in provocative ways, and map out the potential directions of travel. They are relevant but also visionary. Exploring the innovative and thriving field of animal geographies, this Research Agenda analyses how humans think about, place, and engage with animals. Chapters explore how animals shape human identities and social dynamics, as well as how broader processes influence the circumstances and experiences of animals.

This Research Agenda presents recent forays into theories of power, methodological innovations unearthing animal lifeworlds, and commitments to praxis. It demonstrates opportunities for animal geographies to engage creatively with diverse movements, including industrial farm workers' rights, intersectional feminism, the environmental movement, racial equality, and decolonization. Critical and timely, contributions from top scholars suggest that it is time to bring the animals outwards into broader geographical dialogue to address pressing contemporary issues such as climate change.

An important read for animal and human geographers, this will be a foundational text for emerging scholars interested in critical perspectives on human-environment relations and societal dynamics. Its grounding in historical evaluation, discussion of scholarly innovation in the field and the opportunities to reflect on the topic in a time of socio-ecological crisis will also be helpful for more established scholars.



Animal Traffic: Lively Capital in the Global Exotic Pet Trade

By Rosemary Claire Collard
Duke University Press, 2020

Parrots and snakes, wild cats and monkeys---exotic pets can now be found everywhere from skyscraper apartments and fenced suburban backyards to roadside petting zoos. In *Animal Traffic* Rosemary-Claire Collard investigates the multibillion-dollar global exotic pet trade and the largely hidden processes through which exotic pets are produced and traded as lively capital. Tracking the capture of animals in biosphere reserves in Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize; their exchange at exotic animal auctions in the United States; and the attempted rehabilitation of former exotic pets at a wildlife center in Guatemala, Collard shows how exotic pets are fetishized both as commodities and as objects. Their capture and sale sever their ties to complex socio-ecological networks in ways that make them appear as if they do not have lives of their own. Collard demonstrates that the enclosure of animals in the exotic pet trade is part of a bioeconomic trend in which life is increasingly commodified and objectified under capitalism. Ultimately, she calls for a "wildlife" politics in which animals are no longer enclosed, retain their autonomy, and can live for the sake of themselves.

CHAPTER PUBLICATIONS

CONNIE JOHNSTON

“Gut Check: Imagining a Posthuman ‘Climate’”

Connie Johnston, PhD (Professional Lecturer, DePaul University) has a new publication as of earlier this year titled, “Gut Check: Imagining a Posthuman ‘Climate’” in *Climate Change Ethics and the Nonhuman World* (Routledge 2020, B.G. Henning and Z. Walsh, eds.). In this publication, Connie utilizes posthumanist theory and recent research on humans’ and animals’ gut microbiomes (including research that indicates climate change affects these internal microbial worlds) to challenge the idea of the unitary human subject. She argues that changes to how we perceive our human selves is a first step in changing how we view the world around us and our obligations to it.

Carley MacKay (PhD Candidate, York University) has a new publication in *A Research Agenda for Animal Geographies* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2021, A. Hovorka, S. McCubbin, and L. Van Patter, eds.). Drawing from her current dissertation research, Carley examines multispecies participant observation as a methodology in animal geographies for investigating the subjectivities and lifeworlds of animals. She discusses how Gruen’s (2015; 2016) notion of entangled empathy and Gillespie’s (2017) idea of intimacy help to facilitate, complicate and strengthen this methodological practice, and she illustrates this by drawing on a case study of exploring the lives of cows at a small grass-fed beef farm. In this chapter, Carley discusses the ethical dilemmas of encountering animals in research and discusses ways for moving forward. She argues that a *responsible* practicing of multispecies participant observation can foster meaningful human-animal connections that can, in turn, politically and ethically transform the way we live together.

CARLEY MACKAY

“Animal subjectivities and lifeworlds: Working with and learning from animals through the practice of multispecies participant observation”



Devonside Farm, Canada, Ontario

Want to be featured here? If you’d like your recent publication information included in future newsletters, please contact your graduate student board members, Carley MacKay (carleymm@yorku.ca) and Courtney Berne (Cberne@temple.edu)

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH AND AWARDS

SIOBHAN SPEIRAN

Siobhan Speiran's (PhD Candidate, Queen's University) received a SSHRC J.A. Bombardier Doctoral Fellowship for her research on the lives of primates in Costa Rica, including their welfare and conservation at sanctuaries, as well as their role in wildlife tourism at those sites. Her first publication on this subject is the chapter "Monkey See, Monkey Do: The Work of Primates in Costa Rican Sanctuaries", part of the edited volume *From beasts of burden to K9 security: The working animals of the tourism industry*. Eds. Carol Kline & Jillian Rickly. (February 2021).



Siobhan Speiran observing the behaviour of white-faced capuchins during tours at a Costa Rican sanctuary.



Siobhan has also been studying the influence of social media on our perceptions of wild animals and published the following two articles on the subject with colleagues: (1) Grasso, C., Lenzi, C., Speiran, S., Pirrone, F. (2020). *Anthropomorphized Nonhuman Animals in Mass Media and Their Influence on Human Attitudes Toward Wildlife*. *Society and Animals*. 1-25. Lenzi, C.; Speiran, S.; Grasso, C. (2020). (2) "Let Me Take a Selfie": *Reviewing the Implications of Social Media for Public Perceptions of Wild Animals*. *Society & Animals*. Siobhan started the *Costa Rican Monkey Interest Group* in 2020 to connect researchers and conservation practitioners nationally and internationally and foster collaboration and dissemination. To join, email crmonkeyinterestgroup@gmail.com

Want to have your research and awards featured in future newsletters?

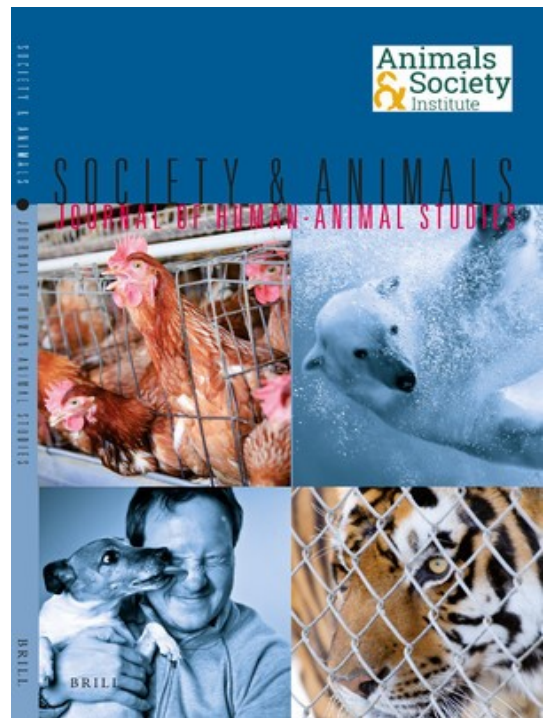
Contact your graduate student board members, Carley MacKay (carleymm@yorku.ca) and Courtney Berne (Cberne@temple.edu)

ACTIVISM AND PUBLIC CONVERSATIONS



Geography PhD Candidate Claudia Hirtenfelder launched The Animal Turn Podcast in early 2020. Each season is set around a particular theme and Claudia interviews animal studies scholars about concepts related to that theme. Season 1 focused on 'Animals and the Law', Season 2 on 'Animals and Experience', and Season 3 will look at Animals and the Urban. Be sure to give it a listen or make use of some of the episodes as supplementary material for your teaching and courses.

Julie Urbanik is the incoming Managing Editor for the Political Animals Section of Society and Animals. This section of the journal was recently created by Bill Lynn and Ken Shapiro with the goal of publishing work centrally focused on ethics, policy, and politics. Julie will be joined by incoming Associate Editors Jenny Isaacs, Kieran O'Mahony, and Drew Winter. We encourage submissions of animal geography-based research and commentary related to these areas.



ANIMAL GEOGRAPHY BIBLIOGRAPHY

As the field of animal geography continues to grow it is becoming more and more difficult to keep up with new publications. This is a particularly pressing problem given the interdisciplinary nature of the field. A few years ago, our board worked extensively to develop an animal geography bibliography as a service to our field.



You can view the bibliography [HERE](http://bit.ly/AnGSGZotero) (<http://bit.ly/AnGSGZotero>) to conduct searches or see what resources have been assembled under various subjects, including "Conservation", "Ethics", "Livestock/ meat", "Power/politics" and "Wildlife", among many others. As the bibliography grows and matures it is hoped that it will move from focusing on works that scholars have found particularly productive towards a fuller coverage of the field.

Archives. The previous system, with over 1,100 entries, generously created by Suzi Wiseman in 2011, was through RefWorks however, it did not easily allow group members to add their own citations.

The AnGSG needs your support!

MISSION

The Animal Geography Specialty Group strives to enhance geographic research and scholarship on matters relating to human-animal studies by:

- (a) encouraging the exchange of ideas among geographers studying biological, cultural, ecological, economic, political, and technical aspects of the myriad ways humans co-exist with other animal species,
- (b) promoting research in these areas,
- (c) facilitating collaboration between existing AAG specialty groups and committees to promote common interests and develop intradisciplinary and interdisciplinary projects.

The overall aim of AnGSG is to support discussion of human-animal issues by geographers as a legitimate and active part of the discipline.



SUPPORT

As you renew your AAG membership, I would remind and encourage you to make sure you pay your dues for the Animal Geographies Specialty Group. It's our only source of revenue and every membership counts!

When you become a member, your dues help support AnGSG's operations and initiatives including: student paper competition awards, specialty group social and mentoring events, website fees, and more (<http://www.animalgeography.org/>).

Membership with AnGSG has many benefits including connection to the largest Animal Geographies community in the US!

