



Animal Geography
Specialty Group

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
of GEOGRAPHERS

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

Inside this issue:

A letter from the chair	1
Meet the 2022 AnGSG board	2
Highlighted AAG sessions	4
Graduate Student Competition	7
A follow up with Heidi Nast	8
New books and publications	11
Teaching spotlight	13
Events	15
Animal Geography Bibliography	16

ANIMAL GEOGRAPHY NEWS: RESEARCH, CONFERENCE, PUBLICATION

ISSUE 1 VOLUME 13

MARCH 2022

A letter from the chair

Hello Animal Geographers!

I am pleased to introduce our thirteenth annual Animal Geography Specialty Group newsletter. Inside you will find all sorts of information about the exciting things our members have been up to over the last year. For example, there is information about recently published books and articles, field trips and community-based projects that that will no doubt be of interest to many. Heidi Nast has reprised her interview from last year to keep us up to date on her new projects. Read on for more details!

You will also find a list of AnGSG-sponsored sessions at this year's virtual AAG. I hope you will join us at our virtual business meeting on February 26 from 12:50 to 1:50pm (EST). At this meeting, I will have the pleasure of thanking our outgoing board members and welcoming in our newly elected board members, who are also profiled in this newsletter.

Finally, I wanted to say that I have been so grateful to get to know many of you in my term as Chair of this specialty group; I am continually impressed by all the wonderful work you do. It's been such a great experience and I look forward to being active in AnGSG in the years to come.

All the best,
Stephanie Rutherford

MEET THE 2022 ANSG BOARD



John-Henry Pitas, Chair

A PhD Candidate at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, John-Henry's research has covered topics including urban animals and non-human death. He is currently working to finish his dissertation project about urban waste disposal, which in part focuses on non-human labor.



Mariya Shcheglovitova, Secretary Treasurer

I am a human geographer with interests that span environmental and social justice, urban political ecology, cultural geography, and the environmental humanities. My research broadly focuses on everyday practices of valuing nature and addresses diverse topics, including urban forestry, waste in arid landscapes, and geographies of more-than-human death. I am currently an Assistant Professor of Geography in the Department of Environment and Society at Utah State University. I completed my Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, in the same cohort as John-Henry Pitas!



Carley MacKay, General Board Member

Doctoral graduate from the Department of Geography at York University. Her research explores animals' lives within human power structures and regulations of food production. Feminist animal geographies, informed by a feminist ethics of care, provides an entry point through which Carley studies animals' lives and the complexities of their care and governance.



Jacquelyn Johnston, General Board Member

Jacquelyn Johnston graduated in 2021 with a Ph.D. in the Global and Sociocultural Studies Department at Florida International University. Johnston spent over a decade working in nonprofit and government animal welfare organizations, earned an MBA from FIU and an MS in Veterinary Forensic Science from the University of Florida. Her current research intersects biopolitical analysis and more-than-human geography. Future projects aim to further problematize the way nonhuman animals are classified through politicized programs and anthropocentric narratives, including the way urban animals are rendered killable.

Johnston is currently managed by an eight-year-old human, three Dobermans, two cats, and one overzealous Chihuahua. She's currently working on papers about urban animals in South Florida, with specific discussions involving "feral" cats, green iguanas, a parking lot full of over 20 species of birds, and urban animals



Ingrid Nelson, General Board Member

Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Geosciences at University 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.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of GEOGRAPHERS

ANNUAL MEETING • Feb. 25-March 1, 2022 • VIRTUAL

Highlighted AAG Sessions

Animals and their use of space 1-3 (02/27/2022, 2pm EST, 3:40pm EST, 5:20pm EST)

Organizer: Claire Burch

In this session, we explore 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. 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. Past iterations of this session have led to vibrant discussions accompanied by a diverse representation of geographic, ecological, and biological perspectives.

More Than Human Legalities and Non-human Animals Encounters with the Law 1-2 (02/26/2022, 8:00am EST, 9:40 am EST)

Organizers: Alida Cantor and Karen Hudlet Vázquez

Law plays a key role in the placing -symbolically and materially- of the non-human animal (Philo & Wilbert 2000). The complex interactions between legal landscapes and the non-human have been theorized through the framework of property, animals' rights, the welfare of animals, citizenship (Donaldson and Kymlicka 2011), ethics (Derrida 2009, Elder, Wolch & Emel 1998) and a recent turn, the rights to nature. Law is not only involved in caring for animals, but it is also key for commodification (Gillespie 2016, Gunderson 2013, Emel & Neo 2010). Law has been used as an orientation device that orders non-human populations by caring and extracting capital through different means and regulations cataloguing animals depending upon their work (Collard & Dempsey 2017). However, the non-human can also shape legal landscapes and actively resist commodification.

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A lively legalities (Braverman 2018) approach proposes to think of the interactions between non-humans and law outside the frameworks of liberal rights that treats animals as subjects. Instead, lively legalities challenges us to think of alternative ways animals could be governed within interconnected communities, taking biopower into consideration. In other words, lively legalities call for the recognition of belonging and dependence within the assemblages of the other (Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos 2017). This panel is an invitation to explore the spaces mediated by law, science, and more than human entanglements (Whatmore 2002, Brown et al 2019).

In this panel, we focus on animal relationships with law, broadly defined. We invite scholarship using new lively legalities to think differently about the interactions of law and the non-human, going beyond frameworks of liberal rights and the dominion of property rights, which treat animals as subjects, to search for alternative ways animals could be governed within interconnected communities (Braverman 2018, 2015). For this panel, we are hoping to have a broad range of participants who can discuss theoretical innovations, empirical cases, and methodological approaches (Buller 2015, Johnson 2015) that engage with space, non-human animals, and law. The panel will explore the possibilities and ways of thinking of the non-human in relation to law, territory, human-animal encounters, and how stakeholders symbolically and legally represent the animal in relation to environmental legal claims.

Multispecies Climate Justice I-IV (02/25/2022, 9:40am EST, 11:20am EST, 5:20pm EST, 02/26/2022, 8:00am EST)

Organizers: Shaina Sadai and Stephanie Rutherford

The climate crisis is impacting all aspects of the Earth system, and all of its inhabitants (Boer, 2020; IPCC, 2021). Climate justice is a key consideration in analyzing, assessing, and responding to these impacts (Gach, 2019). However liberal, anthropocentric notions of justice are framed around individuals and centered exclusively on humans. Multispecies justice seeks to radically expand conceptions of justice allowing for broader recognition of the diverse set of interrelated beings, processes, and systems on Earth (Celermajer et al., 2021; Verlie, 2021). Multispecies climate justice in particular draws on multispecies justice theory to enhance understanding of the interrelated ecologies of the climate crisis (Tschakert et al., 2021). It aims to deepen understanding by looking holistically at how climate and environmental change are manifesting in space and time and across species. Existing scholarship has already begun charting these paths by providing nuanced perspectives of multispecies entanglements (Jones, 2019; Narayanan & Bindumadhav, 2018).

In seeking to frame conversations of multispecies climate justice we must not reproduce existing hierarchies and exclusions. As such we must not lose sight of the way prototypical humans being characterized by those who are white, male, cis, and

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able-bodied (Jackson, 2013). Rather we seek to upset these dominant hierarchies. Multispecies justice must also be a decolonizing practice in which Indigenous ways of knowing and relationalities are centered and not just rearticulated through colonial scholarship (Whyte, 2017; Todd, 2016; Watene, 2016).

This session invites papers aiming to enhance understanding of climate justice through a multispecies lens. Examples may include: Intersectional approaches to and practices of multispecies climate justice, Theoretical and empirically rooted conversations around dismantling anthropocentric and liberal ideas of justice, Articulations of relational and materialist approaches to climate justice, Empirical case studies exploring the meaning and practice of multispecies climate politics, and Modes and practices of interspecies solidarity.

Multispecies Health (02/26/2022, 11:20am EST)

Organizers: Anne Short Gianotti, John Casellas Connors, Émilie Edelblutte

This paper session seeks to bring together scholars in geography and related disciplines to discuss emerging topics within multispecies approaches to health, with emphasis on the politics of wildlife, health, and disease in urban spaces. COVID-19, from its origins as a zoonotic disease to the proliferation of problematic narratives about nature "healing" during the pandemic, demonstrates the deeply-rooted interconnections between humans and non-humans that shape and are shaped by urban spaces (Searle & Turnbull 2020). Geographers, drawing on more-than-human geographies, urban political ecology, and related fields, have long explored nature-society relationships of wildlife in urban environments (Brighenti & Pavoni 2020, Srinivasan 2019, Barua and Sinha 2017, Robbins 2012, Hinchliffe & Bingham 2008). In particular, emerging scholarship has examined the management of nonhuman health as an important site through which to understand the politics of public health, socioecological change, and biopolitical governance of both humans and nonhumans (Gibbs 2020, Davis & Sharp 2020, Neely 2020, Brown and Nading 2020; Kaup 2018, Ahuja 2016, Barker 2010). Further, urban ecologies of health and disease operate within more-than-human assemblages that are necessarily multi-scalar and tied to logics of racial capitalism and colonialism (Liebman et al. 2020; Davis et al. 2019; Biermann 2016; Heynen 2016). This session aims to draw these varied engagements together to explore what can be gained from using a multispecies approach to health and disease: What theoretical frameworks and concepts can be used to understand how multispecies health is defined and made to matter in urban environments?

The futures of Animal Geography: Where have we been and where are we going? (02/25/2022, 2:00pm EST)

Organizers: John-Henry Pitas and Mariya Shcheglovitova

Animal geography has been around as a contemporary sub-discipline of geography for over 20 years, and developed a wide range of concerns and topics. From dissecting the role of non-humans in urban environments, to shedding light on the ways non-humans both conform to and transcend the boundaries set for them, to the implications of practicing geography in a world where humans are no longer our primary concerns or object of inquiry, many now-classic works from animal geographers have broken new ground and trailblazed paths followed by others. Animal geography has also had fruitful disciplinary cross pollination from the environmental humanities, queer theory, anthropology, and political ecology, to name just a few.

This panel presents speakers who critically consider the past, present, and future of animal geography, and who also plan to share their thoughts in a short blog post to be hosted in a newly created section of the Animal Geography Specialty Group (AnGSG) website. Tackling a range of topics with short informal introductions to their blog topics, this panel will also feature a robust discussion on animal geography, and the role of the AnGSG in shaping the sub-discipline in the past and going forward. We hope that attendees will come armed with challenging questions for our panelists. The organizers are happy to accept questions and/or comments either in advance or from people who may not be able to attend the live virtual panel, but might still want to pose a question.

Animal Geographies Specialty Group Graduate Presentation Competition

(02/25/2022, 3:40pm EST)

Gabrielle Perras St-Jean, PhD Candidate, Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS), Montréal (Canada)

« What the heck are you doing? »: Perceptions of interspecies care initiatives in Montreal, Canada

Sarah-Maude Cossette, MSc student, Geography, Université du Québec à Montréal (Canada)

“Observing each other: A multispecies fieldwork experience into the city interstices”

Courtney Berne, PhD Candidate, Geography and Urban Studies Department at Temple University.

“Encounters, kinship and the urban refuge: How Philadelphia's Black Horsemen trouble time and space”

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Carley MacKay, PhD Graduate, Geography, York University

“Committing to the discomfort of care and curiosity: Investigations of cows’ welfare, lives, and relations”

The AnGSG congratulates Jacquelyn Johnson, the winner of the 2021 Animal Geographies Speciality Group Graduate Presentation, for her wonderful research on “insignificant otherness.” Well done, Jacquelyn!

A FOLLOW UP WITH HEIDI NAST

Courtney: We were fortunate to meet in person last fall; over dinner you discussed your multiple research writing projects with me. Could you update the newsletter community and tell us what you're currently working on and why you're excited about it?

Heidi: There are three projects on which I’m working. Together, they critique the idea of ‘labor’ as a thing that is fully formed and located in a market. The first project points to the *geographical contradictions of reproduction* set in motion when industrial capitalists decided that the Machine would be placed exclusively in supremacist contexts, whether in South Africa, the US, Europe, or Japan. The situation allowed industrial workers to claim the Machine’s superior productivity (and the wages associated with it) as their *racialized* own. The contradiction is that the Machine is anti-maternal, that is, the goal of machinic competition (for ‘efficiency’) is to make children (future labor) and, hence, the *maternal body*, irrelevant to production. Across nineteenth century Britain and the twentieth century US, alone, fertility rates fell by half. At the same time, imperial powers were enjoining the colonized to bear *more* children, an effect of the fact that the Machine was not deployed to ease their labor burdens. Unlike ‘white’ workers, fertility was something on which the colonized had to depend to not only reproduce themselves but colonialism (through roads, residences, airports, etc.). The Machinic disappearance of the child (as future worker) alongside the continuing need for the child in nonmechanized contexts heaves globally uneven fertility patterns into the future, making legible the geopolitical economic usury organized around reproduction and ‘race.’

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In the 1980s and 1990s, neoliberal interests would come to feed off the high fertility rates of the formerly colonized, reaping superprofits through deep racial discounts ('cheap labor'). Today, 50% of all nation-states have total fertility rates (TFRs) below replacement level (2.1), the majority of them wealthy, some of them now experiencing downward spirals in population numbers. This disparate geographical patterning of reproduction make manifest a fundamental crisis within capitalism: If those with the greatest buying power are going into real numerical decline at a faster rate than the poor... who, precisely, is going to absorb (pay for/consume) the tsunami of cheap commodity goods that the racially cheapened children of other-mothers are producing 'elsewhere' ('offshore').

The supremacist Machine has effected other reproductive contradictions, too: The surplus of 'youth' within racially cheapened former colonies (from where the Machine was kept) is being mined for organs to shore up the aging bodies of the numerically disappearing wealthy. While youthful (poor) wombs are advertised for rent. The limited access of the racialized rural poor to markets, meanwhile, means that the fertility of the maternal *nonhuman* animal body (e.g., the mare, cow, nanny, and sow) has been coaxed upwards to produce progeny utilizable for transport, farming, or sustenance. The imperial zoo and botanical garden as well as the safari have relied on yet another *reproductive* contradiction: having destroyed vast and variegated eco-systems within the 'west,' those in industrial (and, now, postindustrial) nations have the means to enter and suckle the fertility writ-large of (colorized, colonized) terrains for utility, profit, and pleasure. This idea of the Machine as a living complex of material forces that grows by slashing apart the generative relationalities of life has theoretical purchase across all geographies, including the animal.

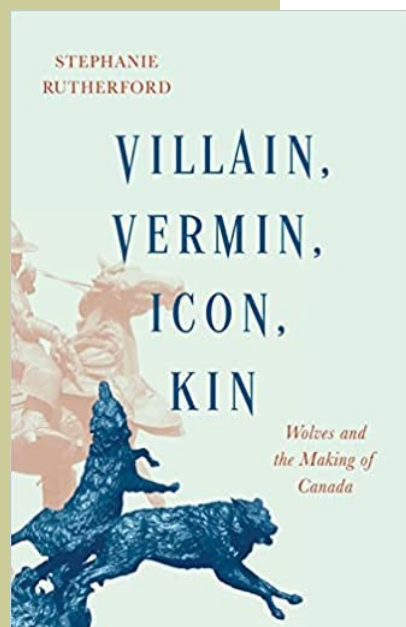
The second project has to do with studying how commodity markets (the Market) are positioned spatially and discursively to approximate the maternal; the Market as a place of plenitude wherein the alienated subject finds love, recognition, care, attention, and play. A place with the potential to resolve that pernicious longing-for first ignited by birth and kindled by the pathetic lengthiness of human infant vulnerability. This maternalizing of the Market speaks theoretically I think to the ultimate impossibility of the Machine to touch the evolutionary basis of maternal longing. The Market picks up the maternal slack created by the Machine but it, too, cannot fix the alienation it promises to fix

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because it cannot. This is because the alienation involved has nothing to do with labor but with the maternal. It is through maternal alienation that labor as a commodity is made. This theoretical juncture is where some of my work on the commodity dog falls, a dog whose allure comes from the dyadic intimacy it promises, ones that approximates the maternal/infant relation. In this case, the commodity dog can be positioned as the consumer's baby or as the consumer's forbearing mother, one that doesn't mind if the consuming (baby) dresses it up and/or plays with it as would a child. The evolutionary dyadism of one (human/dog) apparently overlaps with the other (maternal/infant relation).

The third project pulls the first two together by questioning what the maternal *is*. The question comes out of my work in northern Nigeria, recent sub-Saharan African scholarship on *relational ontologies* in sub-Saharan Africa, and broader comparative work on the origins of slavery in the Neolithic era. The scholarship on relational ontologies helped me to theorize the *maternal* as a relationality that cannot be disarticulated because there are no discrete parts. It is a *dyadic* site of generativity that dissolves in the process of generating the new. It is a dyadism that takes its inspiration from the twoness of the pregnant body which, as a site of difference is a *different* body. Through the pregnant body, generativity and difference are linked, difference becoming a hiving-off of the new. I'm trying to see how this generative principle travels through language, pre-colonial material practices, and practices of speech. The drum, for instance, is a maternal being, a site of relational coupling: Hand strikes skin, the body giving birth to sound. The drum is often referred to as 'mother,' a relational (not objective) term; and it is not uncommon for the belly of the drum to be adorned with breasts. The maternal is also present in those drums built to emit the same tonalities of speech (talking drums), creating intimacies of listening and oratures not possible with writing. At the same time the drum is tied organically to the life in which it is situated. The large wooden drums resonate with the sounds played on fallen logs in the rainforest, the large mortars used to pound yam or grind grain, and the log canoes used for riverine travel. I think this third project has perhaps the most to contribute to animal geography in that relational ontologies present an alternative way of thinking-life and of living post-Anthropocentric futures.

New Books and Publications



STEPHANIE RUTHERFORD
MAY 2022

A wolf's howl is felt in the body. Frightening and compelling, incomprehensible or entirely knowable, it is a sound that may be heard as threat or invitation but leaves no listener unaffected.

Toothsome fiends, interfering pests, or creatures wild and free, wolves have been at the heart of Canada's national story since long before Confederation. *Villain, Vermin, Icon, Kin* contends that the role in which wolves have been cast – monster or hero – has changed dramatically through time. Exploring the social history of wolves in Canada, Stephanie Rutherford weaves an innovative tapestry from the varied threads of historical and contemporary texts, ideas, and practices in human-wolf relations, from provincial bounties to Farley Mowat's iconic *Never Cry Wolf*. These examples reveal that Canada was made, in part, through relationships with nonhuman animals.

Wolves have always captured the human imagination. In sketching out the connections people have had with wolves at different times, *Villain, Vermin, Icon, Kin* offers a model for more ethical ways of interacting with animals in the face of a global biodiversity crisis.

Connors, John Patrick, and Anne Short Gianotti. "Becoming Killable: White-tailed deer management and the production of overabundance in the Blue Hills." *Urban Geography* (2021): 1-23.

This paper examines the implementation of a white-tailed deer management program in the Blue Hills Reservation outside of Boston, Massachusetts. Drawing on the concepts of biopolitics, we explore how white-tailed deer became an object of concern and ultimately targets of lethal management in this suburban park. Through interviews, document analysis, and observation of public meetings, we examine the changes in and controversy over the presence, perception, and management of deer in the park. We argue that the implementation of the deer management program is only partially explained by the growing numbers of white-tailed deer, and must also be understood in the context of concerns about human health and shifting imaginaries of urban green spaces and global biodiversity. The case illustrates the entanglements of harm and care in the management sub/urban ecosystems and highlights how differences in the ethical and ontological understandings of deer create tensions in efforts to advance multispecies urban planning.

Publications and research continued

Julie Urbanik (Independent Scholar, Kansas City, MO) and Connie Johnston (Professional Lecturer, DePaul University) have a chapter in the forthcoming book, *COVID-19 and a World of Ad Hoc Geographies* (Springer), edited by Stanley Brunn and Donna Gilbreath. Julie and Connie's chapter is titled "Shared spaces, shared suffering: Exploring the effects of COVID-19 on urban animal advocacy organizations in Chicago and Kansas City, USA". This chapter explores the positive and negative effects of COVID-19 on three U.S. animal advocacy organizations: two in Chicago, Illinois and one in Kansas City, Missouri. From early lockdown closures that temporarily stopped all direct care and outreach services, to a post-lockdown recognition of the increasing need for economic support to help families care for their companion animals, to the time lost managing feral populations, we show that the impact of COVID-19 cannot be seen as purely a human phenomenon, but must be seen as a more-than-human experience with long-term ramifications for human-animal relations in urban areas and beyond. Our inspiration for this chapter was recognizing that COVID-19's impact on the daily lives of millions of urban residents around the world has been significant, yet next to many humans are companion animals who have shared the "lockdown" experience. Much as the pandemic has upended human socio-economic lives, the pandemic has also upended companion animal lives, as well as the organizations working to help them in urban areas.

Alice Hovorka (York University, Canada) and Julie Urbanik (Independent Scholar, USA) explored how COVID-19 impacted fellow animal geographers in the first year of the global pandemic. We conducted a survey of AAG Animal Geography Specialty Group Members from February 8th to March 5th 2021 (n=50 respondents + 5 interviews), and sought to understand not only the pandemic's impact on animal geographers, but how animal geographers are making sense of this pandemic moment in the subfield's history. For practitioners themselves, we found a range of personal experiences – lives interrupted, increased isolation, intensification of caretaking responsibilities, and increasing anxiety alongside joy in new animal companions and having more time at home with family. Professionally, respondents reported disruptions to fieldwork, less access to peers (most difficult for students), changing workloads, and job insecurity. Many reflected on how their lives might change indefinitely be it their evolving ethical perspectives on pet-keeping or on academic conference and field-based travel. Overall, there was a recognition that "the role of animal geography has never been more important" (survey response). Participants saw opportunities to forge new topical directions (e.g., zoonoses, racial justice), build new methodologies (e.g., historical, digital), deepen theories (e.g., towards applied animal geography that acts in the world), and expand the subfield inside geography (e.g., partnering with more biogeographers) and outside the discipline (e.g., public health, public policy). Their chapter is forthcoming (April of 2022) in *COVID-19 and a World of Ad Hoc Geographies* (Springer), edited by Stanley Brunn and Donna Gilbreath.

Publications and research continued

Hélène B. Ducros, J.D., Ph.D. has a special feature in *EuropeNow* titled "Rethinking the Human in a Multispecies World". In this publication, Hélène focuses on animals, as well as plants, AI, and the non-human in general. You may find the table of content here: <https://www.europenowjournal.org/issue-45-november-2021/>.

Hélène B. Ducros
Chair of Research and Pedagogy Editorial Committees
WSF-CES Writing Lab, Lead Editor and Academic Officer
Co-Chair, Critical European Studies Research Network | Twitter
Council for European Studies, Columbia University

Teaching Spotlight

The Animals and Society course at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA is an upper level Undergraduate seminar taught by Jenny R. Isaacs. Jenny, a previous Grad Student Rep. in the Animal Geographies Specialty Group, recently graduated from Rutgers with her PhD in Geography. In the course, she and her students work from Margo DeMello's text of the same name, exploring human-animal relations through independent and group research, field trips, guest speaker visits, films, multi species ethnography, tracking their food and calculating their "foodprints," and discussions of critical texts. Courtney Berne and Jenny are old friends with a long history and mutual love of conservation, so it was natural that the two collaborate; Courtney is now a regular guest speaker at TJU in the course, sharing with Jenny's students her knowledge of captive ape conservation on multiple continents and the urban Black geographies of horsemanship. A highlight of the course is the trip to Courtney's field site in North Philadelphia's Strawberry Mansion neighborhood.

See more on the next page!

FLETCHER STREET URBAN RIDING CLUB FIELD TRIP PHOTOS AND STUDENT REFLECTIONS

“Our trip to the Urban Riding Club put into perspective many of the topics of discussion within our readings and class discussions. It served as a real-life example of human animal interactions right in our own backyard.”



“After this field trip, I learned a new technique for managing my anxiety, which is communicating with animals.”



“When I was talking to one of the riders, he told me that on days he needed to clear his head, he’d come to the riding club and take one of the horses out. I asked him how long he would typically ride for, and he told me he and another rider would be out all day. To hear someone I just met get that personal and talk about his relationship with the horses there was awesome. We later talked about this course, and he told me that if he were in school, he would wake up early every day to go to a class like this to learn about animals. When I look at my encounter with the rider, I realize that the horse we were grooming together was the social lubricant that brought us together. Furthermore, I remember Courtney saying, ‘There is an ethics of care when tending to horses that supersedes gender and race.’ The rider and I are of two different genders and races but that was not a barrier that was in existence when we groomed the horse together and talked about his experiences with the riding club. I believe the trip showed me a world that many of us do not know exists in Philadelphia. I enjoyed getting to see the horses, listening to Ellis Ferrell, helping with the chores around the stables, and talking to the riders... I was grateful to be able to spend extra time with the people at Fletcher Street Riding Club and learn about a completely different world I did not know existed.”

PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

California Beaver Summit 2021

Jeff Baldwin, PhD
Environmental Geography
Geography, Environment, and Planning
Sonoma State University

Last spring, on April 7 (International Beaver Day) and April 9, with the help of my very own Sonoma State University and a wonderful cohort of experts, we co-hosted the first California Beaver Summit. Through Zoom we registered 1,000 attendees from 14 states and 4 countries. Together we shared what we know about the ecologies that beaver cultivate and ecosystem services they offer, and the simple technologies we've developed to manage them. Talks addressed ecology, effects on hydrology, research methods, beaver as fire refuge creators (see Dr Fairfax's very popular animation at www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAM94B73bzE economic analysis of ecosystem services, salmonid recovery, beaver dam analogs, tribal restoration partners, and managing conflict. Perhaps most significantly, approximately twenty managers with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the real choke point for beaver re-colonization in California, joined us each day. Recordings of our presentations are available at our website at <https://cabeaversummit.org/>.

Few areas in the US stand to benefit more from beaver re-colonization and at the same time do not allow any assistance in re-colonization while offering depredation permits very freely. We are slowly getting the word out there about the potential benefits for humans and all of the plant and animal species co-adapted with beaver landscapes.

**INTERNATIONAL MULTISPECIES METHODS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM:
Shifting Paradigms in Human-Animal Relations**

May 24-26, 2022 | 2-6 hrs/day
Hosted online

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT
AND SUSTAINABILITY
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

This symposium draws on research supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

Aims:

Scholarly exploration and deeper understanding of intuitive interspecies communication (IIC) as practiced by animal communicators (an emerging multispecies method)

Catalyze novel partnerships and grow an international network of IIC research

Develop new research questions, directions, teams, discussion groups across diverse areas of inquiry and disciplines.

Hosted at University of Saskatchewan. For full details, see the Symposium Website: <https://researchers.usask.ca/mj-barrett/mutispecies-research-symposium.php>

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](#) 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.

Do you have contributions? You're highly encouraged to add new entries! If you'd like to give it a go, let [Carley](#) know and you can be added to the group.

SUPPORT THE ANGSG



Animal Geography
Specialty Group

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
of GEOGRAPHERS

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.

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!