



Animal Geography News

April 2011

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Animal Geography in Seattle, by Stella Capoccia

AAG's in Seattle! As the annual conference of the American Association of Geographers moves around the country, it gives Animal Geographers a chance to think about how animals shape our country in different places. No better place to explore animal geography in a range of ways than in Seattle. The area is home to the Woodland Park Zoo and a strong urban livestock movement, it boasts miles of coastline that supports a range of marine mammals including the orca, and has a rich historical background of human-animal relations.

At the heart of Seattle's foundation is the Native American community. The city was named after Chief Seattle, leader in the Suquamish community - one of several Native American groups. These community groups relied heavily on salmon, ocean fish, land and marine mammals, and

the region's diverse bird life. Long-standing relationships with animals can be seen in the relic art of the region. Totem fish, eagles, orcas, and gulls appear in museums, as graffiti, on billboards, tattoos, and even as the mascot for the state's football team. The importance animal presence has always had in this area is universally clear.

The following waves of human settlers brought subsequent layers of animal symbology. Fur-trade routes established roughly 200 years ago. An expanse of farm land followed and domestic animals markedly displaced much of the wildlife. The temperate climate held minimal risk of freezing and dairy and meat farmers experienced great success. This said, the power of the sea ports and related commerce took over and cattle receded to make way for urban and metropolitan

communities. The area quickly became a hot-spot tourist destination for local and long-distance travelers. Visitors actively seek out the whale-watching venues and the popular 'fish-fling' at Pike's Place Market, both marking the continued importance of animals in the region.

In terms of exclusive animal spaces, perhaps one of the most notable venues is the Woodland Park Zoo. Featured in a number of animal-based texts, such as Hancock's "A Different Nature," Seattle's zoo adopted an ecosystem

Continued on page 4
Art by Peggy Hansen, p 1 & 2



Featured Publication: Seeking Refuge, Robert M. Wilson

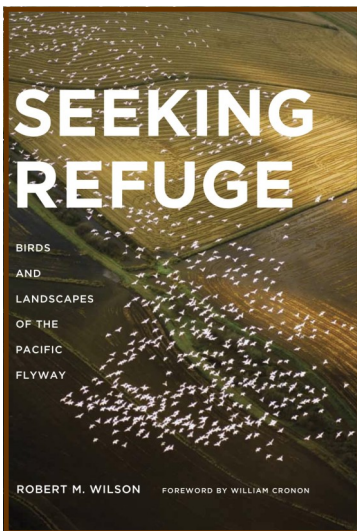
Seeking Refuge is a story about how wildlife managers sought to manage migratory birds and refuges in western North America during the twentieth century. Yet more deeply it is about how we manage mobile forms of nature in landscapes devoted to other purposes. These 'mobile natures' can take many forms: fire, water, weeds. All of these things pass across human-made borders. The migratory birds I studied in Seeking Refuge are so fascinating because they cross every border constructed by modern nation-states. They fly across the borders between countries, states, provinces, and most importantly, the ones dividing public from private land. How we manage nature when nature ignores our boundaries is at the heart of the book.

Within our discipline, I hope this book contributes to the growth of animal geography as a sub-field. Animals have occupied a marginal place in Geography--a puzzling omission given the discipline's expertise in environmental matters. A critical, ethical geography demands attention to other species. Seeking Refuge is my humble addition to this effort.



Agriculture and livestock program, pig breeding at Rutgers University. Photo by S. Capoccia

Catch Robert Wilson in a special session, "Author Meets Critic" Thursday, 14 April. See back panel for details



Recent AnGSG Member Publications

Ambros, B. Forthcoming. Memorials for pets. In *The Handbook of Japanese Religions*, ed. J. Nelson, and I. L. Inken Prohl.

———2010. "The necrogeography of pet memorial spaces: pets as liminal family members in contemporary Japan." *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief* 6:304-335.

———2010. "Vengeful spirits or loving spiritual companions? Changing views of animal spirits in contemporary Japan." *Asian Ethnology* 69:35-67.

Emel, J. and H. Neo. 2011. "Killing for profit: global livestock industries and their socio-ecological implications." In *Global Political Ecology*, ed. R. Peet, P. Robbins, and M. Watts, 67-83. Routledge.

Fielding, R. 2010. "Environmental change as a threat to the pilot whale hunt in the Faroe Islands." *Polar Research* 29:430-438.

Neo, H. Forthcoming. "They hate pigs, Chinese farmers...everything!: beastly racialization in multiethnic Malaysia." *Antipode*.

Warkentin, T. 2010. "Interspecies etiquette: an ethics of paying attention to animals." *Ethics & the Environment* 15:101-121.

———2009. "Whale agency: affordances and acts of resistance in captive environments." In *Animals and Agency: An Interdisciplinary Exploration* ed. S. McFarland, S. and R. Hediger R., Leiden: Brill.

Warkentin, T., & L. Fawcett, 2010. "Whale and human agency in world-making: decolonizing whale-human encounters." In *Metamorphoses of the Zoo: Animal Encounter after Noah*, ed. R. Acampora, 103-121. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Wilcox Adams, S. Forthcoming. "Mexican tigre / American jaguar: in place, out of place, and on the fringe in the U.S. - Mexico borderlands." In *Animals in Place*, ed. Warkentin, T. and G.P.L. Watson,.

Wilson, R. M., and W. Cronon 2010. *Seeking Refuge: Birds and Landscapes of the Pacific Flyway*. Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press.

Yeo, J.H. and H. Neo, 2010. "Monkey business: human-animal conflicts in urban Singapore." *Social and Cultural Geography* 11(7):681-700.



Animal Geography in the Class Room, by Julie Urbanik

In the fall of 2011, Julie Urbanik conducted an introductory study of how people conduct animal geography in the classroom. Her survey reached four countries and elicited 13 class-based responses with an outreach capacity of 1165 students per year.

Julie's first-response survey showed that of 13 classes, 3 are stand-alone animal geography courses. Other variations include a focus or section on animal geography in

courses including 'Wildlife Conservation,' 'Human Geography,' 'Urban Geography,' 'World Regional Geography,' 'GIS,' 'Gender and the Environment,' 'Food, Space and Society,' 'Nature and Society,' 'Political Ecology,' 'Conservation Management,' 'Feminism,' 'Nature, Culture and Living in the Material World.' Eight of these classes are U.S. based, while 2 are in Canada, 2 in the U.K. and 1 in Singapore. We expect the true numbers to actually be much higher as this was the first study launched.

Overall, the results of this study are very exciting as they show the diverse capacity in which animal geography is represented. Results support the fact that the field of Animal Geography is expanding and there is a growing demand for research and literature that focus on animals in the geographic context.

Don't forget!
to support the
Animal Geography
Specialty Group.
Faculty sponsorship is
\$5.00; student
sponsorship is \$1.00.
Additional
contributions won't be
turned down!

Professional Advance: Congratulations to All!

Barbara Ambros, Associate Professor: Dr. Ambros was promoted with tenure to the rank of associate professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She serves on the steering committee of Animals and Religion Consultation at the American Academy of Religion. In spring 2010, she organized the Triangle East Asia Colloquium: Animals in East Asian History and Culture at UNC Chapel Hill, held on April 16-17, 2010. She continues to teach an undergraduate seminar, entitled "From Dragons and Foxes to Godzilla and Pokemon: Animals in Japanese Myth, Folklore and Religion." This year, her class attended the Raleigh Bugfest for a screening of "Beetle Queen Conquers Tokyo." She is about to submit her completed manuscript, *Bones of Contention: Pet Memorial Rites in Contemporary Japan*, Hawaii University Press, where it is under contract. This year she has published two articles on animal-related topics, please see page 2 for a complete list of AnGSG publications.

Russell Fielding, Ph.D.: Dr. Fielding's dissertation is a comparative study of artisanal whaling communities within the Faroe Islands in the North Atlantic, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the Caribbean. He focused on three aspects of this unique interaction between human societies and wildlife: 1) culture, or the ways in which the practice of whaling and human societies shape one another; 2) conflict, or the contested ocean space and resource access that whaling presents; and 3) conservation, specifically those strategies that promote sustainability, have arisen locally, and are deeply ingrained within the cultural traditions of the Faroese and Vincentian peoples.

Dr. Fielding starts his first post as a visiting lecturer at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He plans to stay affiliated with Animal Geography as well as expand his work. The image shows Russell in a dolphin-tagging project to help better understand migration and pod dynamics.

Mona Seymour, Ph.D.: Dr. Seymour graduated with her Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Southern California, Department of Geography, and was hired for a position in the Urban Studies Program at Loyola Marymount University, Urban Studies Program. Mona is hoping to launch animal geography studies at Loyola and is enjoying integrating some of the subfield material into existing courses.

Shari Wilcox Adams, Ph.D. Candidate, was awarded the Baird Society Resident Scholar Fellowship by the Smithsonian Institution.



Photo by : Hogni Arnbjarnarson



Shari in Sweden getting to know the area's Urban Animal Geography!

Conferences of Interest: Recent and Upcoming Events

Kristen Conway-Gomes, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Anthropology, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, participated in the Turtle Conservation in South America workshop for the World Conservation Union (IUCN) for Red Listing, Current Status, Conservation Prioritization, and Strategic Action Planning for South American Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles in the Reserva Rio Trombetas in Brazil (October 10-14, 2010)

Shari Wilcox Adams presented her dissertation research at a conference at Uppsala University in Sweden. See: [right-hand photo](#)

Monica Ogra attended the "Pathways to Success" Conference, Sept. 27 - Oct. 1, 2010, in Estes Park, CO, and gave a presentation about how gender analysis can contribute to our understanding (and resolution of) human-wildlife conflict. This is an interdisciplinary conference and training program designed to address the myriad issues that arise as people and wildlife struggle to coexist in a sustainable and healthy manner.

More info about the event: <http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/nrrt/hdfw/index.html>

Suzi Wiseman was invited to present at the World Forum for Acoustic Ecology in Finland, July, 2010. The theme of the conference was "Ideologies and Ethics in the Uses and Abuses of Sound." Suzi spoke on the impact on captive animals of (largely anthropogenic) soundscapes within urban zoos.

CFP For Animal Geography at the Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers:

David Allen is the session chair for: 'Animal Geography: Status: Endangered?' at the RGS-IBG 2011 conference. Dr. Allen states that Animal Geography has not established the same identity and recognition in the IBG as it has with AAG members. Presence from AAG animal geographers

**Animal
Geography
Specialty Group
Business Meeting
is Friday, 15 April
11:50 am—
12:30 pm
in
201 – Washington
State Convention
Center, Level 2**

Animal Geography in Seattle, continued from page 1

approach that designs animal exhibits as close to the original habitat as possible. This novel idea caught on at other zoological gardens and is a main attraction not only for the general public, but for those who study the science of animal spaces including everything from human studies to animal behavior.

Finally, Seattle is leading the way in bringing more animals back into human spaces. In addition to classic companion animals, the growing popularity of urban chickens and even goats is alive and well even in the dense city living of this area. Years prior, the organic replacement of

cities for livestock left the city without ordinance against small farm animals. In an effort to reclaim the ability to produce local food, die-hard chicken lovers discovered this gap in urban policy and filled it with a new wave of urban dwellers: layers and milkers! Other unexpected urban livestock sites in the US include Chicago, New Orleans, and San Francisco. Scholars looking to see how new urban planning now accommodates for the increasing presence of farm animals need go no further than the metropolitan hub of Seattle.

Looking for an animal geography experience in Seattle?

Whether you are interested in exploring how your area of research unfolds in a different locality or understanding how different aspects of animal presence give shape to the region, Seattle has a lot to offer.

For a more detailed account of the history of animals in Seattle, see: F. Brown (2010) W.U. Dissertation "Cows in the Commons, Dogs on the Lawn: A History of Animals in Seattle"

~ Stella Capoccia is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Geography at Rutgers University

Selected Films about Agricultural Animals, by Suzi Wiseman

When asked for recommendations for a film for a Human Geography class, regarding the role of agricultural animals, our members suggested the following:

Animal Rights - Morgan Spurlock's **30 Days** season 3, episode 3 (40 minutes—good in class) <http://www.fxnetworks.com/shows/originals/30days/episodeguide.php#> To George, hunting is a way of life. For 30 Days he lives with a family whose daughter is an organizer with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) which fights for animal rights on factory farms, in laboratories, in the clothing trade and in the entertainment industry. The episode captures animal use/abuse in the food industry and is particularly compelling in terms of George the Hunter's transformation—he begins to appreciate animal welfare issues through his bonding with rescued farm animals.

Food, Inc. <http://www.foodincmovie.com/> Without being too graphic this provides a comprehensive picture of industrial agriculture across the U.S. and the dominance of corn, including political and economic forces as well as individual consumerism and the harsh reality for animals. The poor treatment of animals parallels the poor treatment of immigrant workers, and the lack of enforcement of basic humane and safety practices. It highlights the limited access to food produced by small farmers with ethical practices.

Our Daily Bread (2005) directed by Nikolaus Geyrhalter. A silent film with simple reportage footage of life (and death) in the modern agro-food system.

Peaceable Kingdom by Tribe of Heart Productions. http://www.peaceablekingdomfilm.org/pk_story2_english.htm This shows the change in a farmer conditioned not to care about his animals, to his realization of their suffering in factory farms and development of a sanctuary for abused agricultural animals. Some footage is hard to watch, but this is contrasted with scenes of recovery at the sanctuary.

The Cove <http://www.thecovemovie.com/> and <http://www.takepart.com/thecove> This Oscar Award film exposes the slaughter of over 20,000 dolphins and porpoises off Japan every year. Their meat, containing toxic levels of mercury, is sold as food in Japan and other parts of Asia, often labeled as whale meat. The majority of the world is unaware of this.

Perspectives: Joining the field of Animal Geography, by Elise Schlosser

As a student of Geography and Biology, I am speaking from a personal point of view on this subject. I came from a generation of academia that incorporated Geography under the guise of Social Studies. I grew up with the “in the box” mindset that geography was nothing more than states, continents, water bodies, and capital cities. Even when taken as science electives in high school, Meteorology and Oceanography had no true correlation to Geography, and certainly not the Geography that I know of today.

Dates, locations, boundaries, the substance of human systems are important to learn and have a place in geography, with that I find no disagreement. However, paramount for me today are questions, rooted in issues surrounding not only the how's, and why's, but also the “where's”. I have discovered that geography not only treats of Earth's physical development but also the spatial arrangement of those living species on the Earth. Plants and animals, they too, like human systems, have a “geography”. This diverse nature, a subject that spans across many disciplines, in my opinion, is what needs to be taught in our educational system today, on all levels.

The student of today will inevitably be making the decisions of tomorrow. For their success, these students, from start to completion, need to learn to think “outside the box”. Of equal importance is our tolerance of being more flexible in our thought process especially about our place in our natural setting. The significance of learning the corollary relationships of issues dealing with the nature of place, and for that matter, space and time, are crucial to meeting our future societal challenges. The curriculum of geography is the natural venue for this to be accomplished.

I have been fortunate enough to recently experience a different academic approach from that which I grew up with. This has introduced me to the role of Geography as a scientific and social course of study. Having said that, I was asked, and honored, to give my opinion of what I believe Animal Geography to be within the realm of Geography. After many weeks of research, asking questions, and formulating answers, I have come to the following conclusions.

First, the human-animal relationship has been one of historical range. Animals have lived side by side with man on the cultural landscape for thousands of years. Yet, it is man who inevitably determines their very existence by virtue of his actions. As a

Continued from page 5: How One Student Perceives Animal Geography

species and society, humans have exploited the animal kingdom in a multitude of ways. Animals have been viewed as disposable and expendable products. We care for them by placing them into spaces deemed safe for our purposes; zoos, circuses, aquariums. And in general, humans seem to seek after a form of autonomous nature, but with the stipulation that we define its boundaries and maintain control of it. We need to seek a balance of co-existence and bring forth ethics regarding their existence. We need to study the relationships and effects each has on the other, and above all, we need to preserve the existence of both the human and non-human alike.

Next, clearly, there are ongoing battles regarding animal – human coexistence. Land use and development as human populations increase while available land space and natural resources dwindle is one such issue. There are differences of opinion over species that only thrive in specific habitats or ecosystems that we would like to build on, for example, Oregon's Spotted Owl. Or, a topic of historic and current dispute, the grey wolf, that, in my opinion, was one of the greatest and most horrific displays of animal exploitation. The ever increasing human – non-human interactions that occur as a result of habitat encroachment, urban sprawl, and suburbanization is yet another heated debate.

Are these animal, environmental, economic, political issues, or a combination? Who is responsible for the research and drawing conclusions? Geography is a multifaceted approach to learning about and solving problems of spatial relationships across the landscape. Animal geography has its own niche in that study, which is imperative to the contribution of seeking those answers.

Finally, contemporary Animal Geography is the study of animal-human relationships, in every sense of the word. It ranges from, but is not limited to, man's interaction with animals, domestic, wild, livestock, etc., farming and agricultural practices regarding animals, land use and development in regard to wildlife impact on human populations. It is wildlife conservation, animal welfare, again in the realm of the human interaction. Essentially, it looks at the relationships of animals, humans, and the spatial and cultural landscapes that result.

If we are to remain a planet of biodiversity, animals must remain a part of that landscape. "The widespread persecution of wolves that occurred for much of our nation's history did not cease until people began to better understand the important role wolves play in a healthy ecosystem" (Defenders of Wildlife Magazine, Fascione, Spring 2003). Yet, even that awareness came as a result of seeing an economic value to these animals. There is a symbiotic relationship of life on earth that spans beyond our cultural definitions of what is of value. Additionally, what constitutes a standard of ethics for animals for one culture may not be the same for another. Regardless of the view, animal-human relationships shape our cultural landscape. The very cores of those relationships are based on the nature of ecosystems that share a spatial relationship. Animal geography, and the research surrounding it, contributes pieces to a puzzle that we must continue to fit together.

I recently owned a 110 pound therapy dog, who, by my definition was, my buddy, my companion, my dog. I knew he touched many lives in the visits we took to various nursing homes and schools. What I didn't know, until after his death, were the memories of him from people I never knew and thus, the spatial level of those he affected. Furthermore, children who were absolutely terrified of dogs learned they are not all big, bad, and ferocious. Children who had difficulty reading in class were able, with confidence, to read to my dog. The elderly in the nursing homes who would not or could not interact with anyone, interacted and responded to him.

Animals play a very large role in our lives. It is their intuitiveness, reactions, and behaviors that entice us to seek them out as companions and thus deepening our human-animal bonds. Yet, by many, they continue to be seen as non-feeling, non-thinking commodities that are easily replaced. The study of animal geography can in my opinion help us find an ethos that might balance and find new understandings surrounding our relationship with animals. Hopefully, it can enable us to develop new opinions and grow outside the box of how non-humans are treated by their human counterparts, from companionship to industry.

I would like to thank the AAG and its members for the opportunity to voice my interpretation of the meaning and need for Animal Geography. Furthermore, I would like to thank M. Mustoe, Ph.D., Geography; Eastern Oregon University, (EOU), Professor and AAG member. Without his support, guidance, and unequivocal dedication to the teaching profession, I believe I would have been lost on this trail of Geography and direction of paths I now choose to traverse, and furthermore, still sitting on the edge of the proverbial "box".

~ Elise Schlosser is an undergraduate scholar at Eastern Oregon University, Oregon

Perspectives: Surrounded by Snakes, by Julie Urbanik, Ph.D.

My Animals and Society class had an opportunity to get up close and personal with some 600 snakes, 100s of rats and mice, baby alligators, baby snapping turtles, sugar gliders, lizards, and spiders during a recent field trip to a local exotic pet store in the Kansas City area. This visit was part of a section looking at pets in a western context. We used the field trip as a chance to deepen our understanding of Yi-Fu Tuan's arguments in *Dominance and Affection* that pets exemplify expressions of both human control over other species as well as human love for nonhuman others. We had already discussed this article in the context of 'traditional' pets like dogs through an analysis of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York City and issues of pet overpopulation in Kansas City, but I wanted them to reflect more deeply on what constitutes a pet today (i.e., species) and their own boundaries for what 'proper' pets are and how we should treat them.

We spent an hour and a half with Jason Hormann, the owner of House of Scales, as he talked us through the various aspects of the exotic pet trade. Jason's is the only fully licensed USDA pet store in the area and this means that he is able to broker and trade in many more species than a non-licensed pet store. He explained to us how he has loved reptiles since he was little and that this business is the outgrowth of that love. His specialty is snakes and he showed us how the snakes were bred and sold as novelty items – meaning breeding for exotic patterns and colors. Most of his snakes were types of pythons and the most expensive one he ever sold was for \$11,000.00 (average price is around \$500). The snakes were kept in stacked plastic bins that were lined with shavings and had holes for airflow. While we were there a baby alligator escaped its tub and was scampering around until an employee caught it – even though it was admittedly cute we were wary of living with one but Jason assured us that alligators made good pets and told us the story of a friend's 11 foot alligator who sat on the couch, watched TV, and ate chicken legs with the owner. He also talked to us about more exotic pets that he could get for people such as fennec foxes, kinkajous, small primates, bears, cats, porcupines, etc. – it seemed that he was willing and able to get pretty much whatever he wanted either internationally or through breeders in the U.S.

The students left experiencing a range of emotions. Some were incredulous that people could actually buy all these animals for pets, others were disgusted that people would want to have these animals at all and that it was legal, but everyone agreed that it shed new light on Tuan's article and caused them to consider much more deeply human fascination with the keeping of pets. On a final note – Jason's take on dogs as pets? He says for him it's unethical to sell dogs and cats when there are so many in shelters.

~ Julie Urbanik is an Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri Kansas City

Photos by:
Jeanne Bucey



Day	Time	Title	Location	Chair	Organizers
Thursday, 14 April	8:00 – 9:40 am	3146 (Panel Session) Author Meets Critics: Robert Wilson's "Seeking Refuge: Birds and Landscapes of the Pacific Flyway"	2A - Washington State Convention Center, Level 2	Matthew Huber	Matthew Huber
Thursday, 14 April	10:00 – 11:40 am	3247 Coastal & Marine and Animal Geography Illustrated Paper Session	2B - Washington State Convention Center, Level 2	Jennifer L. Rahn	Jennifer L. Rahn & Suzi Wiseman
Thursday, 14 April	12:40 – 2:20 pm	3446 Animal Geography: Human influence on wildlife and wild animals	2A - Washington State Convention Center, Level 2	Stella Capoccia	Stella Capoccia & Russell Fielding
Thursday, 14 April	2:20 – 4:20 pm	3546 The Animal Body in the Capitalist Labor Process	2A - Washington State Convention Center, Level 2	Jonathan L. Clark	Jonathan L. Clark & Jody L. Emel
Thursday, 14 April	4:40 – 6:20 pm	3646 Wildlife Conservation and Management	2A - Washington State Convention Center, Level 2	Elizabeth Walton	Elizabeth Walton
Friday, 15 April	8:00 – 9:40 am	4136 Direct Experience in Situated Human-Animal Encounters: Critical Perspectives and Educational Practices	201 - Washington State Convention Center, Level 2	Traci Warrentin	Traci Warrentin & Leesa Fawcett
Friday, 15 April	10:00 am – 11:40 am	4236 (Panel Session) Animal Geographies: Emerging Perspectives	201 – Washington State Convention Center, Level 2	Sharon Wilcox Adams	Sharon Wilcox Adams
Friday, 15 April	11:50 am - 12:30 pm	4336 Animal Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting	201 – Washington State Convention Center, Level 2	Animal Geography Specialty Group	
Friday, 15 April	12:40 – 2:20 pm	4436 The Politics of Meat Production and Consumption I	201 - Washington State Convention Center, Level 2	Harvey Neo	Harvey Neo & Jody L. Emel
Friday, 15 April	2:40 – 4:20 pm	4536 The Politics of Meat Production and Consumption II	201 - Washington State Convention Center, Level 2	Harvey Neo	Harvey Neo & Jody L. Emel
Saturday, 16 April	8:00 – 9:40 am	5129 Animated Representations: Animals, Media and Place I	306 - Washington State Convention Center, Level 3	Sharon Wilcox Adams	Sharon Wilcox Adams
Saturday, 16 April	10:00- 1:40 am	5229 Animated Representations: Animals, Media, and Place II	306 - Washington State Convention Center, Level 3	Sharon Wilcox Adams	Sharon Wilcox Adams
Saturday, 16 April	12:00 – 1:40 pm	5329 Animated Representations: Animals, Media, and Place III	306 - Washington State Convention Center, Level 3	Sharon Wilcox Adams	Sharon Wilcox Adams