



Animal Geography News

The official newsletter of the Animal Geography Specialty Group (AnGSG)

Volume 4, Issue 1

April 2013

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Letter from the Chair...

Welcome to our fourth Animal Geography Specialty Group newsletter! As the incoming Chair I would like to take a moment to thank Monica Ogra for her work as Chair for the previous three years. Monica's dedication to the AnGSG from the beginning is a key reason that we are where we are today.

I would also like to thank our entire board (Congrats to Stella for her new job!), but especially our two graduate student officers – Connie Johnston and Rosemary Collard. We couldn't do this newsletter without their creative brilliance; and, since both Connie and Rosemary will be leaving the board this year because they are graduating (Woo Hoo!), I would like to remind all of our graduate students that serving on the board is an excellent way to network with fellow animal geographers and build your c.v. for the job market.

Our sub-field has continued to grow this past year and we are pleased to highlight multiple publications of interest in the following pages. It is so exciting to regularly see animal geography-related articles appearing in my 'new content' email alerts from journals – so exciting that I am actually pleased to have such a pile of 'to do' reading! Please continue to peruse the animal geography bibliography (see resources page of [website](#)) and make sure we have all of your publications listed.

The upcoming AAG meeting in Los Angeles will have another strong showing of animal geography sessions. We have provided a full schedule on the last page for planning purposes. A highlight this year will be a panel on the future of animal geography which will include Jamie Lorimer, David Lulka, Heidi Nast, and Harvey Neo. It is scheduled for Wednesday (April 10th) at 4:40pm.

Our business meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening (April 11th) from 8:30-9:30. Please note that we are working on our first animal geography get together which will be held before the business meeting. Stay tuned for the venue but we are hoping to establish a tradition of gathering for chatter, drinks, and treats that gives us time to build community. You will also have a chance to meet Amy Breyer of the Los Angeles Animal History Museum (under development) who has kindly agreed to join us and share the story of and plans for this unique museum.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in sunny Los Angeles! Safe travels!

~ Julie Urbanik, AnGSG Chair

Update and Call for Entries to the AnGSG Bibliography

Our Animal Geography online bibliography, generously created by Suzi Wiseman in 2011, now has over 1100 entries! You can access this valuable resource [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. You're highly encouraged to add new entries, too! To do so you have two options. The first and easiest is to just email the citations to one of the current AnGSG graduate student officers (this term Rosemary Collard: rcollard@geog.ubc.ca). The second is to visit the editable refworks wiki and enter the citations yourself. To do so go to <http://refworks.com> and log in as follows: Group Code—RWTexasSU; Login—AnimalGeog_Wiki; Password—AnGSG_Wiki.

The entries you add to the wiki won't appear in the online bibliography right away because the graduate student officer will still need to transfer the wiki citations to a different database. If you have any trouble accessing or using the bibliography, or have any questions at all, please email your graduate student officer. We hope to see this resource continue to grow!

Special thanks to Graduate Student Representative Rosemary Collard (doctoral candidate at the University of British Columbia) for her work this year on the bibliography!



Animal geography in/outside the classroom—

Graduate student (and course TA)

Nikolai Alvarado hauls in a line used to catch sharks for location-tracking. This was part of a 2012 field course taught by Russell Fielding (Lecturer and Internship Director in the Dept. of Geography & the Environment at the University of Denver) in collaboration with the RJ Dunlap Marine Conservation Program at the University of Miami.

Recent AnGSG Member Publications and Advancements

Publications—

Johnston, C. L. 2013. Geography, Science, and Subjectivity: Farm Animal Welfare in the US and Europe. *Geography Compass* 7/2: 139-148.

Johnston, C. L. 2013. Entangled in Language: The Linguistic Terrain of Human-Animal Relations. *Carnets de Geographie* 5: 1-12.

Seymour, M. 2012. Support Your Local Invasive Species: Animal Protection Rhetoric and Nonnative Species. *Society & Animals*. DOI: 10.1163/15685306-12341269

Taylor, N. 2013. *Humans, Animals, and Society: An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies*. New York: Lantern Books. (See page 5.)

Urbanik, J. 2012. *Placing Animals: An Introduction to the Geography of Human-Animal Relations*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. (See page 3)

Advancements—

Stella Capoccia has been hired in a tenure-track faculty position in the Biology Department at Montana Tech of the University of Montana. This year she also received a Rose and Anna Bush Award for Teaching Excellence. Last but not least, Stella was also awarded a grant to study amphibian populations in a local spring affected by mine waste and another grant by Silverbow County to study urban pigeon populations. *Congratulations Stella!*



Reminder: Call for Board Nominations!

GRADUATE STUDENT OFFICERS, 2014-2015 term (2 positions):

Duties include: Encourage and support of graduate student participation in AnGSG in such ways as: recruiting other student members, organizing student paper session at annual meeting, working with AnGSG Chair on newsletter, and contributing to Animal Geography bibliography and other AnGSG website resources. The positions are one year terms with the option to serve one additional year.

If you are interested: Please email a brief statement of interest to the AnGSG Chair, Julie Urbanik (urbanikj@umkc.edu) no later than Friday, March 22nd. *Please include "ANGSG NOMINATION" in the subject line.* The email should include a brief explanation of why you would like to serve in this position and any other information you would like fellow members to consider at the time of voting. Please note that you do not have to be present at the business meeting to participate in the election.

Election Procedures: Members are reminded that as of last year, online voting was approved as the method for AnGSG board positions. Online voting will be open this year from March 29-April 5. Election results will be announced at the AnGSG Business meeting on April 11. However, if both positions have not been filled by the closure of the on-line voting on Friday April 5, the positions will offered to eligible participants in the April 11 business meeting.

Don't forget!

...to support the Animal Geography Specialty Group.

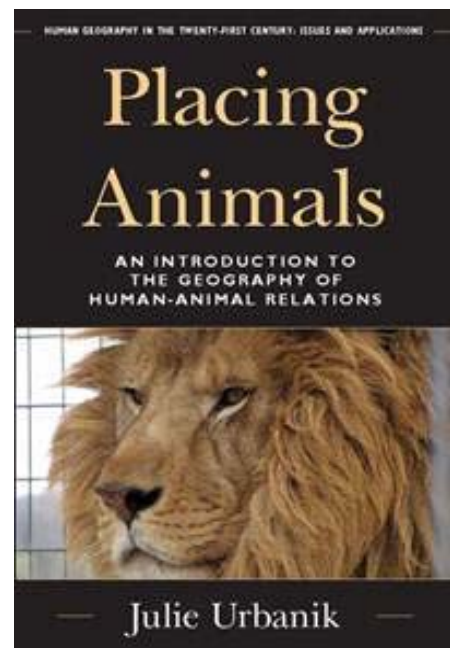
Faculty sponsorship is \$5.00; student sponsorship is \$1.00.

Additional contributions are always welcome!

Member book —*Placing Animals: An Introduction to the Geography of Human–Animal Relations* by Julie Urbanik

As Urbanik vividly illustrates, non-human animals are central to our daily human lives. We eat them, wear them, live with them, work them, experiment on them, try to save them, spoil them, abuse them, fight them, hunt them, buy and sell them, love them, and hate them. *Placing Animals* is the first book to bring together the historical development of the field of animal geography with a comprehensive survey of how geographers study animals today. Urbanik provides readers with a thorough understanding of the relationship between animal geography and the larger animal studies project, an appreciation of the many geographies of human-animal interactions around the world, and insight into how animal geography is both challenging and contributing to the major fields of human and nature-society geography. Through the theme of the role of place in shaping where and why human-animal interactions occur, the chapters in turn explore the history of animal geography and our distinctive relationships in the home, on farms, in the context of labor, in the wider culture, and in the wild.

Julie Urbanik is Assistant Teaching Professor in the Department of Geosciences at the University of Missouri-Kansas City



Perspectives: Affected by Our Research,
By Connie Johnston

Warning: this essay takes up a rather unpleasant topic. Although it arises from my dissertation fieldwork, which was overall a pleasant experience, this particular component was difficult to handle in terms of both my physical senses and emotions. Dealing with these difficulties is, I am sure, a necessary part of research for many of us as animal geographers, as we often take up issues related to the inhumane treatment of nonhuman animals

My story takes place on a pig farm in western Spain in the fall of 2011. My fieldwork in Spain involved visiting this commercial farm with an animal scientist, Eva, from a government agricultural research institute to observe her welfare assessment. The pigs arrived on the farm at an early age and remained there for five months until they were sent off to slaughter. At the time of our visit they had been there for about three months. There were approximately 4000 pigs on this farm, housed in four long barns. The barns were divided into two halves with 500 pigs in each half. Upon arrival and exiting the car, I noticed (and was not surprised by) the unpleasant odor. The odor increased upon entering the middle area of the barn that was to be assessed. There were no pigs in this area, but instead there was some equipment and supplies, a couple of desks, a few chairs, and a separate, quite dirty bathroom with an open, quite dirty shower stall. This is where we changed into our coveralls and rubber boots, put on our hair coverings and face masks, and Eva talked with the farm manager and the one farm employee. Eva instructed me to change completely out of my street clothes into the coveralls, lest my clothes take on the smell of the barns. We put our clothes into plastic bags.

At this point I was sensorially completely unprepared for the areas that contained the pigs. Entering this area my nostrils were assaulted with the worst odor I have ever encountered. I described it at the time, without a hint of exaggeration, as what I imagined it would be like to be in the middle of a dump truck full of rotten eggs. I now realized the absolute need for the face masks that had a bendable metal strip for pinching one's nose closed. Catching the occasional whiff when I needed to adjust my mask, I was nauseated. And then there was the noise, amplified by the echo effects of the cavernous



A female pig isolated in an enfermeria (sick pen) due to a hernia.

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Tucker listening to a child read him a story.

Member Activities: Animal Geographies of Care, *By Elise Schlosser*

Tucker was registered through Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs in New Jersey. We volunteered our services at several different places including local nursing homes, the Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF), and a local school. The school developed a reading program called HERO's (Helping Everyone Read Outstandingly), designed for children that had trouble reading in class, in which they read to the dogs. It was very successful. We participated for four years. Tucker affected more lives directly and indirectly than any dog I have ever owned. He truly was an exceptional person with an amazing personality. This personality enabled him registration as a therapy dog, therefore allowing him into places normally off-limits to dogs, and to be a non-human provider of care and assistance.

Elise Schlosser is completing her M.S. in Education, with a focus in geography, at Eastern Oregon University

Animal Geography in the Classroom (and Beyond)

Going "Elk-free" - Students from Montana Tech's Introduction to Ecology class, taught by member Stella Capoccia, traveled to Yellowstone National Park. Here the students are in an 'elk-free' zone, established by Yellowstone biologists to see how the vegetation would respond in the absence of browsing. This study site serves as a foundation for larger discussions of both elk population and vegetation management for other areas in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.



Stella Capoccia is Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at Montana Tech.

Beer and Birds? - And last April, more of Dr. Capoccia's Montana Tech students, this time from the Natural History of the Vertebrate class, traveled to Freeze Out Lake to watch the snow geese migration. These geese migrate from the arctic circle to the tropics. One of their migration stop overs is the Freeze Out area, a feeding ground growing in popularity for migratory birds, as the leftovers from a high barley production of the area leaves critical food resources. The higher national beer sales go, the more barley is produced, and the more barley is produced, the stronger the snow geese migration. Record migration numbers have been estimated at close to 200,000 geese in just a few weeks, along with tundra and trumpeter swans, and collections of smaller water fowl. The migration attracts birders from around the world who brave blustery cold conditions to see the event. Dedicated to the experience, Tech's biology students dug out areas for their tents and hunkered down for the night to make it to the lake's edge by sunup.



Member Book—*Humans, Animals, and Society: An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies* by Nik Taylor

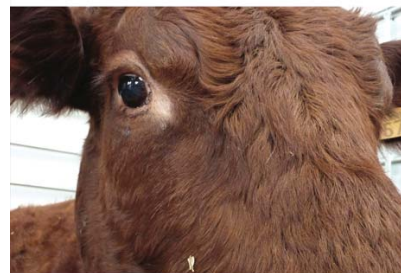
While animals have played a central part in human society over the years, when it comes to the social sciences they have largely been neglected. However, interest in Human-Animal Studies (HAS) has grown exponentially in recent years, giving rise to university and college courses around the world specifically on this compelling and vital subject. Considering topics ranging from the human-animal bond, meat eating, and animals in entertainment, this book presents key concepts in simple and easy-to-understand ways as it covers the breadth of empirical work currently being done in the field. Through an examination of ideas such as anthropocentrism and the social construction of animals, it looks at how animals are symbolically transformed, presented, and re-presented as part of human culture. Ultimately, the book argues that there is nothing "natural" about our social relations with animals, but that animals are made use of and understood through a human lens. *Humans, Animals, and Society* spans the diverse interests of the HAS community and is necessary reading for students and the general public looking to better understand our relationship with animals.

Nik Taylor is Director of Studies in Sociology at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia.

HUMANS, ANIMALS, AND SOCIETY

An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies

NIK TAYLOR



"A much-needed, state-of-the-art overview of the emerging field of human-animal studies." —Hal Herzog, author of *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat*

**Animal
Geography
Specialty Group
Business Meeting
is Thursday,
April 11
8:30—9:30 PM.
Reserve the time
and check your e-
mails for info on
an off-site
location for the
meeting and a
special pre-
meeting social
gathering!**

What drew us to animal geography, by University of Guelph's graduate animal research team

Martha Geiger, M.A. candidate

Having grown up as an avid equestrian, Martha was always aware of how influential animals were in shaping her life. After receiving an undergraduate degree in geography, Martha took a position as an assistant horse trainer at a large, competitive horse farm, where she grew interested in how humans shaped non-human animal lives. During Martha's time as a trainer, she came across Dr. Alice Hovorka's research in animal geography on animals' lives in Botswana. Martha came to do her Master's with Hovorka at the University of Guelph, and is currently exploring the relationship between donkey welfare and positionality in Botswana society. In Botswana, donkeys play an important role in people's livelihoods, yet they suffer from marginalization and low status within society. Animal geography has allowed Martha to engage in a multi-disciplinary approach, employing animal welfare science, development studies, and feminist theory to examine the connections between donkey and human well-being, while allowing the donkeys to act as primary research participants, rather than objects of study. Martha is looking forward to continuing her research on the lives of working animals, and continuing to engage in animal geography perspectives.



Erin MacIver, PhD candidate

Erin recently came to animal geography via both the field of anthropology and research in health and development. Animal geography attracted her because she felt that her prior focus on humans alone was not giving a sufficiently accurate picture of everyday experienced reality. On an internship in South Africa, she stumbled across the research of Dr. Alice Hovorka, who introduced Erin to the idea of including non-human animals in an understanding of her interests in health, identity, and empowerment. With Hovorka, Erin is undertaking a PhD to examine women's access to and control over cattle in Botswana, and the

Continued on next page

Executive Board

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General Board

Mona Seymour
General Board

Rosemary Collard
Graduate Student
Representative

Connie Johnston
Graduate Student
Representative

Continued from previous page

(MacIver) bearing this has on identity and empowerment. Cattle are both symbolically and economical-ly crucial to life in Botswana, and as such their treatment and placement in the landscape are integral to understanding the empowerment of the women who have gained access to them. Erin's PhD research will combine animal geography with feminist and development geographies in order to gain a holistic

Valli Fraser-Celin, M.A. candidate

While living in the Kruger National Park in South Africa for a year, Valli became very interested in large carnivores. Upon her return to Canada, she was accepted into a Master's program in geography and, working with Dr. Alice Hovorka, her research will examine the relationships between humans and large carnivores in Botswana. Carnivore conservation efforts are crucial in the face of habitat loss and expanding human-dominated landscapes, which contribute to more interactions between humans and large carnivores. Further understanding the complexities of these relationships is critical. Animal geography is allowing Valli to pursue research from an interdisciplinary approach, using methods from both the sciences and the social sciences. The discipline appeals to her as it focuses on nonhuman animals as individual, sentient beings, and the ways in which they play an active role in influencing their relationships with humans. Valli believes that animal geography concepts and principles can provide meaningful contribu-



The Berkshire Push, by Paul Quigley

My route into animal geography has been a circuitous and unpredictable one. I was born in Maine, but for the most part grew up in Berkshire County, in the UK. In Berkshire I learnt to explore the incredible immediate environment, motivated by reading Willard Price's "Adventure" book series in the incessantly dour afternoons/evenings of British winters. At age eight I was enrolled in a preparatory boarding school in the area and from there learnt to appreciate the existing natural relationships and communities I saw, and began to wrestle with the complexity and intricacy that life on our world is blessed with. Since geography is taught from an early age in England I was memorizing names and locations of everything from rivers to mountains to cities. My early-age experiences, coupled with a little bit of knowledge and a lot of English drizzle had me chomping at the bit to see, to do, to be a part of protecting, supporting, saving the world.

For university, I originally went to northern England with the intention of studying zoology at Newcastle University. However, three weeks in, and the dreams unraveled. I discovered I wasn't that interested in studying biology on that scale, that I was much more interested in larger picture interactions, and that the job scene for zoologists was (is?) not great. I panicked and changed degrees to the one subject I knew I could fall back on, math.

Several years later, I decided to move to the US. After 10 years of following various different paths that used my existing skills (from computer animation to architecture to hydrologic engineering), I discovered GIS through a friend in the military. Since that moment - and continuing! - I have been searching for a niche in which to specialize within GIS, and animal geography has so far been where I've found purpose. I have just completed a master's degree in GIS at Denver University's Department of Geography and the Environment, where my project was a potential habitat assessment for reintroduced wolverine and the conflict arising with winter recreation. Simultaneously, I worked as an intern at the Bureau of Land Management at the Federal Center in Denver, where one of the projects I got to touch was the National Sage Grouse Initiative, which examines conservation of this species and its habitat in the western US. Endangered species has become my most eagerly engaged passion, and looking for new and challenging ways to help manage such populations my desired career path! I would have loved to have been part of the internationally-cooperative Census of Marine Life project and hope in future to be part of the clean-up of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Animal geography touches so much--it's a whole new field of interesting opportunities.

Paul Quigley is currently finishing up a project with the US Bureau of Land Management in Denver.

Perspectives, continued from page 3

barn with mostly hard, concrete surfaces. Although at times quiet, when an “incident” occurred in one pen (a quarrel, a fight, or reactive squeals at Eva or me), much of the rest of the barn would erupt in vocal expressions. These eruptions were jarringly loud. There was also the sight of pen after barren pen of approximately 13 pigs. The brown substance that was on both the slatted pen floors and the pigs’ bodies was not dirt. The inside of this barn never sees dirt except that which is brought in on people’s shoes. This was feces and it would not be cleared away until this group of pigs was removed for slaughter and before another group arrived.

In the car on the way home, Eva and I could no longer see or hear the pigs, but we continued to smell the barn odor. It wasn’t our own clothes that we now had back on, as we had changed completely out of those into the coveralls, and it wasn’t our imaginations. It was, instead, our hair. I washed mine three times with a floral scented shampoo back at my hotel that evening and even that was not enough to subdue the smell. Eva and I joked about our embarrassingly malodorous state when we stopped for a rest break at a small food store on the way back. The odor had even penetrated the hard plastic of my eyeglasses.

Eva and I were able to leave that environment that assaulted our senses. We were even able to joke about how terrible it was and how disgusting we felt with the residue it left on us. For the pigs themselves, however, it is their one and only world for a significant portion of their short lives. They were part of my research project and their living conditions allowed me to have data. Their curiosity about me gave me the opportunity to take some photos of their faces, to remember and record *my* being observed by *them*. This is all I could really do for them.

Connie Johnston is a doctoral candidate in the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University



“Picturing” Animal Geography

Pet area at a rest stop near Salt Lake City, UT. Photo taken by Rosemary Collard while traveling doing research on the exotic animal trade.



**Member Activities: Interacting with the Missouri Trappers' Association,
By Julie Urbanik**

In September I attended the Missouri Trappers' Association Fall Rendezvous to make contacts for a research project I am doing on the history of animals in Kansas City. I was able to speak with quite a number of people and they welcomed my questions and interest. I watched demos on trapping mink, otter, beavers, and bobcats. I learned the best way to remove pelts without ruining them and I learned that there are a strange variety of scents that trapper's use to attract animals (most of them pretty gross). It was a pretty intense experience, but I made excellent contacts and will hopefully be shadowing them this winter as they set their traps so I can learn more about the whole process.



***Clockwise from bottom right:
Various scents for sale; un-sprung beaver
trap; the foot of a deceased female raccoon
about to be de-pelted***



A Big Thanks...

To everyone who assisted with or contributed to this year's newsletter!

Animal Geography Sponsored Sessions

Sessions with Animal Geographers Presenting

Day	Time	Session Title	Location	Organizers	Chair
Tuesday, 9 April	8:00 AM - 9:40 AM	1120 American Odyssey: Continental Explorations in Historical Geography	Sacramento, Westin, Level 2	Craig Colten	Craig Colten
9:00 AM: Animal Geographer Presenter: Bob Wilson Paper title: Animals in America: A Historical Geographical Perspective					
Tuesday, 9 April	12:40 PM- 2:20 PM	1436 Science & the Production of Species I: How Scientific Framings Matter	Laguna Parlor 3044, Westin, 30th Floor	Elizabeth Hennessy	Elizabeth Hennessy
Tuesday, 9 April	2:40 PM- 4:20 PM	1536 Science & the Production of Species II: Breeding Bodies	Laguna Parlor 3044, Westin, 30th Floor	Elizabeth Hennessy	Elizabeth Hennessy
Tuesday, 9 April	4:40 PM- 6:20 PM	1636 Science & the Production of Species III: Intersecting Knowledges	Laguna Parlor 3044, Westin, 30th Floor	Elizabeth Hennessy	Elizabeth Hennessy
Wednesday, 10 April	12:40 PM- 2:20 PM	2457 Drugs, Deserts, Oceans, Wars: Researching Illegality and Legibility I	Hollywood, The LA Hotel, Level 2	Geoffrey Boyce & Dominic Corva	Jeffrey Banister
12:55 PM: Animal Geographer Presenter: Rosemary Collard Paper title: "Noah's ark" on the auction block: the political economy of a soon-to-be illicit commodity					
Wednesday, 10 April	12:40 PM- 2:20 PM	2470 Human Animal Interactions	Athenian, Biltmore, Mezzanine Level	Program Committee	Anita Hagy Ferguson
1:00 PM: Animal Geographer Presenter: Suzi Wiseman Paper title: What is Heard at an Urban Zoo by Elephants, Giraffes, Rhinoceri and others that Communicate Infrasonically?					
2:00 PM: Animal Geographer Presenter: Anita Hagy Ferguson Paper title: Sharing the wild: The human-tiger relationship in a contested landscape					
Wednesday, 10 April	4:40 PM- 6:20 PM	2653 Animal Geography: The Next 15 Years	Grand Ballroom, Salon 2, The LA Hotel, Level 2	Julie Urbanik & Connie Johnston	Julie Urbanik
Wednesday, 10 April	4:40 PM- 6:20 PM	2674 Religion: The Geography of Sacred Places, People, and Death	Corsican, Biltmore, Mezzanine Level	Program Committee	Masha Halevi
5:20 PM: Animal Geographer Presenter: Cadi Fung Paper title: Buddhist Attitudes Toward Animals: A Case Study of Metta Forest Buddhist Monastery					
Thursday, 11 April	8:00 AM - 9:40 AM	3141 Places of co-habitation, Spaces of imagination 1	Malibu Parlor 3038, Westin, 30th Floor	Henry Buller & Mara Miele	Mara Miele
Thursday, 11 April	8:00 AM - 9:40 AM	3152 The production of nature	Grand Ballroom, Salon 1, The LA Hotel, Level 2	Freyja Knapp & Mazen Labban	Freyja Knapp
Thursday, 11 April	10:00 AM- 11:40 AM	3241 Places of co-habitation, Spaces of imagination 2	Malibu Parlor 3038, Westin, 30th Floor	Henry Buller & Mara Miele	Henry Buller
Thursday, 11 April	8:30 PM- 9:30 PM	3927 Animal Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting	Santa Monica A, Westin, Level 3	Program Committee	Julie Urbanik
Saturday, 13 April	2:00 PM- 3:40 PM	5456 Posthumanism, Method, and Materiality	Highland, The LA Hotel, Level 2	Monica Barra & Nathaniel Gabriel	Eric Sarmiento