

Animals and Society



American Sociological Association

ISSUE 15

ANIMALS & SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUG 2011

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR – TRACEY HARRIS

Dear Section Members,

My term as Chair of the Animals & Society Section will soon be over. Jessica Greenebaum will be taking over from me at the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas and I am confident that she will do an excellent job. I am also pleased to announce that we have a new Chair-elect. Please join me in congratulating Angela Mertig (Middle Tennessee State University). I would also like to extend congratulations to our two new council members: David Nibert (Wittenberg University) and Justin Goodman (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals/Marymount University). Thanks so much to all those who ran in the election. We really are fortunate to have so many dedicated and talented individuals working to further our section and the subfield of animals and society. I would also like to extend a special thanks to Elizabeth Cherry whose term on council will draw to a close after the annual meeting. Thank you to all the members who continue working on behalf of the section on committees, special projects, and on council.

I hope that many of you are planning to attend the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. There are several sessions this year that feature papers and themes related to animals & society. In addition, our section session “Human Consumptive Practices and the Exploitation of Other Animals” and the thematic session on “Human/Animal Conflict: Sociological Considerations” are both being held on Monday, August 22nd. We will also host our business meeting and reception on that day, so please plan to attend and make a day of it.

The newsletter is an important reminder of the wonderful achievements of our section’s members and this seems a fitting place to talk about recruitment. In my previous letter-from-the-chair, I mentioned the ongoing challenge of trying to increase our membership size. I mention it now as the ASA has just launched its 2011 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign. The Association is asking members to encourage their colleagues and students to join ASA. Each current member who sponsors a new member is eligible for special recognition and rewards. I would like to add that it would be a great time to also persuade (or sponsor) someone to join or re-join our section.

Finally, I would like to thank our newsletter editor, Justin Goodman. He has done a wonderful job on the newsletter yet again!

Wishing you all a wonderful summer,

Tracey Harris
Section Chair

ASA ANNUAL MEETING IN LAS VEGAS, NV— AUG 20-23, 2011

The 2011 Annual Meeting will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada from August 20-23, 2011. Below are details on the Animals and Society Section's activities during the event.

Thematic Session: **Human/Animal Conflict: Sociological Considerations**

Mon, Aug 22 - 10:30am - 12:10pm

Session Organizer: Janet M. Alger (Siena College), Steven F. Alger (College of Saint Rose)

Presider: Janet M. Alger (Siena College), Steven F. Alger (College of Saint Rose)

- Conflict and Violence Generated by the Animal Industrial Complex
David A. Nibert (Wittenberg University)
- Conflicting Media Representations: Imagery, Morality, and Narratives Surrounding Animal Advocacy
Brian M. Lowe (State University of New York-Oneonta)
- Conceptualizations of Gender vis-à-vis Sport Hunting: Growing Conflict in the Context of National Elections
Amy J. Fitzgerald (University of Windsor)
- Role Conflict in the Enforcement and Prosecution of Anti-Cruelty Statutes
Eric Madfis (Northeastern University), Arnold Arluke (Northeastern University)

Official Section Session: **Human Consumptive Practices and the Exploitation of Other Animals**

Mon, Aug 22 - 2:30pm - 4:10pm

Session Organizer: Tracey Harris (Cape Breton University)

Presider: Jessica Greenebaum (Central Connecticut State University)

- Canine Soldiers, Mascots and Stray Dogs in Wartime: Ethical Considerations
Janet M. Alger (Siena College), Steven F. Alger (College of St. Rose)
- Violence Against Animals: Examining the Relationship between Animal Production and Animal Abuse
Cameron Thomas Whitley (Michigan State University)
- The Mediterranean Tragedy of the Commodity
Stefano B. Longo (East Tennessee State University), Rebecca J. Clausen (Fort Lewis College)
- The Hobby Farm
Helene M. Lawson (University of Pittsburgh)

Section on Animals and Society Business Meeting

Mon, Aug. 22 - 4:30pm - 6:10pm

Section on Animals and Society Reception

Mon, Aug. 22 - 6:30 pm

Caesar's Palace

Las Vegas, NV

Additional sessions of interest to section members

- Section on Environment & Technology Roundtable: Animals and Wildlife
Sun, Aug 21 - 10:30am - 11:30am
- Section on Sociology of Culture Roundtable: Creating Culture within Subculture(s)
Tue, Aug 23 - 8:30am - 10:10am
(includes papers titled, "Pets are Companions, Not Property: The Cultural Logic of Animal Protection and Advocacy" and "Commodifying Fido: Pets as a Means to Accrue Social Status")

SECTION NEWS

- The Animals & Society Section is pleased to announce the award recipient for the Animals & Society Distinguished Scholarship Award (in the form of a book) goes to **Rhoda Wilkie** for *Livestock/Deadstock: Working with Animals from Birth to Slaughter*, 2010, Temple University Press.
- The Animals & Society Section is pleased to announce the results of its recent election. The Animals & Society Section Chair-elect is **Angela Mertig** (Middle Tennessee State University) and the two new Council Members are **Justin Goodman** (PETA/Marymount University) and **David Nibert** (Wittenberg University).

MEMBERS NEWS

- At the November 2010 meeting of the Association for Humanist Sociology in Santa Fe, NM, section member **Jessica Greenebaum** (Central Connecticut State University) presented a paper titled, "Veganism, Identity, and Consumption: Negotiating Theory With Practice."
- Section members **Elizabeth Jefferis Terrien** (University of Chicago) and **David Blouin** (Indiana University South Bend) were interviewed about their work on human-dog interaction for a March 2011 [article](#) in the science section of *The New York Times*.
- At the March 2011 "Thinking About Animals" conference at Brock University (CAN), section members **Justin Goodman**, **Elizabeth Cherry** (Manhattanville College) and **Casey Borch** (University of Alabama-Birmingham) presented a paper titled, "Divided On Vivisection: American Attitudes Toward Animal Testing 2001-2010."
- In the Spring 2011 issue of *Society and Animals*, section members **Justin Goodman** and **Clinton Sanders** (University of Connecticut) published an [article](#) titled, "In Favor of Tipping the Balance: Animal Rights Activists in Defense of Residential Picketing"
- In the April 2011 issue of the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, section members **Elizabeth Cherry** and **Colter Ellis** (University of Colorado-Boulder) published an [article](#) titled, "Food for Thought, Thought for Food: Consumption, Identity, and Ethnography."
- In the Summer 2011 issue of the *Earth Island Journal*, section member **James William Gibson** (CSU-Long Beach) wrote a [cover story](#) about the circumstances surrounding the delisting of wolves from the Endangered Species list.

ANIMALS AND SOCIETY ISSUES IN THE NEWS

- Richard Dawkins published a [column](#) on the popular website Boing Boing looking at animals' pain and how our knowledge about it should guide our relationships with them.
- On the *Psychology Today* website, Hal Herzog (author of, "[Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard To Think Straight About Animals](#)") wrote a series of [three interesting articles](#) that explored the dynamics of humans' consumption of other animals, or what he calls "the human-meat relationship."
- In its April 1, 2011 issue, *Science* published two articles ("[The Rise of Animal Law](#)" and "[A Road Map for Animal Rights](#)") that discussed humans' evolving relationship with other animals and the implications of these changes on science, the law and everyday life.
- Gallup released the results of its 2011 [Values and Beliefs survey](#), which questions the public about its views on buying and wearing clothing made from animal fur, cloning animals and medical testing on animals.

NEW RESOURCES

- [Animals](#), a new "international open access journal on the fauna and animals" has been published and all articles submitted during 2011 will be made available free to the public .
- The [Journal of Animal Ethics](#) published its first issue in early 2011 and is currently seeking submissions.
- The [latest issue](#) of the *Journal for Critical Animal Studies*, "Continental Philosophical Perspectives on Non-Human Animals," is now available.
- The Animals and Society Institute has created a [Scholar program](#) that offers Scholar members a webpage on the ASI site and discounts on journals and books.
- A new website, [This Week in Sociology](#), was launched to "bring the Sociological Imagination into real time." It is a resource aimed at students learning about sociology and for faculty teaching sociology.

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS

- City Lights Books published, [Green is the New Red: An Insider's Account of a Social Movement Under Siege](#), which draws on sociology, political science, popular media coverage, and first-hand experience to explore the circumstances that have led to nonviolent environmental and animal rights activists being faced with unprecedented political repression and labeled the nation's "number one domestic terrorist threat."
- [About Canada: Animal Rights](#), a new book by Brock University sociologist John Sorenson that "examines the institutional exploitation of animals in agriculture, fashion and entertainment" was released by Fenwood Publishing.

CONFERENCES

Manchester Centre for Political Theory Workshops in Political Theory: Animal Rights and Political Theory
August 31-September 2, 2011
University of Manchester, UK

This workshop brings together scholars working on the normative dimension of human-animal relations. Previous papers have discussed: the possibility of a Kantian animal ethics; the implications of contractarianism for animal rights; theories of justice and animal welfare; equality across the species; the possibility of justice for companion dogs; the relationship between human and animal rights; and debates over 'policing nature'. For more information and to register for the MANCEPT Workshops, please see: <http://manceptworkshops.wordpress.com/>

"Reconfiguring the "Human/Animal" Binary – Resisting Violence": The 2nd Annual European Conference for Critical Animal Studies
October 15-16, 2011
The Department of Sociology, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic,

This two-day interdisciplinary conference will critically explore a variety of issues concerning the historic, current, and future situation of nonhuman animals across globally interconnected societies. Adopting a Critical Animal Studies perspective this conference seeks to interrogate not only the 'question of the animal' but also, with urgency, the deteriorating lived circumstances of many nonhuman animals. We are especially pleased to be hosting this conference in association with the Institute for Critical Animal Studies (ICAS) as the 2nd Annual European Conference for Critical Animal Studies. We welcome participation from activists, academics (sociologists, philosophers, geographers, historians, anthropologists etc.) and hybrids of the two. The conference will be completely vegan. Conference will be in English. Please submit abstracts (200-300 words) and a short bio (less than 100 words) to the address: cfp@humanimal.cz by July 3rd, 2011. For more information: <http://humanimal.cz/CAS/call.html> and <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=128921897181041>.

Minding Animals Conference 2012
July 1-6, 2012
Utrecht University, the Netherlands

This conference is the second in a series of conferences about scientific, ethical and social issues related to human interactions with and uses of animals. The aim of the conference is to bring together academics from different areas (animal welfare, animal ethics, and animal studies in general) with politicians and a broad variety of interest groups. The conference offers a platform for exchange of information about research developments, debates about controversial political and ethical issues concerning the treatment of animals and a variety of cultural activities around animals. For more information: <http://www.uu.nl/faculty/humanities/EN/congres/mindinganimals/Pages/default.aspx> (see call for papers on next page)

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACS) Annual Meeting

October 13-15, 2011

New Orleans, LA

This year's theme "Applied and Clinical Sociology: Making a Difference and Loving It" is designed to highlight the enthusiasm with which sociological practitioners engage their world. **Session, workshop and paper proposals are due July 15, 2011** and should be submitted to Augie Diana at dianaa@nide.nih.gov. For additional information regarding AACS and/or the conference please visit the organization's website at <http://www.aacsnet.net/>.

13th Annual Conference of Hong Kong Sociological Association: Global Sociology for a Global World

December 3, 2011

Chinese University of Hong Kong

In the process of globalization, sociological research has transcended national and trans-national levels of analysis. Important issues remain with regard to our understanding about the complex interplays between the global and the local. The conference aims to draw discussions about this valuable theme and encourage presentations contributing to the development of a more global sociology, or to a better understanding of local issues in the global context. **Deadline for submissions in September 15, 2011.** For further enquiries, please contact Miss Queena NG of Department of Sociology, the Chinese University of Hong Kong at HKSA2011@cuhk.edu.hk.

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CULTURE REVIEW

Bold Native (2010)

By Loredana Loy

Written and directed by Denis Hennelly, *Bold Native* is the story of Charlie (Joaquin Pastor), an animal liberation activist who travels around the country recruiting other activists for a nation-wide series of animal liberation operations. The magnitude, coordination, and timing of these operations are meant to make a landmark statement for the movement. In the meantime, Charlie's father (Randolph Mantooth), a prominent figure in a fast food conglomerate, receives a visit from the FBI informing him that his son has been labeled a domestic terrorist according to the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act.

The 1992 movie *Malcolm X* reminded audiences that the struggles of the African American people are far from history through the insertion of scenes from the Rodney King police brutality video. In a similar manner, *Bold Native* intercuts real footage from animal exploitation enterprises into the fictional narrative and it does so without an overbearing effect on the viewer.

Through one of its subplots, *Bold Native* also invites the audience to critically consider the various tactical and strategic approaches employed by activists and organizations in the animal advocacy movement.

The movie prompts questions regarding the use of violence in a social movement and it highlights the hypocritical tandem between the condemnation of violence against property and the socially sanctioned violence perpetrated against nonhuman animals.

The forces that shape cinema are highly restrictive, as box office and Hollywood ideologies continue to dominate the moviegoers' experience. Through its honesty, courage, and integrity, *Bold Native* represents a movement manifesto. It also scores high on the entertainment factor. The actors deliver passionate and solid performances and the soundtrack is outstanding.

Bold Native's message is at the forefront of the animal liberation movement. It would be unfortunate if its audience remained limited to people who are already familiar with the realm of animal liberation. Screenings are being held at universities and activist centers both nationally and internationally. The movie is also currently accessible on iTunes and is available for purchase on DVD at <http://boldnative.com/>.

Loredana Loy is a graduate student at New York University. She is studying the animal liberation movement through sociological and cultural lenses. Her research is focused on cinema as a tool for promoting animal liberation messages.

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