



Animals & Society

Section of the American Sociological Association

Spring 2020 Newsletter

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Letter from the Chair



Dear colleagues,

I write my second and final letter as the 2019/2020 Chair from isolation in city center Canterbury, England. It is late April, and the human death toll in the US, UK, and too many other parts of the world continues to rise. The toll on other animals—who have been buried alive in agricultural facilities, “euthanized” in laboratories, fed to one another in zoos, starved for want of food on city streets,

purchased in droves for backyard egg production, and abandoned at shelters by panicked owners—remains too unimaginable to quantify.

As someone who has dedicated my life and career to the study of animals and society, my academic mind can understand why this disaster has occurred, but my heart breaks at the tragic absurdity of it all. Humanity’s relationship with the natural world and nonhuman animals (both free-living and domesticated) is not instinctual or inevitable, *it’s cultural*. And culture doesn’t always get it right. COVID-19 has demonstrated so very painfully that culture can be toxic, but any card-carrying sociologist can tell you that culture is something that can be changed. Just how we would go about doing so is the question.

Society & Animals in the COVID-19 Crisis

Since it began to gather momentum at the turn of the 21st century, the sociological study of animals and society has struggled for legitimacy. Although some sociology programs are beginning to provide courses on

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human/nonhuman relations, they remain sparse and elective. Ongoing research conducted by Australian scholar [Siobhan O'Sullivan](#)¹ has documented that academics and graduate students who specialize in the subfield experience considerable stigma (nearly half of animal studies scholars according to her recent study).

The devaluation of our work is an astonishing discredit to the integrity of our discipline. The climate change crisis worsens by the day with each record-breaking temperature, each melted iceberg, and each species lost to extinction. This is a crisis brought on, to an enormous extent, by animal agriculture via the heavy production and utilization of oil, soybeans and other fodder, water, land, transportation, and other resources necessary to sustain meat, dairy, eggs, and other animal products. Researchers are also pointing to this strain on the environment as the reason for shrinking wild spaces and subsequently greater contact between humans and free-living nonhuman communities. As COVID-19 and hundreds of other zoonotic diseases have demonstrated, humanity's oppressive relationship with other animals is not only dangerous for nonhumans, but for humans as well (*especially* vulnerable and marginalized persons).

Perhaps the COVID-19 crisis will finally bring home the fact that human societies are deeply and consistently shaped by our relationships with other animals. The pandemic has disrupted all that sociology holds dear, from major social institutions to the most minor of social interactions. As such, sociologists cannot afford to continue ignoring and devaluing the nonhuman factor in human social life. At the policy level the task is formidable, but as the global response to COVID-19 has indicated, big change can happen fast when the impetus is there. I cannot speak on behalf of the section, but as a scholar and a human with compassion for this earth and all who inhabit it, I think the time to examine veganism as a credible escape route and ultimate pathway of sustainability is now.

Section Survey Results

In more mundane news, I conducted a survey of the section membership to ascertain what exactly draws folks to our section and keeps them there. We've always been a small section (for reasons alluded to above), such that our leadership over the years has been consistently interested in working to grow, or at least sustain, our numbers. For the most part, we've relied on hunches and anecdotes. For the first time, we have some concrete data.² The data show that we have a committed section with most members being active for several years. There is also a greater proportion of folks remaining in the section in an effort to support our field, with more self-serving interests in networking and keeping abreast of academic opportunities ranking just below. From the open-ended responses, it is clear that folks came to our section and remain members due to a variety of academic interests.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the survey; we will be using the data to inform our membership drives in the future and to better serve the existing membership. This information is more vital than ever, as our section has experienced a 20% drop since 2019. A special thank you to Seven Mattes, Jennifer Sinski, Mark Suchyta, Crystal Vuole, and Miranda Workman for their service in our Spring 2020 membership drive.

(Continued on page 3)

I. O'Sullivan, S., Y. Watt, and F. Probyn-Rapsey. 2019. "Tainted Love: The Trials and Tribulations of a Career in Animal Studies." *Society & Animals* 27 (4): 361-382.

2. The data is, of course, limited as we reached the response capacity of 40 (SurveyMonkey charges beyond that). With a 33% response rate, about 1 in 3 of our section (N=118) is represented. There is also the potential for selection bias, with those more engaged in the section being more likely to respond.

2020 Meeting

We have no news yet on the status of the annual meeting, although I have my doubts that it will continue. Even if business returns to normal this summer, the loss of so many months of planning will likely make the conference logistically difficult in many ways. For instance, I was graciously given the opportunity to select a vegan space for the joint reception with the environmental section (last year animal products were served and the only vegan selection offered was a smattering of tater tots). However, California was one of the first states to enter lockdown back in early March. I was unable to continue my search and was not able to make the ASA's May 1 deadline for receptions. It doesn't appear that the environmental section will be pursuing the reception planning.

If the conference does go on, I will be arranging a secondary informal event for members at a vegan establishment so that all feel welcome and can have plenty to eat. There were concerns last year that, although combining with the environmental section provides visibility and networking opportunities, our members found themselves unable to network with one another in the large crowd. For that matter, our awards distribution was drowned out by the chatter of non-members. An informal meeting will subsequently be an important addition to our agenda. *If the meeting does not go forward*, I will investigate an online alternative. I imagine many of us are becoming quite skilled in virtual meetings given the global lockdown. Microsoft Teams or Zoom might prove a useful alternative.

Upcoming Podcast Series

To end on a positive note, I'm pleased to announce that I will be moving forward with a mini podcast series for the section. I will be interviewing various scholars in our field about their path to the discipline and how they navigate their respective sociological spaces. I will be designing this series as a helpful resource to prospective and current students studying animals and society. I imagine it will also be useful to established scholars who might be considering a change of teaching or research focus. One advantage of the lockdown is that I finally have time to get around to my side projects!

To close, I must say that it has been a magnificent honor to serve as chair of this section. I owe so much of my new amazing career at the University of Kent and the invigorating animal-focused research agenda that I am now so privileged to pursue to the mentorship and academic opportunities our little section has provided. Our work matters so much, but remains, as yet, so underappreciated in the wider sociological world. We must keep pushing forward. The stakes have never been higher.

Yours in solidarity and with so much love,



Corey Wrenn, PhD

Chair, Animals & Society Section of the ASA

Lecturer in Sociology, University of Kent

Our Mission

The purpose of the Section on Animals and Society is to encourage and support the development of theory, research and teaching about the complex relationships that exist between humans and other animals. In the process, it is anticipated that the light we shed on these issues will increase the well-being of both humans and other animals.

Current Membership: 118

COVID-19, Animals, and Society

The recent COVID-19 outbreak emphasizes the importance of our discipline and the urgent need for scholars, policy-makers, and other leaders to place a higher value on the sociological study of animals and society. In a recent address to the section, our chair, Dr. Corey Wrenn, called for an overhaul of our current agricultural and dietary systems to eliminate speciesism and to prevent future public health and safety risks affecting both humans and non-human animals.

As society slowly recovers and adjusts to new normals, let us remember there is nothing normal about the systematic abuse and exploitation of sentient beings. To our members who continue to use their research to highlight the inequalities evident in our relationships with non-human animals, we stand with you in solidarity and encourage you to continue speaking out on behalf of non-human animals. Your work is essential to establishing a truly peaceful and just society.

To further explore the interconnectedness of COVID-19, animals and society, we have established a [COVID-19 page](#) on our section website. If you have the time and interest, we encourage you and your students to submit essays, blurbs, artwork, photography, audio recordings, video footage, or another project to be featured onsite. Relevant topics include but are not limited to:

- Animal agriculture
- Diet, health, nutrition, food systems
- Vegan gardening
- Worker safety in food production
- Vivisection
- Zoos
- Sanctuaries
- Vegan ethics
- Wildlife and environment
- Companion animals

Please email your submissions to Dr. Corey Wrenn at corey.wrenn@gmail.com.

Wishing you safety, health, and peace.

COVID-19 AWARENESS POLL

Researchers at the nonprofit organization **Faunalytics** recently polled a nationally representative sample of 1,000 U.S. respondents to explore public understanding of COVID-19's zoonotic connections. The study revealed people are largely unaware of the animal origins and implications of the pandemic. For example:

- Only 16% knew, unprompted, of the wet market conditions that facilitated the virus, and less than 1/3 correctly indicated the virus spread because animals were kept in very close quarters
- 52.2% disagreed with the statement "there is a direct connection between disease outbreaks like COVID-19 and livestock farming"
- A sizable minority of respondents (20-32%) found an explanatory paragraph outlining the zoonotic source of COVID-19 to be misleading, annoying, or offensive

While these findings may seem daunting, the researchers also found opportunities for constructive public education about the virus and animals. To read more about the study's results and implications for animal advocacy visit www.faunalytics.org/covid-19-poll



2020 Annual Meeting Update

Note: ASA is monitoring recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and others regarding COVID-19. At present, the meeting is proceeding as planned, but we will update you via the listserv should any changes ensue.

Animals and Society Section Sessions

Main Session: Animal Labor

Care Movements, Climate Change, and Multi-species Refugees

Erin M. Evans, San Diego Mesa College

Country Mouse, City Mouse: The Varying Opinions on the Use of Animals in the Lab

Josey VanOrsdale, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Dogs on Film: Status, Subjectivity, and Representation

Nicole R. Pallotta, Animal Legal Defense Fund

The Socialization of Animal Science Students through the Construction of Animal Welfare

Nathan Poirier, Michigan State University



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Roundtable Sessions

Table 1: Animal Activism

The Participation of Animal Advocates in the Investigation of a Non-human Animal Hoarder
Marion Willetts, Illinois State University

Too Many Koala Mittens: Responses to Animal Vulnerability in Disasters
Seven Mattes, Michigan State University

Using Animal Portraiture to Activate Emotional Affect
Cameron Whitley, Western Washington University

Table presider: Corey Wrenn, University of Kent

Table 2: Companion Animals & Social Life

“Not Just a Cat”: Legitimizing Human-Animal Relationships through Pet Sympathy Cards
Miranda Workman, University at Buffalo

Building a Community Through a Pack Walk
Gloria Vaquera, John Carroll University

Variation in Pit Bull Stigma: Applying the Stigma Complex
Genevieve Minter, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Table Presider: Miri Eliyahu, Northwestern University

Table 3: Animals & the Environment

Cognitive Influences of Behavior toward Wildlife
Felines Embedded in a Hunting Culture: The case of Costa Rica
Jennifer Kelly, Boston College

Animals in Environmental Sociology
Linda Kalof, Michigan State University

Table Presider: Jordan Fox Besek, University of Buffalo, SUNY

Table 4: Human/Nonhuman Intersections

Factory Farms, Racism and Labor
Moses Seenarine, Independent Researcher

Companion Animals as Family Members: Expanding Conceptualizations of Chosen Kin among
LGBTQ+ People
Rachel Schmitz, Oklahoma State University

Social Class and Companion Animals
Valerie McCarthy, New York University

The Pet-Human Relationship as a Racialization Tool
Adilia James, Endicott College

Table Presider: Jill Richardson, University of Wisconsin, Madison

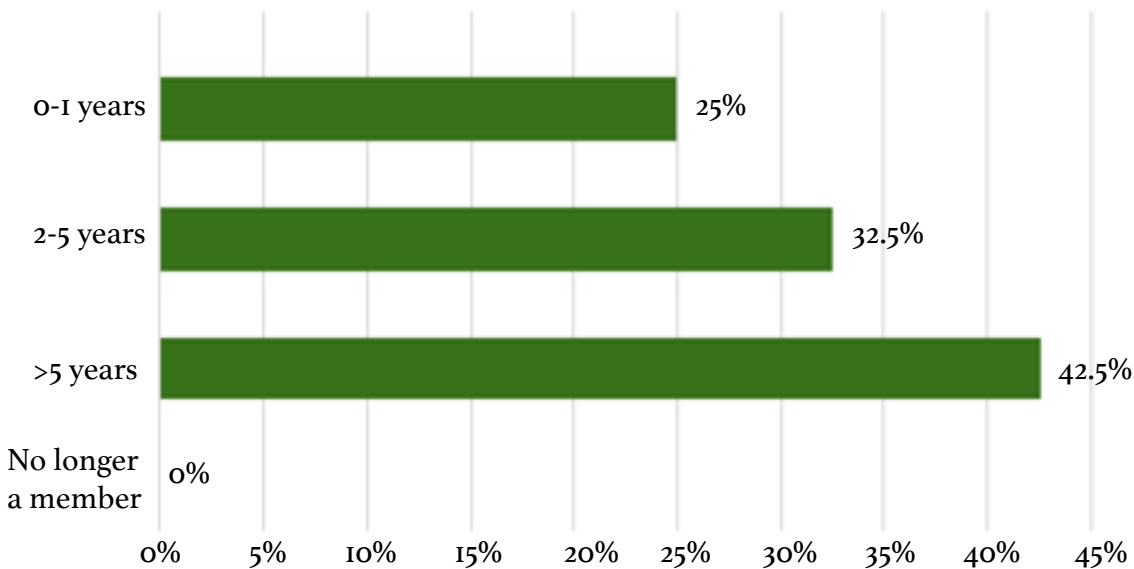


Animals & Society Section Membership Survey

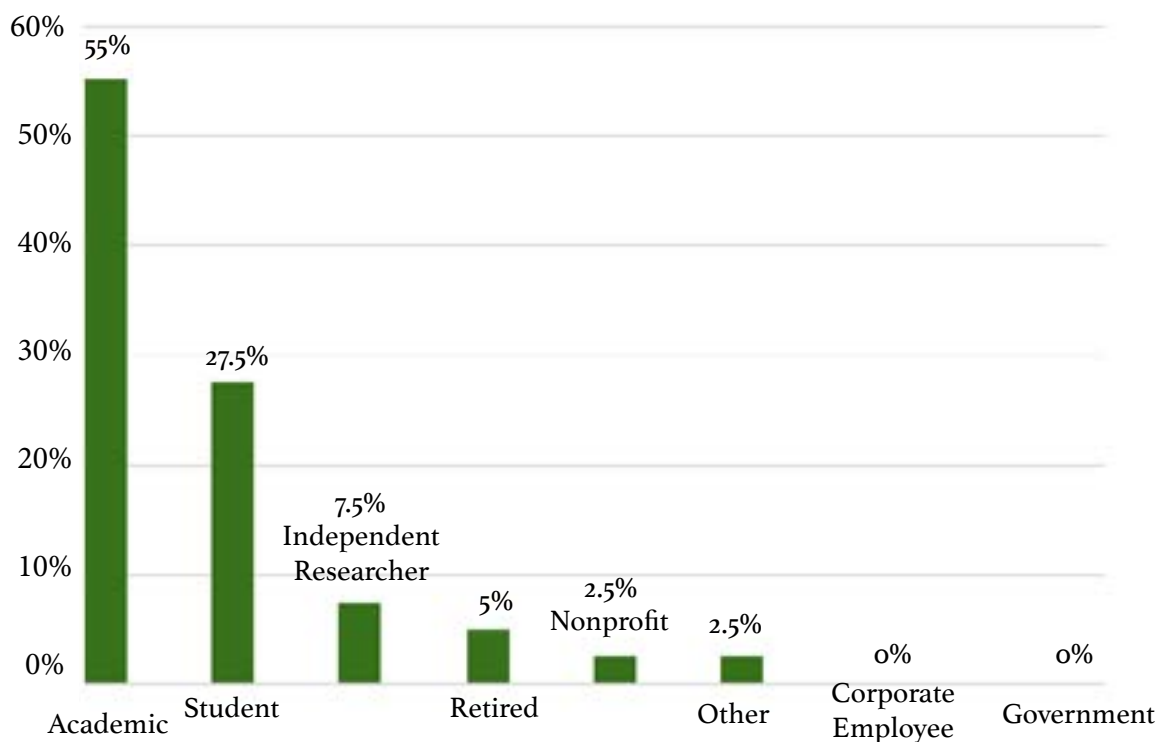
April 2020

Conducted by Dr. Corey Wrenn, Chair | N = 60

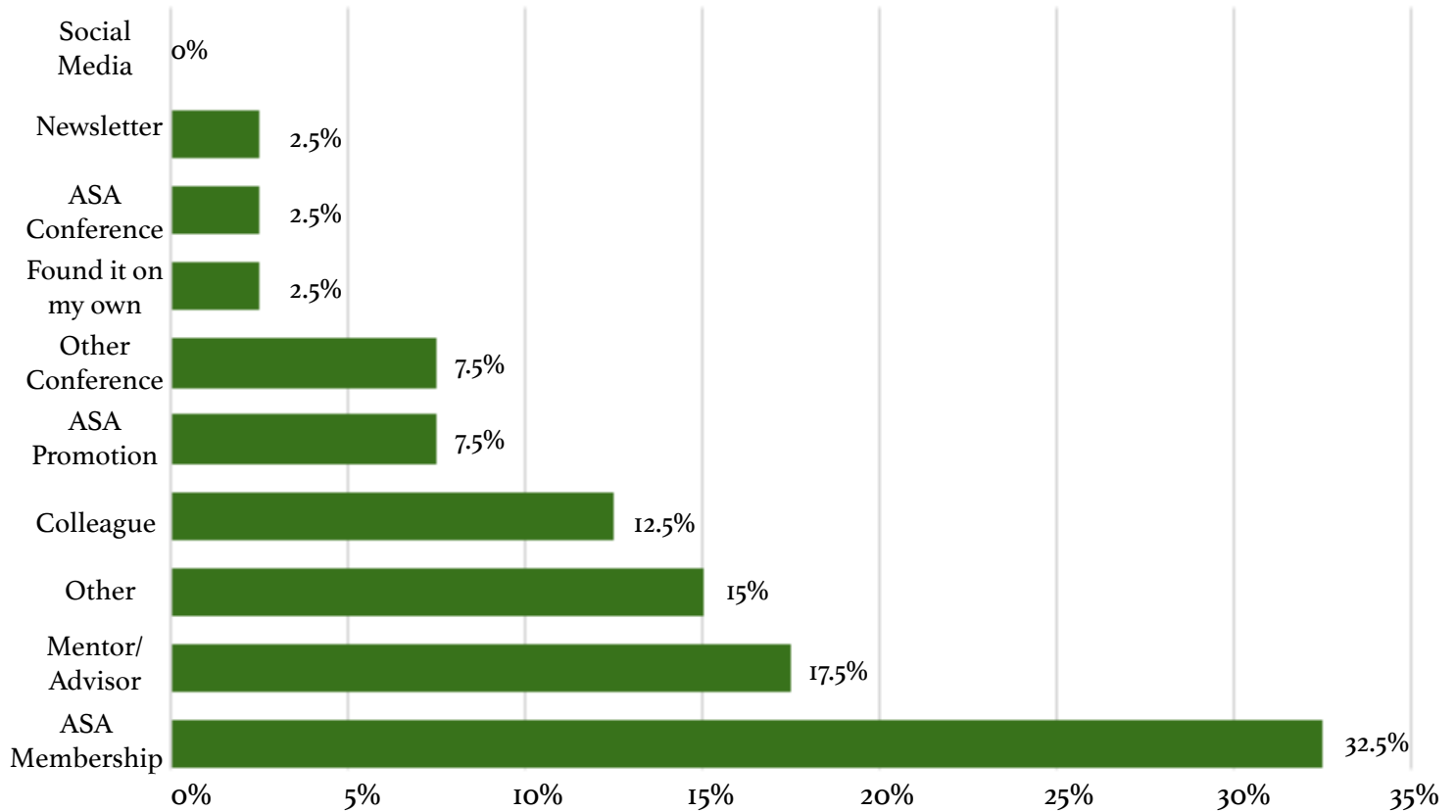
How long have you been a member?



What is your status?



How did you first learn about the section?



Most important reason for joining the section (frequencies):

REASON	NUMBER
To promote and support animal studies in sociology	24 respondents
Networking	6 respondents
To stay abreast of academic opportunities (i.e. publishing, jobs, conferences, etc.)	4 respondents
Conference participation	3 respondents
Mentorship	1 respondent
Service opportunities (serving on committees, presiding over tables, etc.)	0 respondents

Fighting for the Antioch Lambs

In May 2019, Dr. David Nibert, our section's founder, joined a campaign to save nine lambs sentenced to death at Antioch College as part of its "sustainable farm-to-table dining program." Dr. Nibert and animal advocates from around the country petitioned the college to instead send these lambs to a sanctuary where they could live out the rest of their lives. Unfortunately, the "Antioch Lambs" were sent to slaughter in late 2019, and Dr. Nibert continues to advocate for other farm animals currently being held on Antioch's campus as part of its dining program.

Below, Dr. Nibert reflects on his experience.



Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, which has a long history of promoting critical thought and once was a hub of anti-war, anti-racist and social justice activism, shutdown in 2008. Antioch reopened in 2011 and the struggling institution pinned hopes of its resurrection on the creation of a farm. Antioch College features the farm in its efforts to recruit students, touting related curricular experiences as lessons in the production of local, sustainable food; an alternative to factory farms. Antioch started with the exploitation of chickens and ducks, and then began raising lambs – all who are represented by the college as mere “livestock.”

Early last summer I joined several advocates for the lambs in raising concerns about the use of other animals by Antioch. We maintained that, as highly sentient and cognitively complex beings, the lambs and other animals exploited by Antioch had a moral right to live unharmed. Moreover, we argued that, by exploiting and killing animals, the college was betraying its rich history as a progressive college that prepares students to struggle for peace and social justice. Not realizing at first that Antioch not only exploited birds for their eggs, but also killed them and served them as food, we initially called on the college to free nine young lambs on the campus who were slated for the slaughterhouse.

We pointed to the plethora of environmental and social issues related to the continued practice of exploiting other animals as food. We implored Antioch to release the lambs to a waiting home offered by Farm Sanctuary and to jointly organize a conference to examine the myriad of ethical, environmental, health and social justice issues closely linked to the killing of nonhuman animals for food. Indeed, Tofurky founder Seth Tibbott offered Antioch \$50,000 if the college would free the lambs to sanctuary and hold a forum to scientifically examine Antioch's presumption that its exploitation of other animals as food is actually “sustainable.” Over one hundred professors signed a statement calling for the lambs' release. In addition, Barbara Pearle, the mother of Antioch alum Jason Seth Houten who died tragically in an accident, asked Antioch to release the nine lambs in the memory of Jason, who became an animal advocate while attending Antioch.

Unfortunately, Antioch College demonstrated utter contempt for the requests and dismissed all calls for

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meetings and dialogue. Instead, the college simply took refuge in a show of support from some members of the local community, mostly which appeared on Facebook. Antioch supporters attacked me and other advocates for the nonhuman animals exploited by Antioch with Facebook posts and comments that were largely puerile, vulgar, bullying and replete with countless straw man arguments and ad hominin attacks. Antioch College said nothing to address spurious and unscientific statements or to condemn the lack of civility online. On the contrary, college personnel participated in the spectacle. Last November 24, Antioch College dispatched the nine lambs – individuals who were gentle, curious, playful and affectionate – to the slaughterhouse.

Antioch continues to exploit and kill chickens and ducks on campus and plans to bring yet another group of lambs to the college in April. We persist in our campaign calling on Antioch to release all the exploited animals there to sanctuary and to convene a conference to engage the science and ethics related to the exploitation and killing of animals. Many thanks to the numerous sociologists who assisted in the campaign to free the Antioch lambs. Special thanks to Kimberley Ducey, Corey Wrenn, Carol Glasser, Loredana Loy and Janet VerPlank for all their support and advocacy for the nine Antioch lambs.

-David Nibert



In loving memory of the nine innocent lambs held captive and slaughtered by Antioch College in 2019.



Book Release Q&A

*In her latest monograph *Piecemeal Protest: Animal Rights in the Age of Nonprofits*, Dr. Corey Lee Wrenn (2019) applies the sociological theories of Bourdieu, Goffman, Weber, and contemporary social movement scholars to explore how factionalism has developed and created tension between bureaucratically-minded nonprofit “elites” and other activists within modern social movements. Examining the Nonhuman Animal rights movement through archival literature and first-person interviews, *Piecemeal Protest* addresses the myriad ways that factionalism and the nonprofitization of social movements can impact their ability to mobilize, resonate, and ultimately achieve social progress.*

Newsletter editor Casey Riordan recently spoke with Dr. Wrenn about the monograph and her experience writing it.



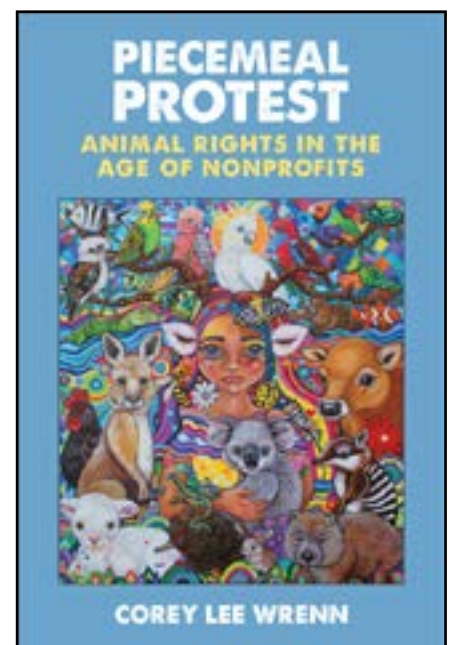
CR: Congratulations on publishing your new book, Dr. Wrenn. Can you tell us a bit more about it?

CLW: Thanks Casey—the book is a 10-year project examining forty years of Nonhuman Animal rights claimsmaking from grassroots, transitioning, and professionalized organizations. I was interested in unpacking the influence of nonprofitization on social movements. As organizations professionalize, their claimsmaking deradicalizes considerably (for instance, they avoid using the word “vegan” or “liberation” and shift towards “veg” language and welfare reforms). More than this, they begin to utilize the power coalesced from this compromise to stifle the voices of radicals on the margins. This is a significant power dynamic in the movement that should be fully appreciated for its impact on goals, tactics, and outcomes.

CR: What inspired you to write *Piecemeal Protest*? Was it an interest that developed from your professional or personal background?

CLW: I actually began my interest in the Nonhuman Animal rights movement as an activist. As I learned more about theory and began to move toward more radical activist strategies (such as feminism, abolitionism, and no kill), the level of resistance I experienced in the movement was quite striking. I was also taken aback by how uncritically accepting most activists were of the gospel of large nonprofits. I recognized that factionalism between different camps as well as the pressure enacted on all camps by the large nonprofits were two major influences on the movement’s trajectory, yet they have been largely understudied. For the most part, activists chalk this division up to interpersonal issues or individual organizations. As a sociologist, however, I recognized that there were structural issues at play that needed to be unpacked.

CR: *Piecemeal Protest* “shines light on processes of factionalism and considers how, in the age of nonprofits, intra-movement inequality could stifle social progress.” Can you tell us more about factionalism as it applies specifically to the animal rights movement?



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CLW: All social movements are factionalized; factionalism has been critiqued by some scholars as a drain on resources and solidarity, but, for the most part, this common variable is actually greatly overlooked in social movement theory. In this book, I argue that factionalism is not only normal for movements, but it can also be a healthy function. Factionalism can propel a movement forward in forcing dialogue related to tactics and goals. In the Nonhuman Animal rights movement, there are factional divides with regard to the appropriateness of direct action, reform and abolition, feminism, and the ethics of “euthanasia.” Unfortunately, those taking a radical position tend to be marginalized by larger nonprofits which form a hegemony in the movement and use that power and taken-for-granted authority to position radicals as unrealistic or dangerous. But, without factionalism (and without radicals), the RSPCA might still support hunting, we would not have the Humane Society of the United States (which is a splinter group which emerged over vivisection), and we would not have The Vegan Society (which is a splinter group from The Vegetarian Society). I would imagine contemporary factionalism will, in the future, be credited for positioning veganism, adoption, nonviolence, and intersectionality/inclusivity as baselines for anti-speciesist activism.

CR: So are you in fact arguing that factionalism within social movements should be viewed as a positive force for change?

CLW: Yes— Activists often bemoan the infighting and plead for unity, but this book demonstrates that unity is unrealistic and often code for hegemonic forces in the movement. For instance, who should be uniting with who? Should we unite with organizations that lethally inject or gas healthy dogs and cats? Should we unite with organizations, like the HSUS or Farm Sanctuary, which propose that it is acceptable to use and consume Nonhuman Animals (as long as this is done “humanely”)? Should we unite with organizations promoting reducitarianism over veganism and reform over abolition? I don’t think so. Rarely are the large nonprofits asked to unite with the radicals who are more likely to advocate for the real interests of nonhuman animals (which is the right to life and freedom from human oppression). Unity claimsmaking is usually engaged by the nonprofit hegemonic bloc to reign in deviant factions and shame them for engaging critique. When the lives of so many Nonhuman Animals are on the line, that critique is truly vital and should not be silenced.

CR: What else do you hope readers will take away about factionalism?

I hope the book will remind activists that factionalism isn’t about interpersonal disagreement, but something structural. Factionalism has existed in the movement since its very inception—in fact, early meeting notes from the 1820s document disagreement over tactics and goals! However, with the professionalization of the movement in the 1980s-2000, factionalism really exploded as a result of the many compromises the nonprofits were undertaking in order to access more legitimacy with the state, funding, and power. It isn’t just that “we can’t all get along,” but instead, there are larger political and economic influences on social movements which leave them vulnerable to state and capitalist infiltration. Radical splinter groups predictably emerge to challenge this process, while radical groups themselves, are vulnerable to the temptation to professionalize in an effort to secure much needed funding, legitimacy, and stability.

The Vegan Society is a great example of this—it began as a very radical, very resource-poor group in the 1940s after several decades of discord with The Vegetarian Society. It struggled to survive throughout the 20th century, but following gradual steps toward professionalization from 1980 onward (whereby organizers from other nonprofits took over leadership of the society and strategically worked to professionalize it), the

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hardcore anti-speciesist roots to the group gradually faded away. Today, the organization focuses on product consumption and environmentalism. I just received the newest issue of [The Vegan Society's magazine] *The Vegan*, for instance, and there wasn't a single Nonhuman Animal pictured! Nonhuman Animals, thanks to the pressures of professionalization, have now become absent referents in The Vegan Society. Truly remarkable. Yes, this professionalization has allowed it to grow and stabilize, but who can Nonhuman Animals rely upon if even The Vegan Society has abandoned them in its claimsmaking?

Activists are better served in recognizing factionalism as a vital and fundamental part of organizing. I also want them to recognize that radicals aren't simply on the margins because their ideas are somehow less



practical or realistic, but more accurately, they are marginalized because they are more threatening to the established social order. The state relies on nonprofits to actively squash out radicals; nonprofits do the policing of their own movement. Beyond this state influence, the nonprofit system itself (as evidenced in the story of The Vegan Society) is an extension of capitalism, such that activists and organizations are in real danger of being swept in and commodified. Indeed, the charity sector is one of the largest economic sectors in the world. Social movements are good for business, and this should be cause for concern given that capitalism is the root cause of the inequality we are battling.

CR: How did you go about conducting the research for *Piecemeal Protest*? What did you find most challenging (and rewarding) about the research process?

CLW: The bulk of the research was conducted in the Tom Regan Animal Rights Archive in the North Carolina State University library. It was a purposive sampling in which I tracked organizations and collectives surviving from the 1980s or 1990s, looking specifically for clues as to how professionalization impacted claimsmaking. I spent hours sifting through hundreds of magazines, newsletters, correspondence, and the like, taking pictures with a digital camera to organize and analyze when I returned back home. Since most communication now takes place on the internet, I conducted a secondary content analysis of blogs and newsletters from the early 2000s onward. The most challenging aspect had to be the sheer volume of material and organizations from which to choose—it was an ambitious project to say the least. However, it is only with a longitudinal analysis of this kind that we can identify major trends in movement behaviors.

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One other challenge I had not expected was the constant nagging distress of exposure to so much animal rights material. Although I was looking for dialogue between movement actors and institutions, clearly the bulk of the material spotlighted extreme violence against other animals. It has been many years since I conducted that research, and some of the images and stories I came across are still firmly fixed in my mind. In fact, that experience has inspired a current research project I'm working on with regard to the assumption that long-term activists rely on these sorts of "moral shocks" to remain motivated and committed to the movement. In my experience and in the experiences of many of my activist and academic colleagues, veteran activists actively avoid this sort of material due to the psychological trauma it entails. It's like preaching to the choir, and it isn't very helpful for avoiding compassion fatigue and burnout.

CR: What surprised you most about your findings?

CLW: What surprised me from this research was just how dramatic nonprofessionalization was for the claimmaking of an organization; it was just night and day for some of them. Compassion Over Killing, for instance, a DC based group which started as from a student collective, went from being very radical with an explicit ethos of abolition over reform, veganism, and direct action. After professionalizing, COK replaced their vegan language with "veg" language, changed their newsletter title from "The Abolitionist" to "Compassionate Action," and dropped their abolitionist mission statement which clearly rejected reform to one that clearly embraced it! COK, of course, grew considerably in size and wealth following this shift, but at what cost to the movement's integrity and our obligation to Nonhuman Animals?

The other shocking bit was how silent most organizations were on this transition. It was as though the bid to get larger, glossier, wealthier, and more corporate was simply expected—and likely, this emerged from the economic logic of growth we've all been socialized by in a capitalist society. More sinister, however, was the quiet work behind the scenes to silence and marginalize radicals, such is the case with Farm Animal Rights Movement (FARM) which hosts the annual National Animal Rights Conference. FARM has, in its requirements for conference participation, a ban on criticizing other organizations (a means to maintain the nonprofit hegemony). But the criticism of organizational compromise is the modus operandi for radicals, such that the no-criticism rule effectively prohibits radical participation. In the past, FARM has also sought to invisibilize factionalism—claiming it doesn't exist in newsletters when it clearly was reaching crisis levels (as was the case in 1996). More recently, it has co-opted feminist tactics for inclusion by using a so-called "safe space policy" to justify radical exclusion at the conference (claiming that, for instance, Nathan Winograd—leader of the National No Kill Center—would be in violation as his work is critical of PETA's kill policy). I don't think many activists recognize how very powerful these organizations have become by cooperating with the state and how the state's interests infiltrate through non-profit channels. Conferences are important spaces for reaching the major decision-makers in the movement and giving platform to various ideas—radicals truly suffer from exclusion. Some have attempted to create their own conferences, but, obviously, the reach and impact of these splinter conferences are much less.

CR: But it seems that we are closer than ever to a vegan world, even with this professionalization.

CLW: Are we closer to a vegan world today because of professionalization or in spite of it? I feel it is the latter. Radicals, although greatly burdened by two fronts of activism (the public and the big nonprofits) are able to influence movement dialogue, inspire the public, and create important shifts in cultural meaning. The internet has been one important means for levelling the playing field in discourse politics—official

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newsletters and conferences may silence radicals, but nonprofits are not able to prevent activist attraction to podcasts, websites, social media, and other digital channels where critical discourse thrives. This has forced some nonprofits to acknowledge factional critique and, in some cases, alter organizational practices. I find it frustrating that radicals are facing active marginalization from their own movement, but it is heartening that their efforts are having an impact on the nonprofits to some extent. FARM, for instance, is now far more radical in its claimsmaking than it once was. Even the name indicates this, as it was once called Farm Animal Reform Movement!

CR: Thank you for taking the time to tell us more about Piecemeal Protest. Do you have any other research projects or books in the pipeline?

CLW: I have an upcoming book, *Animals in Irish Society* (SUNY Press 2021) which examines the history of vegan and anti-speciesist mobilization in Ireland. As a colonial space, Ireland has a lot to offer vegan theory with regard to intersecting oppressions, but it is a story untold as the histories of Nonhuman Animal rights in the empire countries of the UK and the US dominate.

I'm also working on a book on environmental injustice in Appalachia, which prioritizes classism but will also be examining how the fundamental exploitation of Nonhuman Animals laid the groundwork for a larger system of oppression in Appalachia.

Lastly, I am in the early stages of a new book, *Vegan Feminism*, which will chart women's activism in the Nonhuman Animal rights movement from the mid-20th century onward. To date, most research on Nonhuman Animal rights and gender focuses on the Victorian era, which, I think, constitutes a major gap in the literature. Data for the book should, if funding allows, be based on the Marti Kheel collection at Harvard as well as interviews with leading activists who pioneered 2nd wave vegan feminism.



You can purchase *Piecemeal Protest* on [Amazon](#) or through the [publisher's page](#).

Wrenn, Corey L. 2019. *Piecemeal Protest: Animal Rights in the Age of Nonprofits*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Publications

Auster, Carol J., Lauren J. Auster-Gussman, and Emma Carlson. 2020. "Lancaster Pet Cemetery Memorial Plaques 1951–2018: An Analysis of Inscriptions." *Anthrozoös* 33 (2), 261-283. [Open access link [here](#)]

Evans, Erin M. 2019. "'Spokes in the wheel' and how policy gains can diversify a social movement." *Social Movement Studies* 19(3): 268-286.

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In the News

- Dr. Alexander Simon co-wrote an editorial in [High Country News](#) about a forthcoming co-authored study in *Society & Animals Journal*, which explores the lengthy battle over wolf management in Alaska as a case study to address how lawmakers can undermine and thwart citizen-led ballot initiatives.
- Dr. Genevieve Minter was featured on the [Phone Booth Fighting](#) podcast, co-hosted by UFC Heavyweight Champion Frank Mir, to discuss her dissertation research on pit bull stigma. [Content warning: this podcast contains swear words.]
- Dr. Corey Lee Wrenn was featured on the [On Human-Nonhuman Relations](#) podcast to discuss the history of the Nonhuman Animal rights movement and major themes from her recent book, *Piecemeal Protest*.
- Dr. Corey Lee Wrenn provided expert commentary about zoos for the [University of Kent News Centre](#).
- Dr. Corey Lee Wrenn was featured on the [Vegan World Radio](#) show (Houston public radio) to discuss her recent book, *Piecemeal Protest*, and factionalism within the Nonhuman Animal rights movement.
- Dr. Corey Lee Wrenn was featured on the [Always for Animal Rights](#) radio show (Ottawa public radio) to discuss the impact of professionalism within the Nonhuman Animal rights movement.
- Dr. Corey Lee Wrenn was featured on the Melbourne, Australia-based podcast [Freedom of Species](#) to discuss the politics of sociology and animal studies and the role of human/nonhuman relations in the current pandemic.
- Dr. Corey Lee Wrenn wrote a guest editorial about COVID-19 for the British Sociological Association's "[Everyday Society](#)" blog.
- Dr. Corey Lee Wrenn's recent paper about the Irish vegan ethic and the nation's historical relationship with other animals has been summarized and included in the [Faunalytics Research Library](#).*

***NOTE:** Faunalytics houses the world's largest library of research about animal issues and advocacy. The Faunalytics team is always looking for new empirical studies to consider for their library, which is read by animal advocates around the country. If you would like to submit a published study for consideration, or for more details about the type of studies they prefer to feature, please contact Casey Riordan at casey@faunalytics.org.

Call for Papers: *Animals*

Journal: *Animals* | Special Issue: Encountering Animals

Guest Editor: Prof. Leslie Irvine

University of Colorado Boulder | leslie.irvine@colorado.edu

Submission Deadline: September 30, 2020

I invite researchers from all disciplines to submit contributions for this special issue entitled “Encountering Animals.” The scope of “encountering” encompasses situations, relationships, communications, observations, examinations, and all the ways that the paths of humans and animals cross. “Animals” include animal companions, animals used as food, wildlife, animals kept in zoos or laboratories, and animals in literature and film. Moreover, the category of “animals” goes beyond mammals to include insects and invertebrates. Papers might examine topics such as:

- Human-horse interactions (including but not limited to riding)
- Veterinary-patient-client relationships
- Relationships with pets of all kinds
- Human-animal communication
- Experiences at zoos or sanctuaries
- Bird watching experiences, from the common sparrow to the elusive raptor
- Whale watching, either through intentional tourism or happenstance
- Urban wildlife encounters, whether involving conflict or coexistence
- Meeting animals while scuba diving
- Influential animal characters in movies, television, and books
- Representations of animals in the media
- Animal rescue and rehabilitation efforts
- Raising animals for food
- Consuming animals
- Beekeeping experiences and practices

All methodological and theoretical approaches are welcome, including multi-species ethnography. In short, any perspective that provides insight into our shared existence with animals will be considered. Please note that the Article Processing Charge (APC) of 1600 Swiss Francs will be waived for a limited number of accepted papers. Please contact me directly for further information.

-Prof. Leslie Irvine (Guest Editor)

Grant Opportunity

From member Dr. Erin Evans: “I am a trustee of the micro-grant giving group [Vegan Awesome Foundation](#). Each month, we consider proposals for projects related to ethical veganism, offering \$1,000 to the winner, no strings attached. The proposal is easy and we don’t expect reports or follow-ups after we distribute funds (although we love updates!). Visit our website or [Facebook page](#) to learn more.”

Other Announcements

New Initiative: Member Interviews

To celebrate our members and the incredible work you are doing, we plan to conduct video interviews at this year's Annual Meeting to promote on our social media channels and other platforms. If you are interested in participating, please contact our incoming chair, Dr. Erin Evans, at eevans@sdccd.edu to learn more and to coordinate your interview.

Online Course for Undergraduates

Michigan State's Sociology Department will be offering its esteemed "Animals, People and Nature" course this summer, online. They welcome undergraduates from around the world to enrol.

Click [here](#) for more information.

YouTube Channel of Interest

Aaron Yarmel, a PhD candidate in philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, recently launched a [YouTube Channel](#) about animal ethics and activism. Although he is a philosopher, he incorporates social science ideas into many of his videos. He also interviewed A&S member, Dr. Erin Evans, for a five-episode series about animal activism.



Become a Member



You must be a member of the ASA to join the section. You can join the ASA or renew your membership online. Whether you renew electronically or through the mail, please remember to renew your membership in the section on Animals & Society at the same time. Remember that section members are eligible for a 25% discount on subscriptions to the journal "Society & Animals."

Dues are only \$10 for regular and low income and \$5 for student members. Please encourage a friend, student, or associate to join us, too! Our younger and future members of the discipline seem especially aware of the many issues and concerns that arise within this subject area, and so we hope that their mentors will make them aware that this forum exists - and perhaps even sponsor a student's membership.

For more information visit www.asanet.org/membership



Section Officers & Council

Section Officers

Chair: Corey Lee Wrenn, *University of Kent 2020*

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Miranda Kay Workman, *Canisius College 2022*

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Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

Thank you, stay safe, and stay well.