Sociology for total liberation and a vegan world



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Objectives

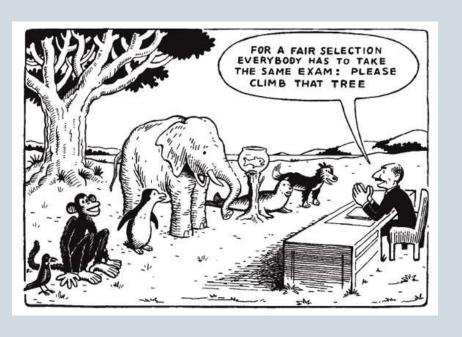
- Introduction to a new field of sociology
- A case for including other animals
- Suggestions for veganizing your sociology
- And employing sociology in your veganism

Building the Case

Sociological Anthropocentrism

- "...the systematic study of human society" (Macionis and Plummer 2005)
- *"Sociology involves the systematic study of patterns of human interaction" (Cohen and Kennedy 2000)
- *Weber: Sociology should also engage subjective meaning (animals supposedly lack this)
- Marx: Animals lack ability to contemplate and plan actions
- Mead: Animals lack capacity for significant symbols

The Anthropocentric "Perspective"



- Literally "humans at the center"
 - Others (re: animals) to the margins
- Human bias
 - Humans as taken-for-granted measure of perfection and importance
- Emphasis on rationality, culture, language, etc.

Human Primacy Politics

"Although organic differences exist among all animals (human and nonhuman), the 'key' division between human and nonhuman animals is founded in scientific categorizations of hierarchical differences that are a display of human identity, since hierarchical distinctions between 'us' and 'them' are founded in, I argue, judgements and choices rather than in naturally occurring scientifically verifiable hierarchical divisions." (Peggs 2009: 86)

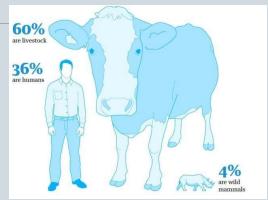
Human Identity Politics

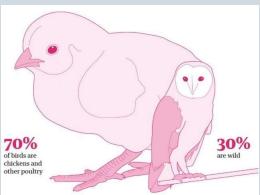
- Humanity as a performative identity
- Animality as a symbolic category
- Hierarchical ordering of identity
- Binaries (us/them, human/animal)



Why Should Sociologists Care?

- Nonhumans are integral to the development and maintenance of human society
- Largest minority/oppressed group
 - Most mammalian biomass is nonhuman (Bar-On et al. 2018)
- Human oppression and nonhuman oppression are entangled (Nibert 2002)
- *Key to our intimate **family** and **social** lives (Irvine 2004)





Introducing the Field

The Field

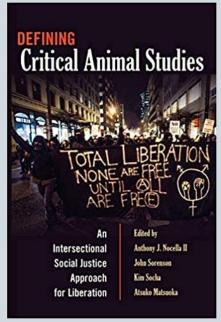
- Animal Ethics
- **Ecofeminism**
- Human/Animal studies
 - Posthumanism (Donna Haraway)
 - Animality Studies (Michael Lundblad)
 - Vegan Studies (Laura Wright)
 - Critical Animal Studies (CAS)

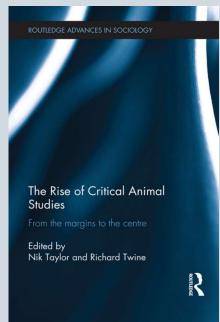
- Social Psychology
- Critical Sociology
 - Society & Animals
 - Intersectionality
 - Environmental sociology

Developing from Critical Animal Studies

- Sociologists at the forefront of CAS
 - Yet ultimately multidisciplinary
 - And not always vegan

"Once sociology opened up to studying food and animal issues, and specifically veganism and farmed animals, vegan studies in sociology could emerge" (Cherry 2021: 152)





2014

Developing from Animals & Society

- Animals & Society Section of ASA forms in 2001
- Animal/Human Studies Group of BSA forms in 2006
- Sociology & Animals thematic group of **TASA** forms in 2017
- Animals in Society research cluster of **CSA** forms in 2019
- Section of Interspecies Relations of the Polish Sociological Association in 2020
- International Association of Vegan Sociologists forms in 2020



Animals & Society Organizing Committee Members

Janet Alger - Siena College
Steven Alger - College of St.
Rose
Dana Akono - Western
Michigan University
Bonnie Berry - Social
Problems Research Group
Cliff Fynn - University of
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Book Review 4
Legal News 5
Web Resources 6

Join the New Animals & Society Section

All list see have a chieved section-in-form allon statual. Thanks for everyone's help and support. Our roat step is to recent 300 members into the important new section. If you lives not always jurised here we settler, help-section of the section of the property of the section of the property of the section of the secti

Welcome!

David Nibert & Anna Williams

Welcome to the imaginal issue of the America Sociological Association's Animals and Sociological Social Section Newsidier. As better such a new ende evor, the formal of this elidion is highly provisional. Since this newsitier is intended to provide a brum for section members to have information and lessa, we elicome your injuried and endurage you to provide the section of the se

The stabiliment of this section reflects the increasing popular and scholarly attention being devoted to the realizonship between humans and other animals for wide over two decades. Philosophers, feminists, amthropologists, psychologists—and, horsasingly, the condex control of the property of the prop



this particular project.

sociological research agenda, thus ensuring that animal-human studies becomes a viable and significant area of sociological study. References

humans can be studied from a variety of sociological (and cognate) viewpoints, and to provide a specialist research forum for academics

researchers and students who share a professional interest in

incorporating non-human animals into the discipline of sociology

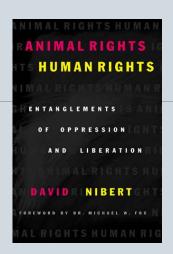
 To create a research database of animal-related research projects (including PhDs) carried out by sociologists initially in the UK. If you know of any such work please contact Dr Rebekah Fox who will be overseeing

To identify gaps in the emerging animal-human studies research agenda.
 To create opportunities for networking and research collaboration with colleagues from other social science disciplines (such as anthropology,

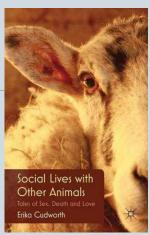
cultural studies, gender studies, geographers, historians, law, philosophy and psychology) who are interested in and actively researching animal-

Developing from Animals & Society

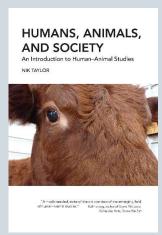
- Animal Rights/Human Rights David Nibert (2002)
- ❖ If You Tame Me: Understanding Our Connection with Other Animals Leslie Irvine (2004)
- Social Lives with Other Animals Erika Cudworth (2011)
- Animals and Sociology Kay Peggs (2012)
- Humans, Animals and Society Nik Taylor (2013)











Defining Vegan Sociology

What is Veganism?

- Political position
- Philosophy
- Identity
- Lifestyle
- Consumer choice



- Explicit recognition of nonhuman subjectivity
- And human empathy and responsibility
- Informed by feminist and critical race theories
 - And environmental justice
- Academic and activist-oriented



"Vegan sociology seeks to include nonhuman animals into the sociological imagination. We conduct sociological research and we use sociological theories to advance the cause of nonhuman liberation. We explore the intersectional oppression of speciesism, racism, sexism, and other forms of exploitation. We research vegan identity, vegan ideology, and vegan practice. But mostly, it means creating a cruelty-free world void of hierarchy, domination, and oppression for all, human animals, nonhuman animals, and earth."

- Animal-centered
 - Challenging human supremacy
 - Visibilizing animals
 - Effective social change
- Human-centered
 - Identity politics
 - Food culture
 - Motivations, attitudes, behaviors
 - Social movement politics





Conclusion

- A distinct branch of **Critical Animal Studies** that is firmly sociological and unequivocally anti-speciesist
- If human identity is performative and the human/animal binary is socially constructed, it can be troubled
- Vegan sociology is a sociology for total liberation and a vegan world
 - Morally and ethically driven
 - Deeply intersectional

Where is Vegan Sociology Going?

- Decentering whiteness and the West
- Building connections with environmental and race/class/gender sociological collectives
- Expanding classical theory
- Building new theory
- Pioneering multispecies methodology
- Imagining anti-speciesist futures and system changes

Veganize Your Sociology

- **Accentuate animals** and their experiences
- Consider power relations between humans and other animals
- Check euphemistic or objectifying language and references
- How does animality influence social relations?
- Recognize difficulties in obtaining consent
- Start an animal-themed study group
- Request vegan catering at events

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