

Animals and Society

Fall 2019 Newsletter

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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.



Letter from the Chair



Greetings friends and colleagues,

I write this editorial on the heels of a very exciting mini-conference, “Animals, Ecology & Society,” which our lovely Section held in collaboration with the Environmental Studies Department of New York University prior to the 2019 ASA meeting. Speakers included Leslie Irvine, Colter Ellis, Kelly Knight, Colin Jerolmack, Linda Kalof, Stefano Longo, and Erin Kidder. As we gathered together that sunny day in Manhattan, the United Nations had just released a [lengthy report](#) underscoring the critical role that animal agriculture plays in the climate change crisis. Speakers and audience members alike underscored this strong relationship in their reflections on nonhuman media representations, relations with humans, and struggles in wilderness spaces. Indeed, with climate change protests reaching new heights across the globe, our section's efforts to prioritize human/nonhuman relations in the social sciences could not be more timely or relevant.

Yet, the larger sociological field (and academia in general)

continues to lag in its recognition and action. Some programs seem determined to ignore the science. Currently, our dear colleague Dr. David Nibert, founder of the Animals & Society Section of the American Sociological Association, is fighting a battle to save the lives of several lambs slated for slaughter at Ohio's Antioch College as part of a “sustainability” program. The university has launched a character attack against Dr. Nibert and firmly refuses to release the lambs to sanctuary. I have [written on behalf of the lambs](#), soundly criticizing the notion that speciesist foodways can ever be “sustainable.” Over a hundred other academics (many of whom are fellow members) have joined me in protest of Antioch's highly problematic curriculum.

Please consider signing [the petition](#), already over 71,000 strong, and [contact the university](#) to voice your concerns. This is not just a matter of life or death for the lambs, but a clear and deliberate threat to vegan scholarship and critical sociology. Learn more at [savethelambs.com](#).

To end on a positive note, I am truly looking forward to serving the section this year. Since becoming a member in 2012 as a PhD student, Animals & Society has had a profound impact on my professional career and I am delighted to give back and pay forward.

Sincerely,

Dr. Corey Lee Wrenn
University of Kent

Laurent Cilia. 2019. "The Plight of the Honeybee: A Socioecological Analysis of large-scale Beekeeping in the United States." *Sociologia Ruralis*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/soru.12253>

Whitley, C. T. 2019. "Exploring the Place of Animals and Human-Animal Relationships in Hydraulic Fracturing Discourse." *Social Sciences*, 8(2): 61.

Wrenn, C. L. 2018. "[The Economic Toll of the Nonhuman Animal Agricultural Industry and a Meat Tax to Combat It.](#)" *Society and Animals* 26(6): 639-643.

Wrenn, C. L. 2019. "[From Seed to Fruition: A Political History of the Vegan Society, 1944-2017.](#)" *Food and Foodways* 27(3): 190-210. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/07409710.2019.1646484>

Wrenn, C. L. 2019. "[Discriminating Spirits: Cultural Source Theory and the Human-Nonhuman Boundary.](#)" *Mortality*. Online first. DOI: [10.1080/13576275.2019.1622519](https://doi.org/10.1080/13576275.2019.1622519)

Wrenn, C. L. 2019. "[Atheism in the American Animal Rights Movement: An Invisible Majority.](#)" *Environmental Values*. Online first.

Wrenn, C. L. 2019. "[For the Wild: Ritual and Commitment in Radical Eco-activism.](#)" *Social Movement Studies*. Online first.

Wrenn, C. L. 2019. "[For the Wild: Ritual and Commitment in Radical Eco-activism.](#)" *Social Movement Studies* Online first.

New volume edited by Leslie Irvine: *We are Best Friends: Animals in Society* is an open access printed edition of the Special Issue that was published in [Social Sciences](https://www.mdpi.com/books/pdfview/book/1594). <https://www.mdpi.com/books/pdfview/book/1594>

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Brown, C., Wang, Y., Carr, E. "Undercover Dogs: Pet Dogs in the Sleep Environment of Patients with Chronic Pain."

Whitley, C. "Exploring the Place of Animals and Human-Animal Relationships in Hydraulic Fracturing Discourse."

Trachsel, M. "Befriending Your Food: Pigs and People Coming of Age in the Anthropocene."

Thacker Thomas, D., Vermilya, J. "Framing 'Friend': Media Framing of 'Man's Best Friend' and the Pattern of Police Shootings of Dogs."

Peterson, H., Engwall, K. "'Why Would You Want a Baby When You Could Have a Dog?' Voluntarily Childless Women's 'Pernal' Feelings, Longing and Ambivalence."



AVAILABLE NOW!

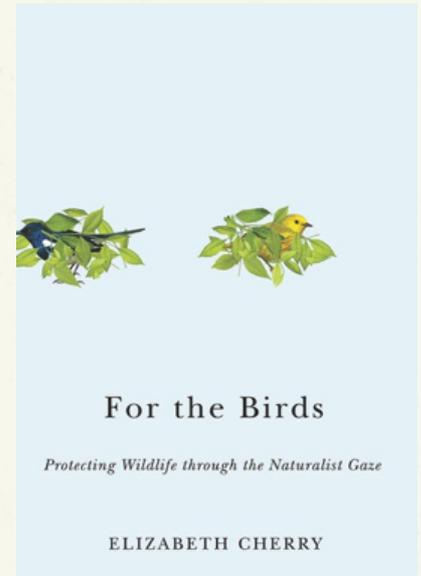
For the Birds
Protecting Wildlife through the Naturalist Gaze

by Elizabeth Cherry

Use code 02AAAA17 for a 30% discount and free shipping when ordering from Rutgers University Press.

<https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/for-the-birds/9781978801059>

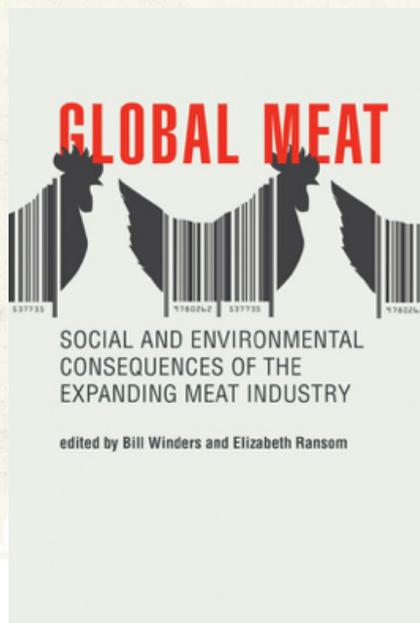
Cherry, Elizabeth. 2019. *For the Birds: Protecting Wildlife through the Naturalistic Gaze*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.



Description:

One in five people in the United States is a birdwatcher, yet the popular understanding of birders reduces them to comical stereotypes, obsessives who only have eyes for their favorite rare species. In real life, however, birders are paying equally close attention to the world around them, observing the devastating effects of climate change and mass extinction, while discovering small pockets of biodiversity in unexpected places.

For the Birds offers readers a glimpse behind the binoculars and reveals birders to be important allies in the larger environmental conservation movement. With a wealth of data from in-depth interviews and over three years of observing birders in the field, environmental sociologist Elizabeth Cherry argues that birders learn to watch wildlife in ways that make an invaluable contribution to contemporary conservation efforts. She investigates how birders develop a “naturalist gaze” that enables them to understand the shared ecosystem that intertwines humans and wild animals, an appreciation that motivates them to participate in citizen science projects and wildlife conservation.



ALSO AVAILABLE NOW!

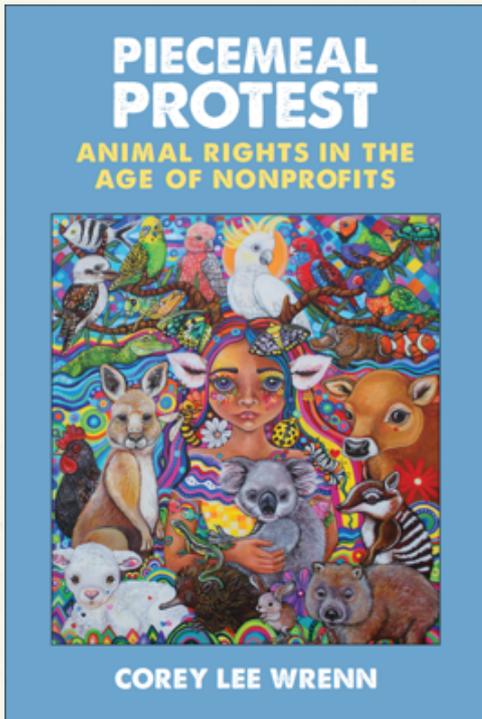
Global Meat: Social and Environmental Consequences of the Expanding Meat Industry

co-edited by Tim Winders and Elizabeth Ransom

The book discusses the “growth of the global meat industry and the implications for climate change, food insecurity, workers’ rights, the treatment of animals, and other issues.”

Get your copy now from MIT Press

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/global-meat>



AVAILABLE FOR PREORDER!

***PIECEMEAL PROTEST
ANIMAL RIGHTS IN THE AGE OF NONPROFITS***

by Corey Lee Wrenn

The book is due to publish December 2019, but may be preordered on [Amazon](#) or [The University of Michigan Press](#) now.

The beautiful cover art for this text was created by vegan artist Lynda Bell and prints are available on her website, [artbylyndabell.com](#).

(A free version is available in the form of my 2016 dissertation is available through [Colorado State University](#)).

Description

Given their tendency to splinter over tactics and goals, social movements are rarely unified. Following the modern Western animal rights movement over thirty years, Corey Lee Wrenn applies the sociological theory of Bourdieu, Goffman, Weber, and contemporary social movement researchers to examine structural conditions in the animal rights movement, facilitating factionalism in today's era of professionalized advocacy.

Modern social movements are dominated by bureaucratically oriented nonprofits, a special arrangement that creates tension between activists and movement elites who compete for success in a corporate political arena. *Piecemeal Protest* examines the impact of nonprofitization on factionalism and a movement's ability to mobilize, resonate, and succeed. Wrenn's exhaustive analysis of archival movement literature and exclusive interviews with movement leaders illustrate how entities with greater symbolic capital are positioned to monopolize claims-making, disempower competitors, and replicate hegemonic power, eroding democratic access to dialogue and decision-making essential for movement health.

Piecemeal Protest examines social movement behavior shaped by capitalist ideologies and state interests. As power concentrates to the disadvantage of marginalized factions in the modern social movement arena, *Piecemeal Protest* shines light on processes of factionalism and considers how, in the age of nonprofits, intra-movement inequality could stifle social progress.



Ghost Stories Tell Us a Lot about Animals in Human Society

In a content analysis of over 600 ghost stories (see link below) I published with the peer-reviewed journal *Mortality*, I discovered that Nonhuman Animals are a sizable feature in the supernatural imagination. About one in ten ghosts recorded in the 20 anthologies I examined were that of departed nonhumans. In this article, I argue that ghost stories, like any other cultural medium, can tell us a lot about the status and visibility of other animals.

For instance, although 10% of the stories featured a nonhuman spirit, most of those spirits were that of dogs, cats, horses, and other animals which are more familiar and proximal to humans. Ghosts frequently haunt as a result of some sort of grievance or wrongful death. Because dogs, cats, and horses are more likely to be ascribed some degree of personhood, they are also more likely to be described as mournful or vengeful spirits in cultural remembering.

Those species which are slated for exploitation and killing for food, however, do not warrant much remembering. They very rarely surfaced in ghost stories. What this suggests is that, culturally speaking, their deaths are not sensed or noted as remarkable. To be able to haunt, then, is a privilege reserved for humans and the other animals deemed important to them.

In general, however, it was clear that ghost stories worked to elevate humans as the more civilized, superior group. The majority of nonhuman ghosts were described as threatening, violent, and even lethal. One of the most common human responses to witnessing these ghosts was an attempt to harm or destroy them. Because ghost stories are meant to be shared, particularly with children, the oppressive cultural messages embued within them should be cause for concern.

Vegan animal studies scholars have critiqued the media as a major force in the maintenance of speciesist ideologies. However, media can also be disruptive. Vegan activists might consider challenging speciesist culture by telling ghost stories which center the experiences of typically invisibilized species like cows, chickens, pigs, fishes and so on. Veganism is a form of necromancy, then, in its ability to conjure the spirits of the dead and force a cultural acknowledgment of speciesism.

["Ghost Stories Tell Us a Lot about Animals in Human Society"](#)

[Content analysis of over 600 ghost stories](#)

PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

Visit Dr. Siobhan O'Sullivan's [Knowing Animals Podcast](#) to hear a discussion of Dr. Wrenn's upcoming book, [Piecemeal Protest: Animal Rights in the Age of Nonprofits](#), while attending the "Decolonising Animals" conference in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Also, visit [The Conversation: Pets, Is It Ethical to Keep Them?](#) to read Dr. Wrenn's essay for *The Conversation*, which is the 9th most read article of 2019. Dr. Wrenn discusses the institution of pet-keeping as "fundamentally unjust as it involves the manipulation of animals' bodies, behaviours and emotional lives."



Animal Advocacy Conference

Insights from the Social Sciences

University of Kent, Canterbury, UK

June 24-26 2020

ANIMAL ADVOCACY: INSIGHTS FROM THE SOCIAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY OF KENT

Find out about the latest ideas and research on human-animal relations, animal activism, veg(etari)anism & meat consumption

INFO AND CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

blogs.kent.ac.uk/animaladvocacy

We have fantastic keynote speakers including Catherine Amiot, Gordon Hodson and Tobias Leenaert, and invited expert symposia and talks from Steve Loughnan, Corey Lee Wrenn, Jared Piazza, and Jim AC Everett.

THE SUBMISSION PORTALS ARE NOW OPEN!
DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 29

Academics and researchers can propose symposia, research talks, and poster presentations.

Animal advocacy organizations and activists can pitch ideas on their ongoing or planned campaigns.



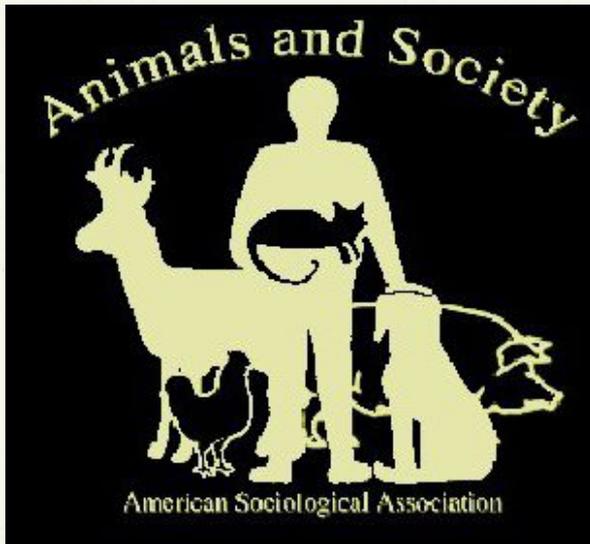
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the 115th ASA Annual Meeting are open. The deadline to submit is January 29, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern. Visit the [Call for Submissions](#) webpage for more information.

The 115th ASA Annual Meeting will be held August 8-11, 2020 in San Francisco. The Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association provides the opportunity for professionals involved in the scientific study of society to share knowledge and new directions in research and practice. Approximately 600 program sessions are convened during the four-day meeting held every August to provide participation venues and networking outlets for nearly 3,000 research papers and over 4,600 presenters.

In addition to paper submissions, proposals will be accepted for Courses, Workshops, Preconferences, the Sociology in Practice Settings Symposium, and the Teaching and Learning Symposium.

See the next page for the ASA Section on Animals & Society specific call for papers.



The Section on Animals & Society is pleased to announce, we are now accepting submissions for the ASA 2020 annual meeting in San Francisco. We have one regular session and one roundtable session, both taking place on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

Regular Session: Animal Labor

Although Nonhuman Animals are heavily integrated into human societies and their labor contributes heavily to societal maintenance and advancement, sociology has only minimally included Nonhuman Animals in the study of inequality and resistance in work. This session aims to spotlight animal labor of all kinds, such as that related to food production, therapy work, companionship and emotional labor, household contributions, labor in entertainment and science, pets in human workplaces, as well as the exploitation or celebration of work in free-living, "wild" animal communities. This session also welcomes papers on inequality and resistance in human labor related to nonhumans, such as social movements, farming and slaughterhouses, veterinary work, therapy, sheltering, sanctuary work, etc.

Section on Animals and Society Round Table

This is an open call for submissions to a roundtable discussion. Papers must relate to animals and society, broadly defined.

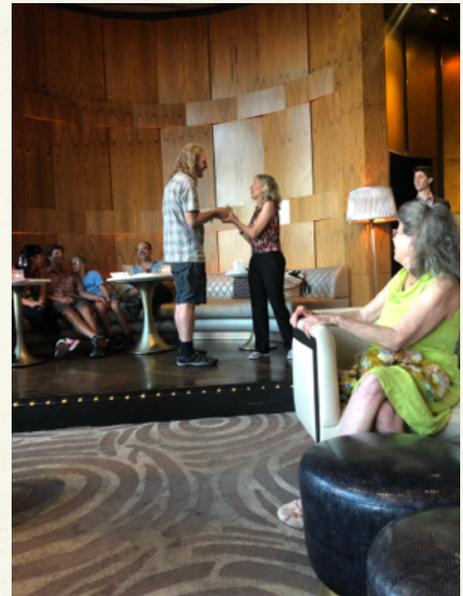
Please visit <https://www.asanet.org/> to submit.





Richard York, University of Oregon
Animals and Society Outgoing Chair
Presenting awards at 2019 ASA Annual
Meeting in New York for the Section on
Animals and Society

Andrea Laurent-Simpson
Receiving the Section on Animals and
Society's Award for Distinguished
Scholarship for "They Made Me Not Wanna
Have a Child: Effects of Companion Animals
on Fertility Intentions of the Childfree."
Sociological Inquiry 87(4):586-607. 2017.



Andrew McCumber
Receiving the Section on Animals and
Society's Jane Goodall Award for
Distinguished Graduate Student Scholarship
for "'You Can't Ignore the Rat': Rat Control,
Meaning and Difference in Alberta, Canada"

Kari Burchfield, Northern Illinois University received The Section on Animals and
Society's Clifton Bryant Animals and Society Course Award for "Animals and Society."

SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS!

Jane Goodall Award for Graduate Student Scholarship

The Animals & Society section announces its call for nominations for the Jane Goodall Award for Graduate Student Scholarship. Papers may be empirical or theoretical, and they may address any aspect of animals and society. To be eligible, a paper must be authored by a current graduate student (or students). Unpublished and published papers, as well as those which have been presented at a professional meeting, are eligible. There is no page limit. When submitting your paper, please include a brief letter from your adviser certifying your graduate student status. Self-nominations are permitted; please include full contact information for yourself and the nominee.

Award for Distinguished Article

The Animals & Society section announces its call for nominations for the Distinguished Article Award. The award will be given for distinguished scholarship in the form of an article to an author(s) whose work makes a significant empirical or theoretical contribution to the sociological understanding of animals and society. The article must have been published within the calendar years of **2018 or 2019**. To nominate an article, please provide a PDF of the article, full citation information, and a letter outlining why you believe this work makes a substantial contribution to the field. Self-nominations are permitted; please include full contact information for yourself and the nominee.

Award for Distinguished Book

The Animals & Society section announces its call for nominations for the Distinguished Book Award. The award will be given for distinguished scholarship in the form of a book to an author(s) whose work makes a significant empirical or theoretical contribution to the sociological understanding of animals and society. The book must have been published within the calendar years of **2018 or 2019**. To nominate an article, please provide a PDF of the article, full citation information, and a letter outlining why you believe this work makes a substantial contribution to the field. Self-nominations are permitted; please include full contact information for yourself and the nominee.

The Clifton Bryant Animals & Society Course Award

The ASA Section on Animals & Society seeks nominations for the Award for Outstanding Course on Animals & Society. To nominate someone, please send a letter to the Awards Committee indicating their name, their current curriculum vitae, a copy of the course syllabus, and a discussion of the nominee's distinguished contributions to undergraduate and/or graduate understandings of animals and society. Self-nominations are permitted; please include full contact information for yourself and the

*Send nominations to the committee chair, Dr. Corey Wrenn,
corey.wrenn@gmail.com*

*The deadline for submitting nominations is **March 1st***

For more information, visit [Animals & Society Section Awards](#)

SECTION OFFICERS & COUNCIL

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Chair-Elect: Erin M. Evans, Mesa College 2020

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Cameron Thomas Whitley, Rutgers University-Camden 2021

Genevieve Minter, University of Nevada Las Vegas 2022

Miranda Kay Workman, Canisius College 2022

Fall 2019 Newsletter

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https://www.twitter.com/Animals_Society

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

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 sections members are eligible for a 25% discount on subscriptions to the journal "Society & Animals."

Dues are only \$10.00 for regular and low income and \$5.00 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, go to www.asanet.org/membership