Minding Animals International Bulletin No.5

Minding Animals International (MAI) welcomes you to its fifth Bulletin. Details contained in this Bulletin are also provided on the Minding Animals Website www.mindinganimals.com

New Patrons Announced

Two prominent animal advocates have agreed to become the newest Minding Animals International Patrons. John Coetzee and Dale Jamieson join Marc Bekoff, Jane Goodall, Jill Robinson and Peter Singer as the Minding Animals Patrons.

Professor J.M. Coetzee was born in South Africa in 1940 and educated in South Africa and the United States. He has published thirteen works of fiction, as well as criticism and translations. Among awards he has won are the Booker Prize (twice) and, in 2003, the Nobel Prize for Literature. He lives in Adelaide, South Australia.

Professor Dale Jamieson is Director of Environmental Studies at New York University, where he is also Professor of Environmental Studies and Philosophy, and Affiliated Professor of Law. Formerly he was Henry R. Luce Professor in Human Dimensions of Global Change at Carleton College, and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he was the only faculty member to have won both the Dean's award for research in the social sciences and the Chancellor's award for research in the humanities. Professor Jamieson is author and co-editor of several books and has published over 80 journal articles and book chapters. Professor Jamieson also takes up the position of Honorary Disputes Resolution Counsel for Minding Animals.

Expressions of Interest for Minding Animals 3 in 2015

MAI would like to receive Expressions of Interest from institutions interested in hosting Minding Animals 3 in July 2015.

If you are interested, please contact mindinganimals@gmail.com to receive a copy of the 2015 guidelines.

Call for Abstracts for Utrecht 2012

A Call for Papers for Minding Animals 2 in Utrecht 2012 was announced in May. Please visit our website for further details www.mindinganimals.com
MAI National Groups

As MAI continues to grow and expand, the establishment of a more workable, servicing and representative organisation has become more urgent. In that regard, a Board of Directors and Academic Advisory Council have been established. Some of the current former MAI committee have moved to the Board, whilst others have moved to the Academic Advisory Council, leaving room for some additional members. Details of our Board and Council will be updated/posted on the website soon.

A key component of the new Board will be its representative structure. Members of the Board will include the Convenors/Chairs of national bodies. National bodies with a dedicated membership structure will be established to advocate for MAI and extend the reach of the international body. Three national Minding Animals groups have been established: Minding Animals Australia, Minding Animals Germany and Minding Animals India. Representatives from these groups have joined the Board. Groups in the UK, Italy and France are also being established.

If you are interested in establishing a representative Minding Animals group in your country, drop an email to: mindinganimals@gmail.com

Minding Animals Pre-conference Events

Pre-conference Events have now been held in Utrecht, Sydney, Los Angeles, Brisbane, Languedoc, Belo Horizonte, Chester and Cape Town – reports appear on the Minding Animals website. Future workshops, lectures, exhibitions and seminars are at various stages of development, as you will see in this Bulletin. Details regarding these events will also be progressively posted on the Minding Animals website.

If you would like to be kept informed of these events, and if you think that you are not on the Minding Animals Conference email database, please send an email to: mindinganimals@gmail.com with your details. Otherwise, if you would like to attend one of the events, please contact the event organiser directly as detailed below.

1 July, 2011: Hamburg, Germany

Host: Group for Society and Animals Studies of the University of Hamburg


Venue: University of Hamburg, Hamburg

Time and Date: 9:30am – 6pm, 1 July, 2011

Organiser and contact: Julia Gutjarhr, julia_gutjarhr@yahoo.de

Event language: German and English

Event fee: 20 Euro (normal price) and 10 Euro (students) – includes coffee/tea and vegan lunch

Presenters at the Hamburg event include: Prof. Dr. Klaus Petrus (Bern), Dr. Matthew Cole (Bristol), Dr. Kate Stewart (Bristol), Renate Brucker (Dortmund), Melanie Bujok (Bochum), Dr. Karen Morgan (Cardiff), Prof. Dr. Peter Kunzmann (Jena), Martin Seeliger (Bochum), Dr. Marion Mangelsdorf (Freiburg), Dr. Hendrik Wallat (Hannover), Dr. Carol Morris (Nottingham), Dr. James Kirwan (Community Research Institute, Gloucester), Dr. Pru Hobson-West (Nottingham), Karen Victoria Lykke Syse (Oslo), Kristian Bjørkdahl (Oslo), Bettina-Johanna Krings and Dr. Arianna Ferrari (Institut für
The conference will look at the phenomenon of meat production and consumption and its importance for the social relationship of humans and animals. Issues to be discussed include:

- questions concerning the construction of "edible" and "non-edible" animals and ambivalent constructions within the human-animal relationship
- the role of media discourses and representations about meat consumption and production and vegetarianism/veganism
- the importance of meat (consumption) within the symbolic order, for example, as a means for the construction of masculinity
- meat as an expression of a violent relationship, and related normalisation and neutralisation strategies
- the question of the genesis of social indifference and empathy with systematic violence against animals

For registration, please visit the conference website:


2 July, 2011: Paris, France

Host: CEPIHA (Cercle d'Etudes Pluridisciplinaire des Interactions Homme-Animal) and Animaux et Compagnies

Event title: L'animal dans le soin: entre théories et partiques (Animal Assisted Therapy: theories and practices)

Venue: Institute of Psychology, Paris Descartes University

Time and Date: 9am to 5:30pm, 2 July, 2011

Event speakers: see Bulletin No.3

Organiser and contact: Fabienne Delfour, animauxetcompagnies@gmail.com

Event language: French

Event fee: 30, 50 and 120 euros (respectively student/unemployed, individual, and employee)

Website: http://www.animauxetcompagnies.com/

7 July, 2011: Wollongong, Australia

Host: University of Wollongong

Event: Global Animal - an Animal Studies Conference

Venue: University of Wollongong, Wollongong, Australia

Time and Date: 7 July, 2011

Organiser and contact: Dr Melissa Boyd, boyde@uow.edu.au

Event language: English

Website: http://ro.uow.edu.au/globan10/
20 to 21 September, 2011: Sydney, Australia

Host: Macquarie University Research Centre for Agency, Values and Ethics, and supported by the Animals and Society Working Group of the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion

Event title: *Testing Times: a symposium on the ethics and epistemology of animal experimentation*

Venue: Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia (room to be advised)

Date: 20 to 21 September, 2011

Organisers and contact: Jane Johnson and Paul Taylor

Event language: English

Registration: free, but places are limited, so please book by sending an email to testingtimes.symposium@gmail.com

Symposium outline: Animal experimentation is a highly contentious practice. It generates ethical concerns due to harms to animals and epistemological worries because translations between animal experiments and human clinical medicine are problematic. In spite of these issues, the practice continues to expand. This symposium will bring together scientists, philosophers, sociologists, veterinarians and others to discuss animal experimentation and develop new approaches to the ethical and epistemological challenges it generates.

20 to 21 September, 2011: Brno, Czech Republic

Host: Faculty of Veterinary Hygiene and Ecology, University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brno, Czech Republic

Event title: *Animal Protection and Welfare*

Venue: Aula, University Hall, University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Time and Date: 20 to 21 September, 2011

Confirmed speakers: see conference website

Organiser and contact: Eva Voslarova, VoslarovaE@vfu.cz

Conference language: Czech, Slovak and English (simultaneous interpreting between the languages will be provided)

Deadline for paper submission: 30 July, 2011

Event fee: 90 Euro

Conference details: see conference website or contact Eva


End September, 2011: Christchurch, New Zealand

Host: New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

Event title: *Lecture on Animal Abuse and Social Violence by Dr Nik Taylor*

Organiser and contact: Associate Professor Annie Potts, annie.potts@canterbury.ac.nz

Details: to be advised or contact Organiser
7 October, 2011: London, UK

Host: London School of Economics

Event title: *Animal Citizens – a one day symposium on a ‘political’ approach to animal ethics*

Venue: London LSE, London, UK (room details to be provided to all registrants by organiser)

Time and Date: 7 October, 2011

Confirmed speakers: Will Kymlicka, Siobhan O’Sullivan, Robert Garner and Steve Cooke

Organiser and contact: Alasdair Cochrane, A.D.Cochrane@lse.ac.uk

Registration: Registration is free, but places will be extremely limited. To register, please email the conference organiser by 22 August, 2011

Conference language: English

Animal ethics has provided us with various theories which claim that animals are the subjects of ‘moral status’. Whether it be the utilitarianism of Peter Singer, the natural rights theory of Tom Regan, the virtue ethics approach of Rosalind Hursthouse, or the caring ethic of Josephine Donovan, sophisticated analyses have been presented to explain why animals have moral worth, and to outline our moral obligations to them as a result. However, an increasing number of scholars have begun to ask what we owe to animals as subjects of political status – as members of and participants in our political communities. Can we, as some have suggested, regard certain non-human animals as ‘citizens’? And what might animal citizenship imply for our obligations towards them? What are the costs and benefits of taking this political approach to the animal question? This one-day symposium brings together academic experts writing in this field to discuss these, and related questions.

8 October, 2011: London, UK

Hosts: Antennae (The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture) and Minding Animals International

Event title: *Animal Ecologies in Visual Culture*

Venue: University College, London, UK (room details to be provided to all registrants by organiser)

Time and Date: 9:15-6:00, 8 October, 2011

Confirmed speakers: Linda Williams, Ron Broglio, Joyce Salisbury, Rikke Hansen, London Fieldworks, Heather Ackroyd and Dan Harvey, Maja and Reuben Fowkes, and Jussi Parikka

Organiser and contact: Giovanni Aloï, antennaeproject@googlemail.com

Conference language: English

Registration: £20.00, (£30.00 after 1 September and at the door but you MUST pre-register to allow for catering). Event fees include a light lunch and refreshments. Please register online by following the links at http://www.antennae.org.uk/

Event Dinner: 8 October, 2011: London, UK

All speakers and registrants to the *Animal Citizens* and *Animal Ecologies in Visual Culture* events can also indicate whether they would be interested in attending a dinner from 7:30 pm on 8 October, at Mildred’s Vegetarian Restaurant in Soho.

Places are extremely limited to a maximum of 10 places. If you are interested in attending, please email antennaeproject@googlemail.com or mindinganimals@gmail.com by 23 September, 2011.
14 October, 2011: New York, USA  
(NB. new date and venue)  
Host: New York University Animal Studies Initiative  
Event title: Animal Studies: Changing the Subject?  
Venue: New York University, Washington Square – new venue to be advised in next Bulletin  
Time and Date: 9am – 6:30pm, 14 October, 2011  
Confirmed speakers: Marc Bekoff, Dale Jamieson, Lori Gruen, Una Chaudhuri, Ralph Acampora, Susan Crane, Jeffrey Bussolini, Susan McHugh, Jacques Lezra and Gary Steiner  
Organiser and contact: Una Chaudhuri, uc1@nyu.edu  
Conference language: English  
Conference details: see Minding Animals website and next Minding Animals Bulletin  

14 to 15 October, 2011: Oslo, Norway  
Host: Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo, with Nordic Human Animal Studies and Minding Animals International  
Event title: Shared Worlds (Horse-human relations; Wolf-human relations)  
Venue: 5th to 7th Floor, Domus Nova, Oslo (St. Olavs plass 5)  
Time and Date: 14-15 October, 2011  
Affiliated institutions: Equine Research Network (EqRN) and Department of Semiotics at the University of Tartu by ESF grant 7790 Dynamical Zoosemiotics and Animal Representations  
Organising team: Rune Ellefsen, Rhys Evans, Morten Tønnessen  
Contact: shared.worlds.oslo@gmail.com  
Conference language: English and Norwegian  
Website: http://mindinganimals.wordpress.com/  

15 to 16 October, 2011: Prague, Czech Republic  
Minding Animals International is proud to announce that the Second Annual European Conference for Critical Animal Studies is now a Minding Animals Pre-conference Event. The hosts are the Institute of Critical Animal Studies and Department of Sociology, Charles University in Prague.  
Event title: Reconfiguring the 'Human'/Animal' Binary - Resisting Violence  
Abstracts due: 3 July, 2011  
Venue: The Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Náměstí Jana Palacha 2, Prague 1 (rooms to be advised)  
Time and Date: 15 to 16 October, 2011  
Organising team: Tereza Vandrovcová (tereza@humanimal.cz), Dita Wickins-Drazilova and Richard Twine (r.twine@lancaster.ac.uk)  
Contact: info@humanimal.cz  
Facebook event: http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=128921897181041
The plenary speakers for the event are:

- Dr. Elisa Aaltola - Senior Lecturer Philosophy (University of East-Finland)
- Dr. Erika Cudworth - Senior Lecturer Politics and Sociology (University of East London)
- Dr. Tom Tyler - Senior Lecturer Philosophy and Culture (Oxford Brookes University)

Conference language: English

Website: [http://humanimal.cz/CAS](http://humanimal.cz/CAS)

**17 to 18 October, 2011: Uppsala, Sweden**

Host: Humanimal Group, Centre for Gender Research, Uppsala University

Event title: *Zoo ethnographies*

Venue: University of Uppsala, Uppsala (room to be advised)

Time and Date: 17 to 18 October, 2011

Speakers: Steve Hinchliffe (Exeter), Lynda Birke (Lancaster), Susan McHugh (New England), Pär Segerdahl (Uppsala) and Morten Tønnessen (Tartu)

Organisers and Contacts: Tora Holmberg, tora.holmberg@gender.uu.se, and Jacob Bull, jacob.bull@gender.uu.se

Conference language: English

Conference fee: see conference website

Website: [http://www.genna.gender.uu/animals](http://www.genna.gender.uu/animals) (event page will appear soon)

The presence of animals in human lives is vast and diverse; from a philosopher’s cat to the animals caught up in intensive systems of production and consumption. From the pigs and rodents that are sacrificed so that humans may extend their lives to the microscopic animals we as humans brush up against on a daily basis. Equally, animals are present in a range of spaces from the laboratory to the street, on farms and in literature, schools, homes and workplaces. Further the category of animal is itself diverse, fluid, and dynamic: animals move and move us often defying human categorisation, borders and control. This unruliness, coupled with the range of spaces, species and modes of encounter, emphasise the disparate implications for different species in different spaces as lines of mobility and oppression intersect.

Thus humanimal encounters are simultaneously creative and political as we (humans, academics, activists, companion species) open ourselves to the lively presences which make and disrupt our more-than-human social worlds and explore the politics and powers which infuse and define interactions. This diversity, fluidity, and creativity raises significant questions regarding how we approach the questions animals raise, what methods we employ to engage these issues, and how we write in a zoo-sensitive manner.

The anthropocentrism of existing methods and approaches fits uncomfortably with the contemporary questions of animal studies. Issues of scientific rigor, representativeness, anthropomorphism, relevance,
objectivity and ethical concerns emerge as Animal Studies pursues this necessary critical development. Humanimal encounters demand ethnographies of animals, humans, cultures and disciplines. Consequently a Zoo-ethnographies approach calls us to examine the methods and methodologies implemented in our zoo-sensitive enquiries, to critique methodological orthodoxies and use the existing approaches and methods creatively. This Pre-conference Event therefore brings together a range of speakers from a variety of disciplines to examine the challenges and possibilities of methods which work with animal presence.

20 to 21 October, 2011: Rennes, France

Host: Anglophonie, Communautés, Ecritures (Department of Languages, Rennes 2)
Conference title: Representing Animals in Britain: an International Interdisciplinary Conference
Venue: Rennes 2 University, Rennes
Time and Date: 20 to 21 October, 2011
Confirmed speakers: Steve Baker, Robert Garner and Hilda Kean
Organisers and Contacts: Emilie Dardenne, emiliedardenne@yahoo.fr, and Sophie Mesplède, sophie.mesplede@uhb.fr
Conference language: English
Website: http://www.univ-rennes2.fr/ace/actualites/colloque-international-interdisciplinaire-representing-animals-in-britain

24 to 25 October, 2011: Barcelona, Spain

Host: ADS, Grupo de Investigación Animales-Derecho-Sociedad (Animals-Law-Society Research Group)
Event title: Animals and the Law
Venue: Facultat de Dret, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Speakers will include: Steven Wise, David Favre, Kim Stallwood, Celeste Black, Georges Chapouthier, Rod Bennison and Teresa Giménez-Candela
Time and Date: 24 to 25 October, 2011
Organiser and contact: Teresa Giménez-Candela, animals-law@mondial-congress.com or teresa.gimenez.candela@uab.cat
Conference committee: Teresa Giménez-Candela, José Antonio Jiménez, Alejandro Sanvicente, Carlos Villagrasa, Oriol Caudevilla and Carlos Contreras
Conference language: Spanish and English
For conference details, including event fees, accommodation and transport to the conference, please see the website: http://www.derechoanimal.info/esp/page/1414/informacion-general (Spanish language website; available in English shortly)
27 October, 2011: Geneva, Switzerland

Host: Département de Sociologie, Université de Genève
Event title: Minding Animals in Switzerland
Venue: Uni-Mail, 40 bd. du Pont d’Arve, University of Geneva, Geneva (room to be advised)
Time and Date: 27 October, 2011
Confirmed speakers: see Bulletin No.3
Organiser: Claudine Burton-Jeangros and Annik Dubied Losa, claudine.jeangros@unige.ch
Conference language: French and English

Animal studies is a new expanding field of research that brings together scholars from various disciplines. Social sciences emphasize how relationships between humans and animals vary over time and between cultural contexts, the appropriate distance and proximity between them being socially defined. Research in that domain is progressively developing in Switzerland, with results stemming from scholars associated with a variety of institutions. Minding Animals in Switzerland will provide an opportunity to present recent academic studies, to address policy issues and to contribute to the constitution of a research network. This one-day interdisciplinary conference is a Minding Animals Pre-conference Event and is open to researchers interested in Animal studies, to professionals dealing with animal issues and also to the general public.

**Geneva Programme**

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Images of Ape Culture - A Time Travel Through National Geographic
Marianne Sommer is SNSF-professor for the history of science and science studies at the University of Zurich (Forschungsstelle für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte). Her research focuses on the cultural history of the life sciences, particularly the human origins sciences (for a list of publications and on her current project, see www.phylogenetic-memory.uzh.ch).

Challenging the Human-Animal relationships: Images of two recent animal crises in the Swiss Information Media (2005-2006)
Valérie Gorin is an assistant in the Department of Sociology at the University of Geneva and a lecturer at the CERAH (Graduate Institute, Geneva). She is currently working on a PhD thesis related to media representations of humanitarian crises in the news, from the 1960s to the 1990s. Her interests focus on news images and photojournalism, from celebrity news and popular culture to war photography and social crises. She has published in several French peer-reviewed journals, on celebrity news and war photography.

Annik Dubied is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Geneva. Her research interests lie in the sociology of communication, and focuses on popular culture and the storytelling phenomenon through various case studies (celebrity news, representations of Human-Animal relationships, crime news). She has published in many refereed journals in French and has also published two books on crime news (Le fait divers, with Marc Lits, and Les dits et les scenes du fait divers), as well as several collective. See http://www.unige.ch/ees/socio/annikdubied.html

Claudine Burton-Jeangros, Phd in Sociology, MSc in Health promotion, is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Geneva. Her main research fields include: social representations of risks, health inequalities with a focus on gender and lifecourse, family and health, human-animal relationships. She has published Cultures familiales du risque, co-edited Face au risque and Risques et informations dans le suivi de la grossesse: droit, éthique et pratiques sociales.

Animals in Sociology. Towards French Sociological Animal Studies
Emmanuel Gouabault’s Ph.D. in Sociology (University of Montpellier, France), The Contemporary Resurgence of the Symbol of the Dolphin. A Socio-anthropological Approach, was the first of its kind to deal with dolphins through a social imaginary study. He worked then as a postdoctoral researcher on The Representations of Animals in the Swiss Information Media, 1978-2007. From the “nice pet” to the “threatening other” (University of Geneva, Switzerland). This project was the first of its kind in the French speaking countries and the first social sciences project funded by the Federal Veterinary Office. Since then, he co-founded with J. Michalon the association IPRAZ (Imaginaires et Pratiques des Relations AnthroPozoologiques), dedicated to the works of young researchers in the emerging field of a French Speaking “Sociological Animal Studies”.

Currently a PhD candidate in Sociology & Political Anthropology (University of Saint Etienne - France), Jérôme Michalon is working on the rise of Animal Assisted Therapies, as practices, knowledge, and networks. He uses this study as an example of the mechanisms of renewal in the representations of animals, as companions, co-workers and biotechnologies. Mixing pragmatic sociology and a science studies approach altogether, J. Michalon’s interests are about sociological exploration of social dynamics within the “benevolence towards animals” communities. Through his Master’s degree work, in which he studied the activity inside an animal protection shelter, he has been especially interested in the “grounded dimension” of animal care-taker’s work. An experience which led him to his global research question: beyond advocacy, what are the pragmatic consequences of the idea of being “kind and fair” to animals?
Implementation of Animal Protection in the Swiss Law - Goals and Consequences

Heinrich Binder graduated in veterinary medicine at the University of Zurich. He pursued an academic career at the Universities of British Columbia in Vancouver, and at the University of Zurich, where he was an assistant professor from 1989 to 1997. He then became deputy at the cantonal veterinary office of Zurich and started working at the Swiss veterinary office in Bern in 2002, where he is now the head of the animal welfare unit.

A comparison of attitudes toward animals between the German- and French-speaking part of Switzerland, Germany and France

Barbara Fehlbaum is an animal psychologist, emergency psychologist and social anthropologist specialised in transcultural psychology. She is assistant to PD Dr. Dennis C. Turner and lecturer at different institutions (emergency psychology). She obtained her Dr. phil I degree in 1986, on the differences of Oser's religious stages in Buddhism and Catholicism. She is the president of VIETA, the association of I.E.A.P. animal psychologists.

Eva Waiblinger is a zoologist specialised in animal behaviour, animal welfare, applied ethology and stress physiology. She is assistant to PD Dr. Dennis C. Turner, I.E.A.P. and University of Zurich, and lecturer at Vetsuisse Bern (animal protection and animal welfare, companion animals). She obtained her Dr. sc. nat. degree in 2003 at the University of Zurich, at the former Zoological Institute, on causes of behavioural stereotypes in gerbils. She is a Companion Animal Welfare specialist of Swiss Animal Protection SAP (Member of WSPA).

Dennis C. Turner is an animal behaviourist and animal psychologist, specialist for human-animal interactions. He obtained his Dr. sc. Degree in 1974, at the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. He is privatdozent (PD) in the Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich. From 1975 to 2011 he has been Group Leader at Companion Animal Ethology, Zoology Institute/IEU, University of Zurich. He is the director of Institute for Applied Ethology and Animal Psychology, Hirzel, Switzerland.

Swiss attitudes towards different uses of animals in research

Fabienne Cretaz von Roten, PhD, is Maître d’Enseignement et de Recherche, in charge of the research area “Relations Science-Society” in the Observatoire Science, Politique et Société at the University of Lausanne. Her research offers a symmetrical view of the relations between science and society in Switzerland: the attitudes of the population towards science and technology and scientists’ engagement towards society.

27 to 28 October, 2011: London, UK (A Minding Animals Partner Event)

Host: School Fine Art, Sir John Cass Faculty of Art, Media & Design at London Metropolitan University

Conference title: The Animal Gaze Returned

Venue: London Metropolitan University in Whitechapel, London

Time and Date: 27 to 28 October, 2011

Organiser: Rosie McGoldrick, r.mcgoldrick@londonmet.ac.uk

Conference language: English

Event fee: see conference website or contact the Conference Organiser.

Conference details: see conference website for details - http://www.animalgaze.org/
**29 to 30 October, 2011: Berlin, Germany**

Host: Institute of Art History and Aesthetics, Universität der Künste, Berlin

Event title: *Animals and Aesthetics: an Interdisciplinary International Conference on Animals and Animal Images in the Arts*

Venue: to be advised

Time and Date: 29 to 30 October, 2011

Organiser and Contact: Jessica Ullrich, ullrich@udk-berlin.de

Conference language: English

Conference fee: see conference website

Website: [http://www.udk-berlin.de](http://www.udk-berlin.de) (link to the conference to be provided shortly)

Sponsors of the conference: Giordano-Bruno-Stiftung, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Ästhetik

The keynote speakers are:

- Steve Baker, Emeritus Professor of Art History at University of Central Lancashire
- Volker Sommer, Professor of Evolutionary Anthropology, University College London
- Wolfgang Welsch, Professor of Philosophy, Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena

The interdisciplinary conference *Animals and Aesthetics* focuses on the relation of human and non-human animals in context of the emerging academic field of animal studies. While there have been quite a few attempts to reconsider the relation of animals and humans in the sciences and social studies, there has been far less research in the arts and aesthetics.

*Animals and Aesthetics* seeks to further the discussion of animal-human relations in order to create openings for critical dialogue concerning the role of animals in the arts. To this end, we have convened well-known international scholars and artists to deliver talks on topics relating to the four faculties of the Berlin University of the Arts. The subjects of the presenters’ papers are derived from the Fine Arts, Music, Theatre, Architecture, as well as philosophical aesthetics, and popular culture. The speakers will address, in various ways, animal-human relationships in terms of cultural and aesthetic layers of meaning. In their papers, they investigate artistic representations of animals as well as the artistic capacities of animals themselves in order to illuminate, deconstruct and reconstruct the binary oppositions between human and nonhuman animals.

In this conference, we will discuss the image of the animal in terms of its attendant historical framework and philosophical discourses, which serve as a means of human self-conception. At the same time, we will explore the possibility that animals are responsible for aesthetic or even artistic achievements that influence, shape and construct not only animal culture, but also human culture and systems of thought.

**26 to 30 November, 2011: New Delhi, India**

Host: Wildlife Trust of India and IFAW

Event title: *Buddhism and the New World Order: Compassion, Animal Welfare and Conservation*

Venue: to be confirmed as part of the 2011 Global Buddhist Congregation

Speakers, Time and Date: to be confirmed in the next Bulletin

Organiser and contact: Ashok Kumar (Vice-Chairman WTI), ashok@wti.org.in

Event language: English

Event fee: Free
2 December, 2011: Newcastle, UK

Host: University of Newcastle

Event title: Animal Ethics and Sustainable Food

Venue: Baddiley-Clark Building, University of Newcastle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK

Time and Date: 9am-5pm, 2 December, 2011

Organiser and Contact: Jan Deckers, jan.deckers@newcastle.ac.uk

Conference language: English

This conference will provide an opportunity to bring together the best scholars working on the intersections between animal ethics, sustainability, and food policy, and to develop further capacity and stimulate community action in this field. Scholars from different disciplines as well as those who adopt interdisciplinary perspectives are welcomed to submit extended abstracts insofar as they engage with the question of how governments should address the ethical issues raised by the consumption of animal products.

Scholars who wish to present a paper are invited to submit abstracts of up to 1000 words (without counting the references section) in relation to the conference question. On the basis of these abstracts, the academic organising committee will select up to 6 speakers who will be invited to submit full-length papers for presentation before the date of the conference. Invited speakers will be able to benefit from receiving full financial support to pay for travel, subsistence, and accommodation expenses to participate in the conference (up to a generous maximum limit).

All abstracts must be submitted by email (in a Word attachment; without inclusion of personal details to allow for blind reviewing) to tanya.hutchison@ncl.ac.uk by the deadline of 31/8/2011, mentioning ‘NAES’ in the subject heading. The outcome of the review process will be communicated by 30/9/2011. Reviewers will decide on which speakers to invite to present at the conference, and on a more extensive list of authors who will be invited to submit their abstracts for a special edition of a journal.

To register, please complete the booking form at http://forms.ncl.ac.uk/view.php?id=1993

Participants are advised to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Options for accommodation include: Premier Inn Newcastle Central, Newbridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8BS; Premier Inn Newcastle City Centre (Millennium Bridge) City Road, Quay Side, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 2AN; Royal Station Hotel, Neville Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 5DH; and, Jurys Inn Newcastle, Scotswood Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4AD.

1 to 3 July, 2012: Leusden, The Netherlands

This final Pre-conference Event to be held immediately prior to Minding Animals 2 will be hosted by the International School of Philosophy. See the Utrecht 2012 website or click on the Utrecht 2012 page on this website for details.

PCEs in consideration:

- Bogor, Indonesia
- Portsmouth, UK
- Osnabrück, Germany
- Zurich, Switzerland