

THE INSTITUTE FOR CRITICAL ANIMAL STUDIES

Summer 2011
Volume 1, Issue 1

THINKING ABOUT ANIMALS
CONFERENCE – A REVIEW
SARAT COLLING

On March 31 and April 1, undergraduate and graduate students, professors and community members, met at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario for the 10th Annual North American Conference for Critical Animal Studies (CAS). We were pleased to co-host this year’s conference, “Thinking About Animals,” with the Department of Sociology at Brock University. During the two days we covered a wide range of topics, often with four sessions running concurrently. From panels exploring gender and meat consumption, postcolonial studies, animal liberation theory, abolitionist history, social attitudes and prejudice, veganism, activist repression, or which focused on



vivisection, farmed animals, entertainment, or a particular species (there was an entire session on Elephants), to a book launch promoting a new anthology by Dr. John Sanbonmatsu, *Critical Theory and Animal Liberation*—and so much more—the conference offered something for just about everyone.

The conference was introduced by Dr. John Sorenson, chair of the sociology department at Brock, author of *About Canada: Animal Rights* and founder of the first Critical Animal Studies minor.

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INSTITUTE FOR CRITICAL
ANIMAL STUDIES
ANNUAL AWARDS

**2011 UNDERGRADUATE
PAPER OF THE YEAR**

“Animal Experimentation and the Law: Are the Laws Enough?”
Tayler Staneff

**GRADUATE PAPER
OF THE YEAR**

“Gender and Slaughter in Popular Gastronomy,”
Jovian Parry

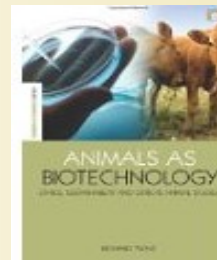
ACADEMIC BOOK OF THE YEAR

“Animals as Biotechnology: Ethics, Sustainability and Critical Animal Studies,”
Richard Twine

**2011 BRITCHES SCHOLAR OF
THE YEAR**

Jenny Grubbs

Continued page 3



Conference, con’t.	2
Conference, con’t.	2
Annual Awards	2
News	3
Membership	4
Noteworthy	5
News	6
Call for Papers	7
Contest	10
News	11

- ICAS Thinking About Animals Conference—Review
- ICAS Annual Awards
- News from Richard White
- Membership Drive
- News from Richard Twine
- Name the Newsletter Contest
- Call for Papers
- News from Helena Pederson

CONFERENCE REVIEW, CON'T.



It was nice to see Dr. Sorenson include a statement from Animal Liberation Front founder Ronnie Lee in his address—an important sign that despite those who pursue direct action against animal enterprises being called “terrorists” by corporations and government, critical animal studies cannot be panopticed (a theme which was engaged in later in the day on “War Against Animal Activists” panel). The welcoming was followed by a foundational topic in CAS, “Capitalism and Exploitation,” during which an audience member raised the question of how those working on the streets can put these ideas into practice. Richard Twine, the CAS Europe Director who spoke on biotechnology and animals, replied that this was one of the most important questions which the conference would be engaging in: the bridging of theory and action, academia and activism. This what critical animal studies is all about.

Continued on page 5



ICAS 2011 AWARDS

ACTIVIST BOOK OF THE YEAR

"Muzzling a Movement: The Effects of Anti-Terrorism, Law, Money, and Politics on Animal Activism,"

Dara Lovitz

**2011 TYKE SCHOLAR OF THE YEAR,**

A. Breeze Harper



"Direct action is a part of Animal Liberation. Liberation and (CAS) will not be moved by those who wish to drive a wedge

The Institute for Animals and Social Justice

News from Richard White, Editor-in-Chief, *Journal for Critical Animal Studies*

ICAS and Dr. Les Mitchell

I invited Dr. Les Mitchell to Sheffield Hallam University to give a presentation based on his recent paper "Moral Disengagement and Support for Nonhuman Animal Farming". The talk was an excellent opportunity to promote both ICAS and the *Journal for Critical Animal Studies* (JCAS) amongst academics, activists and other interested groups and members of the local population. There were several ways in which this happened, not least the different titles that were used within and beyond the university to gain people's interest. About 30 people from a variety of backgrounds (as hoped for) came to listen to Les speak. I printed off some past issues of JCAS for people to look through beforehand, and the main talk took place after I had said something about the aims and visions of ICAS, and illustrated these with the excellent ICAS videos (Introduction to Critical Animal Studies and ICAS 2010 Review) that Anthony produced. Les's wonderfully informative and engaging presentation was followed by at least 30 minutes worth of discussion. I've had some fantastic feedback afterwards, not least relating to ICAS and the wonderful work that is going on there.

**JCAS Related**

Australian Ranking. I have been involved with preparing and submitting a formal case for JCAS to be ranked in the latest Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA) journal rankings. The first round of rankings was published in 2010 and a new list will be published in 2012. Journals are ranked as A*, A, B or C. Given that this ranking is undertaken by the government, it is of high significance and prestige for Australian and international scholars.

Other news: The Institute for Animals and Social Justice

I am attending an invitation-only seminar at the London School of Economics on 30 June 2011, which will officially launch *The Institute for Animals and Social Justice*. The Institute for Animals and Social Justice is a new UK animal protection think tank. Founded by leading academics and animal advocates, the IASJ's vision is a world where human beings flourish without harming other animals.

As we celebrate our **10th Anniversary**, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the *Institute for Critical Animal Studies (ICAS)*. As an all-volunteer organization, volunteers and donations are essential to our organization's growth and well-being.

Thanks to the many volunteers, we were able to accomplish several important goals this year:

- Created the Critical Animal Studies Center for Academic Excellence
- Finalized the series "Critical Animal Studies: Reflections on Animal Liberation" with Arissa Media Group
- Held the 1st Annual European Conference for Critical Animal Studies at the University of Liverpool
- Established the Annual Scholars Programs: "The Tyke Scholar of the Year" and "The Britches Scholar of the Year"
- Held the largest North American Conference of Critical Animal Studies with more than 300 attendees from all over the world at SUNY, Cortland
- Created the Continental ICAS Committees

We need your Annual Membership to accomplish our equally ambitious goals for 2011-12:

We are very excited about these new projects and look forward to seeing them to fruition. But **we cannot accomplish** any of these goals without your help and commitment to ICAS. For this reason, **we are asking you to become a member of ICAS today!**

By becoming a member of ICAS for only \$20.00 per year you directly support the work that ICAS does: To stop the torture and exploitation of nonhuman animals in higher education and to make higher education a more ethical and inclusive space for nonhuman animals. We cannot do this work without your financial support.

Please send checks or money orders today for \$20.00 US dollars to:

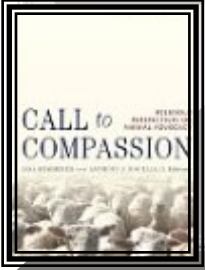
**Institute for Critical Animal Studies (ICAS)
PO Box 35905
Syracuse, NY 13235**

Again, thank you for your support and volunteering with The Institute for Critical Animal Studies. We are thrilled that you have helped us reach this TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

- Create a quarterly E- Newsletter
- Enhance our Internet presence
- Hire a part-time paid staff employee
- Provide financial scholarships
- Have summer week long educational workshops for students and faculty

Susan Thomas, President

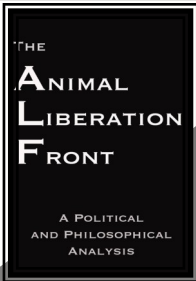
Noteworthy



Call to Compassion: Religious Perspectives on Animal Advocacy from a Range of Religious Perspectives, Anthony Nocella and Lisa Kemmerer.



Sue Coe



The Animal Liberation Front: A Political and Philosophical Analysis Steve Best, Ph.D., and Anthony Nocella, II.



Bold Native: A Film About Animal Liberation



CONFERENCE REVIEW, CON'T.

Passersby also enjoyed excellent CAS student poster presentations which detailed various industries of animal abuse. As one ICAS member commented, it was nice to see undergraduate students, graduate students and professors not only together in attendance, but often on the same panel. This co-mingling serving to show that in CAS everyone's voice holds equal value in being heard.

The sessions ended Friday afternoon, but the activities were not over yet! On Friday, Will Potter gave a book reading from his newly released *Green Is The New Red*. On Saturday, we protested the Canadian seal hunt and attended a book release hosted by Anthony Nocella. His latest publication is *Call to Compassion*.
Continued Page 11

CONFERENCE REVIEW, CON'T.

Many presentations engaged with putting theory into action, and the format of the conference itself aims to build these bridges by having an activist event—this year a protest against the seal hunt—and by welcoming many advocacy groups to participate. Animal advocacy tables covered every inch around the perimeter of the room. There were a number of wonderful organizations tabling: Animals Asia, Story Book Farm Sanctuary, CALM Action, Arissa Media Group, The Vegan Police,

“...the bridging of theory and action, academia and activism. This is what critical animal studies is all about.” S.

Animal Allies of Western New York, Zoo-check, United Poultry Concerns, Brock Animal Rights Club, Live Free Collective, Niagara Action for Animals, and Niagara Farm Walk for Animals. There was a fantastic art show set up by the Toronto Pig Save collective, “Art to Help Save Pigs,” which uses multimedia to make visible the plight of pigs and other farmed animals headed for Toronto slaughterhouses.

News from Richard Twine, ICAS

Several Europe based ICAS members (Dr. Matthew Cole, Dr. Karen Morgan and myself) were able to make it over to the successful *Thinking About Animals* 10th annual North American Conference held March 31st/April 1st, SUNY Cortland. In spite of bad carbon footprints it was valuable to meet face to face with many key people from the world of North American critical animal studies (CAS). The conference has energized our desire for collaboration in the sense of working hard to build CAS infrastructure.

Since our return energy has been put into making decisions on the future direction of the *Journal for Critical Animal Studies*, and organizing the 2nd annual European Conference for Critical Animal Studies, to be held at Charles University, Prague on the weekend of October 15th-16th, 2011.

Much credit is due to Tereza Vandrovcová for getting the Call For Papers together. I was able to pass on advice from the Brock conference experience so that we can establish best practice for CAS conferences.

Continued next page

NEWS FROM RICHARD TWINE, CON'T



Jess Gröling, a PhD candidate at the University of Exeter is also in the process of organizing the first ever postgraduate CAS conference, likely to take place at her institution, either late 2011 or early 2012.

I am pleased to announce the call for papers for the 2nd Annual European Conference for Critical Animal Studies (see below).

Continued next page

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2nd Annual European Conference for Critical Animal Studies
"RECONFIGURING THE 'HUMAN'/'ANIMAL' BINARY
~ RESISTING VIOLENCE"

Prague, Czech Republic

<http://humanimal.cz/CAS/>

Saturday/Sunday
15th-16th October 2011
Charles University

ABSTRACTS DUE 3RD JULY TO cfp@humanimal.cz

PHOTO BY ANAHE DECKER FOR HUMAN ANIMAL STUDIES 2011

KATEDRA SOCILOGIE

ICAS
THE INSTITUTE FOR CRITICAL ANIMAL STUDIES

CALL FOR PAPERS, CON'T

Name of the conference:

"RECONFIGURING THE 'HUMAN'/'ANIMAL' BINARY – RESISTING VIOLENCE"

The 2nd Annual European Conference for Critical Animal Studies

Where and when:

Prague, Czech republic, 15th - 16th October 2011

This two-day interdisciplinary conference will critically explore a variety of issues concerning the historic, current, and future situation of nonhuman animals across globally interconnected societies. Adopting a Critical Animal Studies perspective this conference seeks to interrogate not only the 'question of the animal' but also, with urgency, the deteriorating lived circumstances of many nonhuman animals. We are especially pleased to be hosting this conference in association with the Institute for Critical Animal Studies (ICAS) as the 2nd Annual European Conference for Critical Animal Studies.

The 2nd annual ICAS confer-

ence is an official pre-event for Minding Animals 2 – which takes place at Utrecht University, The Netherlands, 1-7th July 2012'.

We welcome participation from activists, academics (sociologists, philosophers, geographers, historians, anthropologists etc.) and hybrids of the two. The conference will be completely vegan. Please submit **abstracts** (200-300 words) and a **short bio** (less than 100 words) to the address: cfp@humanimal.cz by July 3rd, 2011.

Earlier submissions are highly encouraged.

Conference date: The weekend of 15th-16th October 2011

Abstracts are due: 3rd July, 2011

Language of the conference: English

Facebook event:
<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=128921897181041>

Conference fees:

Students: 16 EUR/ 400 CZK

Others: 20 EUR/ 500 CZK

No one will be turned away because they can't afford it.

Plenary Speakers:

(to be announced soon!)

We will consider proposals on any relevant topics but major indicative suggestions include:

- Activism and Intersectionality
- Anarchy and animals
- Animal agency and resistance
- Animal cognition
- Animal exploitation industries (economic, environmental, social, ethical dimensions)
- Animal rights and social justice
- Animal ethics, the body and vulnerability
- Animal subjectivities
- Animals and human identities
- Animals and theories of Biopower – Foucault, Agamben, etc.
- Animals in War
- Biotechnology and animals
- Captivity: Animals in zoos and "marine parks"
- Colonialism, imperialism, and animal rights
- Companion animals
- Compassion, empathy, solidarity
- Critical Analyses of National and Transnational Animal Regulation
- Critical Animal Studies, the Post-humanities and Academia

Continued next page

CALL FOR PAPERS, CON'T

Current campaigns and issues in animal rights activism

Derrida and the question of the animal

Developing animal rights activism and creating cultures of compassion

Discourse and propaganda of the Animal-Industrial Complex

Ecofeminism

Feminist approaches to animals

Food sovereignty/justice and animal rights

Globalisation and Animal exploitation

Historical understandings of animals

Histories of the Animal-Industrial Complex

Humane education

International animal rights campaigns

Marx and Animals

Meat and gender identities

Performativity and/of the human

Posthumanism and animality

Queer theory and the animal

Racism and animal rights

Representing Animals

Research methods and Critical Animal Studies

Sanctuaries

Social construction of animals

Theories and Practices of Abolitionism

Theories of intersectionality

Undercover investigations and their criminalisation

Veganism and Vegetarianism

Vivisection and animals in scientific research

Wildlife conservation, rewilding and animal protection

Wildlife trade



10TH Annual North American CAS Conference Attendees



NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST



HERE YE!
HERE YE!

We would like to announce the name of our new Newsletter...um..oh...wait...we don't have one yet...ah hem...We would like to announce a

NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST

As excited as everyone is that we have now published our first issue of our Newsletter, we need a name for it. I'm sure you'll agree that we have a great Newsletter that needs

a great name. To make this even more exciting, if you submit the winning Newsletter name by popular vote you will WIN something. Since this is a Newsletter about critical animal studies, we thought you should win a great looking ICAS t-shirt!!! So now that I have everyone happy and excited, here's the low down.

You **MUST** be a member of ICAS to submit an entry. Not a member? Why not join? Just flip on over to page 4 of this Newsletter, locate our address, and mail of your \$20.00 check or money order today.

Not a member? Why not join? For only \$20.00 you will support our mission of ending the suffering and exploitation of nonhuman animals.

10th Annual ICAS Conference, Brock University

Each member may submit an unlimited number of entries. This means that if you have more than one idea for the Newsletter, go ahead and submit all of them. Please send entries to: susanveganthomas@aol.com. Subject line: ICAS Contest

Entries must be received by July 1, 2011. So don't dawdle. Go ahead and get your brain working and send your ideas to susanveganthomas@aol.com. Members will then be asked to vote for their favorite names. Each member is allowed one vote, so no ballot stuffing, please. One vote per member.

Votes will be tabulated and the winner announced in the next Newsletter. The name will also appear on the next Newsletter along with an interview of the winner in the next issue.

Remember:

Now - submit a name for the Newsletter

July 1- deadline for submission

Next issue- find out the winner



News from Helena Pederson, Program Director



- The first contract has been issued in the Critical Animal Studies book series (published by Rodopi Press). The title of the forthcoming book is *Women, Destruction, and the Avant-Garde: A Paradigm for Animal Liberation*. Author is Kimberly Socha.
- I will organize a session at the conference *Challenging (Un)certainties - the Future of Education and Sustainability* (see conference website <http://www.challenginguncertainties.se/>) at the Centre for Environment and Development Studies (CEMUS) at Uppsala University 23-25 May 2011. The session is tentatively entitled "Liberating the Animal Planet: Critical Animal Pedagogies and Educational Change."
- Together with a colleague, Tobias Linné, I am developing an undergraduate course in Critical Animal Studies at Lund University for Spring semester 2012. The provisional title is "Critical Animal Studies: Animals in society, culture and the media." The course will be open to both Swedish and international students. (Please note: The course has not been formally approved yet. We are waiting for the final decision, although so far we have reasons to believe it will be a favorable one. If the course is approved, more information will be sent out on the Critical Animal Studies listserv.)

CONFERENCE REVIEW, CON'T.

ICAS is an international organization, and much of our correspondence occurs over the wires. So it was great to see ICAC volunteers not only from the East to the West coast of North America but from Europe as well. Much appreciation to the Department of Sociology at Brock University with the assistance of the Office of the Dean of Social Sciences, the Departments of English, Political Science, History and Visual Arts,

the MA Program in Critical Sociology, and the MA Program in Social Justice and Equity Studies; the wonderful volunteers; the dedicated presenters; all the booth participants; Brooklyn's Restaurant a Rise Above Bakery; Niagara Action for Animals; and everyone who attended, for making this event a success.

THE INSTITUTE FOR CRITICAL ANIMAL STUDIES

We need news! If you have news to share, please send it along. Calls for papers, conference news, publications of note, and all related matters are welcome. Please send information to Susan Thomas, susanveganthomas@aol.com.



Sue Coe

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