



Animal Studies Journal

Volume 14, Number 2
2025



Animal Studies Journal

Animal Studies Journal is a fully refereed journal, published twice-yearly, devoted to multidisciplinary scholarship and creative work in the field of Animal Studies.

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ISSN 2201-3008

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Cover image by Dr Yvette Watt

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Editorial

This issue of *Animal Studies Journal* presents articles addressing species relations in research, politics and farming contexts, and features a diverse selection of creative engagements with animal studies themes.

Marie Leth addresses the importance of focusing on animal interests in the context of multispecies ethnographic research. Emilia Leese draws attention to the position of species relations within the political Left, and suggests strategies for awareness-raising within this area. Sue Pyke's 'Chook Talk' explores the lives of and language surrounding chickens as 'controlled junglefowl' within human-dominated spaces.

This issue also showcases creative work inviting attention to details of animality and of human-animal relationships, and the responses they evoke. Subjects include birds, mammals, invertebrates, marine life, and the animal origin of vellum.

Reviews of Daniel Horowitz's *Bear With Me* and *Estudios de Zoopoética* (ed. Boué, Correoso Rodenas and Ori) complete the contributions.

We hope you enjoy this varied issue.

Sally Borrell

Contributor Biographies

María Victoria Arenas Vela holds a degree in English Studies: Language, Literature and Culture from the National University of Distance Education (UNED). She completed a Master's in Secondary Education at Camilo José Cela University (UCJC) and is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Castilla-La Mancha (UCLM). She is a member of the Edgar Allan Poe Spanish Association (EAPSA) and of the Spanish Association for American Studies (SAAS). Arenas has published literary articles and conference papers.

Philip Armstrong teaches English and Human-Animal Studies at the University of Canterbury. His most recent scholarly book is *Disturbing Nature in Narrative Literature* (Routledge 2024). He has published two poetry collections of poetry: *Sinking Lessons* (Otago University Press 2020), which won the Kathleen Grattan Award, and *Touch Screen* (Otago University Press 2025).

David Brooks received the 2025 Patrick White Award for his substantial contribution to Australian literary culture. His *The Other Side of Daylight: New and Selected Poems* won the 2025 Prime Minister's Award for Poetry. He lives in the Blue Mountains with rescued sheep, and is an honorary Associate Professor of Australian Literature at the University of Sydney, where from 2000-2013 he was founding director of a graduate writing program. From 2000-2018 he was managing co-editor of the journal *Southerly*.

Emilia A. Leese is an author – *Think Like a Vegan* – re-wilder, and host of the Think Like a Vegan podcast, exploring the intersections of ethics, food, and our relationship with the natural world. After a twenty-year career as a corporate finance lawyer, she channels her strategic insight into vegan advocacy and ecological restoration. She edits a magazine and splits her time between London and the Scottish Highlands. Find her work at EmiliaLeese.com and the award-winning BirchfieldHighlands.org.

Marie Leth is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Gothenburg and a member of Lund University Critical Animal Studies Network. Her research centres on society-animal issues and socio-ecological problems of agriculture, food and eating. Previous research includes farmed animal sanctuaries, veterinary care and the politics of suffering.

Patricia Lucas grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and began living in South Africa in 1986. She has written for other people and organisations most of her working life, most recently for the University of Cape Town. She has published in poetry publications in South Africa and abroad.

Talitha May is an educator and artist living in Portland, Oregon. Her work appears in *Humanimalia*, *Language & Ecology*, and *Journal for Critical Animal Studies*.

Owen Nevin is CEO of the Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute. He is an experienced conservation biologist and research leader with more than 25 years' experience in the conservation and management of large carnivores globally. Much of Owen's research work has been focused on advancing the conservation of threatened species and their habitat.

Shirley Pendlebury is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Cape Town. Since retiring from academic work and research for non-profits, she has returned to an earlier love, writing short fiction and poetry. She enjoys experimenting with creative approaches – verbal and visual – to enrich scholarly research, and vice versa.

Annie Potts is Professor of Critical Animal Studies at the University of Canterbury, Aotearoa New Zealand, where she teaches animal advocacy, gender and sexuality studies, and feminist criminology. She is the author of *Chicken* (2012), and co-author of *A New Zealand Book of Beasts* (2013), and *Animals in Emergencies* (2014). Annie is currently completing a book on possums for Sydney University Press. She and Lotus Sparrow live in a rowdy multispecies home overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Sue Hall Pyke lives on unceded Eastern Maar Country, doing her best to revegetate damaged farm land. She teaches with the University of Melbourne. Her most recent animal studies work is 'Choosing Snakes', in *Heterotopia, Radical Imagination, and Shattering Orders*. More details on Sue's writing can be found at <https://suehallpyke.com/category/publications/>.

Wendy Woodward is Professor Emerita in English Literature at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. She is the author of *The Animal Gaze: Animal Subjectivities in Southern African Narratives*, Wits University Press 2008, and the co-editor, with Erika Lemmer, of a Special Issue of the *Journal of Literary Studies* on *Figuring the Animal in Post-apartheid South Africa* (2014). She is also co-editor, with Susan McHugh, of *Indigenous Creatures, Native Knowledges and the Arts: Animal Studies in Modern Worlds* (Palgrave 2017).