



Animal Studies Journal

Volume 15, Number 1

2026



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 Acknowledgements

Cover image by Dr Yvette Watt

Contents

Editorial _____

Contributor Biographies _____

Articles



Tayler Zavitz

What We See When We Look Beyond Canada's Borders:
Cross-Jurisdictional Insights into Farmed Animal Governance _____

Marcus Baynes-Rock

When Beasts are Burdens: Equine Agency in the
Exploration of Australia's Mid North Coast _____

Laurence Simmons

The Walrus and the Sublime in a Painting by John Webber _____

Sunaura Celeste Taylor

On Vulnerability: Learning from the Animals _____

Reviews

Matthew Calarco

[Review] Markus Gabriel, *The Human Animal: Why We Still Don't Fit into Nature*. Translated by Karl von der Luft. Hoboken, NJ: Polity Press, 2024. 88 pp. ISBN-10: 1509558039. _____

Cynthia Chris

[Review] Patricia Ononiwu Kaishian. *Forest Utopia: The Abounding Queerness of Nature*. New York: Spiegel and Grau, 2025. 255pp, ISBN 9781954118904;

Sabrina Imbler. *How Far the Light Reaches: A Life in Ten Sea Creatures*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2022. 264pp, ISBN 9780316540537;

Lulu Miller. *Why Fish Don't Exist: A Story of Loss, Love, and the Hidden Order of Life*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2020. 256pp, ISBN 978151162071. _____

Wendy Woodward

[Review] Philip Armstrong. *Disturbing Nature in Narrative Literature*. Perspectives on the Non-Human in Literature and Culture. Series editor Karen Raber. New York: Routledge, 2025.

311 pp. ISBN 9781003463634. _____

Giulia Roti and Agnese Bardelli

[Review] Corey Wrenn. *Vegan Witchcraft: Contemporary Magical Practice and Multispecies Social Change*. Routledge, 2025. 222 pp. ISBN: 9781032649719. _____

Editorial

This issue of *Animal Studies Journal* commences with a ‘provocation from the field’ from Tayler Zavitz of Animal Justice, and addresses human-animal relations in the context of two colonial explorations and in terms of contemporary vulnerability. Marcus Baynes-Rock examines the physical and cultural positioning of horses during a colonial expedition in Australia, reflecting on the nature of their agency. Laurence Simmons discusses John Webber, *A Party from His Majesty’s ship Resolution shooting Sea Horses, Latitude 71 North, 1778, [1784]*, a painting by John Webber of an encounter with walrus witnessed when he accompanied Captain Cook on a voyage in the Arctic Ocean. Simmons aligns Webber’s representation with concepts of the sublime and of empathetic responses to animal suffering that were emerging in the late eighteenth century. An artistic response to contemporary animal endangerment is central to Sunaura Taylor’s examination of the different risks and possibilities associated with vulnerability.

In our reviews section, Matthew Calarco discusses Markus Gabriel’s *The Human Animal: Why We Still Don’t Fit into Nature*. Cynthia Chris’ review explores three books: Patricia Ononiwu Kaishian’s *Forest Utopia*, Sabrina Imbler’s *How Far the Light Reaches*, and Lulu Miller’s *Why Fish Don’t Exist*. Wendy Woodward reviews Philip Armstrong’s *Disturbing Nature in Narrative Literature*. Giulia Roti and Agnese Bardelli review Corey Wrenn’s *Vegan Witchcraft: Contemporary Magical Practice and Multispecies Social Change*.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

The ASJ editorial team: Melissa, Sally, Kelly, Alex and Wendy

Contributor Biographies

Agnese Bardelli is an independent researcher currently working for Federsanità ANCI Toscana and Università di Firenze. She specializes in the study of gendered violence and support networks for those who experience it. Furthermore, through the study of support networks her research interests expanded to the world of social work. ORCID: 0009-0001-9303-8379; agnese.bardelli@libero.it

Marcus Baynes-Rock is a Research Fellow at Deakin University and Adjunct Research Fellow at Griffith University. His research interests include human/large-carnivore relations, animal domestication as Unmaking, and multispecies resistance to capitalism. He is author of three multispecies ethnographies: *Among the Bone Eaters*, *Crocodile Undone* and *The Fire Commons*.

Matthew Calarco is professor of philosophy at California State University, Fullerton, where he teaches courses in animal studies, environmental philosophy, and Continental philosophy. His recent books include *The Three Ethologies*, *Altermobilities*, and *How Not to Be Human*.

Cynthia Chris is Professor in the Department of Media Culture, College of Staten Island, City University of New York. She is the author of *Watching Wildlife*, *The Indecent Screen: Regulating Television in the Twenty-first Century*, and two volumes in the acclaimed Animal series from Reaktion Books, *Crab* and *Cuckoo*.

Giulia Roti is a PhD candidate in anthropology at the University of Siena. Her doctoral research employs multispecies ethnography to investigate the Italian anti-speciesist movement, focusing on daily practices of care, consumption and resistance. She has published in *Antropologia Pubblica* on exploring how interspecies alliances inside animal sanctuaries defy anthropocentrism. ORCID: 0009-0007-5253-6519; g.roti@student.unisi.it.

Laurence Simmons is Professor of Film Studies in Media and Screen at Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland. He is well-known as a writer of numerous essays and books on New Zealand painting and photography. His latest publications include *Tuhituhi, William Hodges, Cook's Painter in the South Pacific* (2011) and with Rex Butler, *Victory over Death: The Art of Colin McCahon* (2021).

Sunaora Celeste Taylor is author of *Disabled Ecologies: Lessons from a Wounded Desert* (UC Press, 2024) and *Beasts of Burden: Animal and Disability Liberation* (The New Press, 2017), which received the 2018 American Book Award. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at the University of California, Berkeley.

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 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). She has published four volumes of poetry.

Taylor Zavitz is the Advocacy Programs Specialist at Animal Justice. She brings a powerful combination of scholarly insight and dedicated activism to the animal advocacy movement. She holds a PhD in Sociology, specializing in Critical Animal Studies. Her doctoral research offered a deep dive into the history of the animal rights movement in Canada, its repression and criminalization, and the emotional experiences and responses of animal activists to their repression. Taylor also spent the last almost decade teaching in academia, educating students on pressing issues like critical animal studies, social movements, and food studies. She's also a passionate and long-time animal advocate and rescuer, with close to two decades of experience collaborating with various nonprofits and local organizations to advance animal protection.