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# Animal Studies Journal 2012 1(1): Cover Pages, Table of Contents and Editorial

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# Animal Studies Journal 2012 1(1): Cover Pages, Table of Contents and Editorial

## **Abstract**

Cover pages, table of contents, editorial, contributor biographies and call for papers for Animal Studies Journal Vol. 1 No. 1 Spring 2012



# Animal Studies Journal

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*Animal Studies Journal* is the journal of the Australian Animal Studies Group. It is a fully refereed journal, published twice-yearly, devoted to multidisciplinary scholarship and discussion on animal studies.

**EDITOR:** Melissa Boyde

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All enquiries should be made to the Editor.

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# Animal Studies Journal

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## Cover Acknowledgements

Michele Elliot, *the vanishing*, 2010. Detail. Fibreglass, cotton, velvet, 6,000 glass bullets, thread, wax. Variable dimensions. Photograph by Derrick Choo.



## Editorial

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Welcome to the inaugural edition of *Animal Studies Journal*, the journal of the Australian Animal Studies Group (AASG). We decided to create *Animal Studies Journal* as an open access e-journal so that the latest national and international scholarship in the field of animal studies, from a range of disciplines, is freely available to everyone and easily accessed on the internet.

### Background of AASG

AASG was formed seven years ago, in 2005, with a vision of creating a formal national group of people working in the field of animal studies. It was launched with a national conference in Perth in 2005 where about fifty papers were given from across many disciplines. Two years later, in 2007, AASG held *Considering Animals* in Hobart, which brought together over a hundred delegates from a broad range of academic disciplines and from non-government organisations, industry, and government.

The AASG conference has become a major biennial event. Our 2009 conference, *Minding Animals*, at Newcastle, was a huge success in every way, with 520 delegates from 23 countries who were treated to numerous animal-focused art exhibitions held in the city's public and commercial galleries. The 2011 conference, *Animals, People – A Shared Environment*, was held in Brisbane with contributions from more than 100 animal studies scholars, creative artists and animal advocates.

### Global Animal

Last year we also held a more intimate conference at the University of Wollongong, *Global Animal*: (for more information, visit <http://ro.uow.edu.au/globan10/>). Scholars and creative artists responded to the key themes, which included caged and captive animal, performing and representing animal, diasporic and oceanic animal. Selected papers from *Global Animal* comprise this first edition of the *Animal Studies Journal*, including Wendy Woodward's keynote address, 'This Animal Which is Not One: Diasporic Giraffes in the African puppet play *Tall Horse* and J.M. Ledgard's novel, *Giraffe*'.

The conference incorporated a significant creative component that included Michele Elliot's exhibition, *the vanishing*, which brings into the present the colonial legacy of hunting. Sarah Miller introduces this haunting work that is represented through photographs and Elliot's

description of her creative process. Nikki Heywood, performance artist and director, created *Museum of the Sublime: Relic #5* especially for *Global Animal*, and here she discusses this abstract performance work, which asks, among other important questions in the field of human–animal studies: how are we touched by looking?

Sally Borrell’s essay considers how issues of globalisation impact on, and manifest in, contemporary postcolonial writing about animals. Keely Boom et. al. provide a comprehensive account of changes in the legal and policy status of the kangaroo and how such changes have been influenced by, and affected, cultural perceptions of killing kangaroos. Graham Barwell’s research brings scientific taxonomic naming practices together with cultural attitudes to the albatross.

The *Global Animal* conference revealed the dynamic, multidisciplinary interest of academics, artists, and the community in general in reconsidering and thinking through relations between humans and animals. An email sent to me from one of the delegates after the conference sums up the event:

*I just wanted to let you know how rewarding it was for me to be a part of the Global Animal conference. I found the papers diverse and intriguing and the discussions very stimulating. From medieval swan ownership to ethical farming to Coetzee’s Disgrace and dying dogs to Kira O’Reilly’s pig performance to Milton’s Paradise Lost to ‘feral’ animal issues ... to Christian the Lion and a debate about the manipulative quality of Whitney Houston’s (!) song overdub on the YouTube clip. What a great bunch of people and minds.*

We hope you will enjoy reading this selection!

Melissa Boyde

Editor

Convenor *Global Animal 2011*



## Contributor Biographies

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### Graham Barwell

Associate Professor Graham Barwell teaches English, Media and Cultural Studies at the University of Wollongong. He has a long-standing interest in birds, particularly in their place and role in human cultures. He nurtures his fondness for albatrosses by frequent participation in the pelagic trips run out of Wollongong by the Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association.

### Keely Boom, Dror Ben-Ami, David B. Croft, Nancy Cushing, Daniel Ramp, Louise Boronyak

Keely Boom is a Research Fellow with THINKK, the think tank for kangaroos at the University of Technology, Sydney. She has been admitted to practice as a lawyer in New South Wales.

Dr Dror Ben-Ami is a Research Associate with THINKK, the think tank for kangaroos at the University of Technology, Sydney. He has a PhD in macropod ecology from the University of New South Wales.

Dr David B. Croft holds a BSc. Honours degree and University medal from Flinders University in South Australia, and a PhD from the University of Cambridge in England.

Dr Nancy Cushing is a Senior Lecturer with the School of Humanities and Social Science at the University of Newcastle. She is a cultural and environmental historian who has published several papers and a book on human–animal relations.

Dr Daniel Ramp is a Senior Lecturer with the School of Environment at the University of Technology, Sydney. He has a PhD in macropod ecology from the University of Melbourne.

Louise Boronyak is a Research Consultant with the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology, Sydney. She has a Masters of Environmental Management from the University of NSW.

### Sally Borrell

Dr Sally Borrell is secretary of the Australian Animal Studies Group and an associate of the New Zealand Centre of Human–Animal Studies. Her work addresses representations of human–animal relations in literature, with particular attention to questions of postcolonialism and posthumanism. She is based in Melbourne.

### Michele Elliot

Michele Elliot is a visual artist and occasional writer whose practice spans twenty-five years. She has exhibited widely across Australia and in 2009 was awarded an Australia Council for the Arts New Work Grant for the project *the vanishing* in Kolkata, India. Michele completed her Masters of Fine Art by Research at Monash University, Melbourne in 2007 and she currently works as a sessional academic in the Faculty of Creative Arts, University of Wollongong. Her work is held in collections at Artbank, the Art Gallery of Western Australia, and the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, UWA, as well as in private collections.

### Nikki Heywood

Nikki Heywood's work in contemporary performance spans four decades of involvement in movement-based theatre and dance as a performance maker. Heywood's professional practice involves devising and directing original performance work, making work as a solo performer, participating in collective creation and collaboratively devised projects, running skills-based workshops for students and emerging practitioners, and assisting the creative process of others as a mentor and dramaturg. She is currently a Doctoral candidate in practice-based research in the Faculty of Creative Arts at the University of Wollongong.

### Sarah Miller

Professor of Performance and Associate Dean (Research, Professional and Creative Practice) in the Faculty of Creative Arts at the University of Wollongong, Sarah Miller has worked in the arts for more than twenty-five years across the visual, performing, hybrid, and new media arts. Successive directorships of Performance Space, Sydney (1989–1993) and the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts Ltd (1994–2006) have seen her producing and presenting exhibitions, seasons, festivals, and contemporary performance events locally, nationally, and internationally. In recognition of her contribution to the arts, she was awarded the prestigious Sidney Myer Facilitator's Prize in 2003. A literature graduate, Sarah maintains a strong interest in writing for and about the arts and has written extensively about the arts and cultural policy for specialist art journals, magazines, catalogues, and for government.

### Wendy Woodward

Professor Wendy Woodward teaches southern African Literature, Animal Studies and Creative Writing in the English Department at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. *The Animal Gaze: Animal Subjectivities in Southern African Narratives* (Wits University Press, 2008) was awarded

the Deputy Vice Chancellor's Book Award for 2006–2008, and her second volume of poetry, *Love, Hades and other Animals* (Protea, 2008) was recently published. She organised the Colloquium, *Figuring the Animal in Post-Apartheid South Africa* (May 2011), where a decision was taken to form the Animal Studies Round Table in Africa (ASRA). In mid-2011 she was a Visiting Professor at the School of English and Philosophy at the University of Wollongong and keynote speaker at the Global Animal Conference. She is a Research Associate of the New Zealand Centre for Human–Animal Studies in Christchurch and is on the academic advisory board for the *Minding Animals* International Conference in New Delhi in 2015. Her current research focuses on the practices of animal-reading in relation to embodiment, posthumanism, ferality, and affect.



## CALLS FOR PAPERS

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### Animal Studies Journal

<http://ro.uow.edu.au/asj/>

The second edition of this new, multidisciplinary and online publication, *Animal Studies Journal*, will be published in March/April 2013.

Contributions from across the broad range of disciplines that engage with animal studies are invited. Examples might include, but are not limited to, questions of welfare, science, companion animals, farming, conservation, philosophy and ethics, history, geography, art and literature. The journal is double blind peer reviewed.

Abstracts and proposals for forthcoming editions can be submitted via our website or sent to editor Melissa Boyd: [boyde@uow.edu.au](mailto:boyde@uow.edu.au)

Submission guidelines available at: <http://ro.uow.edu.au/asj/policies.html>

### AASG@Sydney: Life in the Anthropocene

<http://aasgconference.com>

The Australian Animal Studies Group's 5<sup>th</sup> biennial conference will be held from 8–10 July 2013 at the University of Sydney, Australia.

Keynotes: Cary Wolfe, Sarah Whatmore, Peter Sankoff, Paul McGreevy, Kate Rigby, and Siobhan O'Sullivan.

The Anthropocene describes a period of geological time dominated by *homo sapiens* and marked by the significant impact of human activity on the planet. At a time when the natural world is ever more subject to human intervention, interspecies relations face many challenges. If the cultural and scientific moment of the Anthropocene puts *us* in our place, then it is time to reconsider our place with *them*, the other animals.

This 5th Conference of the Australian Animal Studies Group will bring together voices from a wide range of disciplines and beyond the academy to examine how new knowledge of human–animal relations requires novel starting points, critical tools and cross-disciplinary connections.

We welcome papers that explore the implications of living in the Anthropocene for human–animal relationships. What is the impact of human activity upon non-human life? How do lessons from the past shed light on present and future orientations? How do different disciplines, institutions and groups (community, government and activist) respond to the myriad issues raised by living in the Anthropocene?

Potential themes include: wildness, re-wilding and conservation; rethinking evolution; biodesign, breeding, and domestication; imagining human–animal futures; animals and the law, media, and public policy.

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 7 December 2012.

To register attendance and submit an abstract, please visit the conference website: <http://aasgconference.com/>





## AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL STUDIES GROUP

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### 2012 COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Melissa Boyde

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General committee: Tess Williams, Matthew Chrulew and Fiona Probyn-Rapsey

### WEBPAGE

Our website provides detailed information about AASG, including our aims and vision, committee profiles, our member list, Bulletin issues and material on AASG conferences. A News Page lists upcoming conferences, seminars and exhibitions, new publications and calls for papers and proposals. The website also includes resources for animal studies scholars and teachers, an art gallery, and links to national and international networks and groups.

<http://www.aasg.org.au/>

### BULLETIN

AASG's quarterly *Bulletin* is a quarterly digest of news and events in the field of animal studies within Australia and beyond. It includes information on recent and forthcoming conferences, exhibitions and other events, calls for papers, and information about new books, special issues of journals, and films. The *Bulletin* is available on our website or by email on request.

<http://www.aasg.org.au/bulletins>

### CONFERENCE

5th Biennial AASG Conference

*AASG@Sydney: Life in the Anthropocene*

8-10 July 2013

University of Sydney, Australia

<http://aasgconference.com>

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\$20 for student, concession, or unwaged members

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<http://www.aasg.org.au/>

Or scan, fax or email a completed membership form, available online, with your payment to:

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