



The Promise of Vegan Sociology: Vegan Sociology as a Conduit for Human and Nonhuman Emancipation

Register here for our virtual conference:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-promise-of-vegan-sociology-tickets-157081375623>

In 1959 C. Wright Mills wrote of ‘the promise’ of sociology in highlighting the broader structural links between individual biographies, and the historical context that shapes them. Now, more than half a century later, sociology has been used to inform a range of perspectives on current social issues. While much of the sociological field is focused on human experiences, sociological animal studies have played a crucial role in highlighting that the social world is a shared one — with many other species entangled in relations that are presumed to be human specific. As the consequences of human exploitation of nonhuman others manifest with increasing severity in climate events, environmental destruction and nonhuman suffering, our multispecies scholarly endeavours are needed now more than ever. Sociology, with its attention to the manifestation and influence of power in everyday life, is well placed to not only highlight the structural roots of multispecies social issues, but to critique the anthroparchal construction of knowledge that further contributes to this oppression.

The importance of this scientific inquiry is not lost on animal advocates. Vegan pioneers consistently advocated science as a means to understand optimal human diet and nutritional requirements, create viable alternatives to cruel animal products, and validate the connection they perceived between human and nonhuman injustices. Indeed, veganism was, in many ways, an invention of modern scientific thinking as activists challenged mainstream dogmas with their fact-finding mission to expand knowledge for the betterment of global society. When the Vegan Society formed in the midst of World War 2, its founders envisioned veganism as a promising solution to many sufferings arising with modernity including sickness, famine, war, environmental destruction, and alienation from human, nonhuman and natural communities. As we know, sociology also emerged in response to modernization and its many unexpected consequences, and many practitioners (like Mills) certainly believe in its capacity to serve the social good.

As sociologists are well aware, information exchange between peer scholars, field experts, and community stakeholders is vital for expanding our knowledge and improving the quality of our research. Early vegan activists (having forged their fledgling vegan society in response to the stonewalling of the Vegetarian Society) were especially keen to maintain a robust, critical dialogue for the benefit of the movement and its constituency. Vegan sociology, then, emerges from a long tradition of reflexivity, discourse and debate in both activist and scholarly spaces that is rooted in a rigorous commitment to social justice. With these considerations in mind, this online event spotlights the promise of a new sociology, one that is informed by a specifically vegan epistemological stance. In line with the mission of both veganism and sociology, it also situates knowledge in explicitly anti-oppressive stances that challenge animal exploitation alongside other sites of domination such as white supremacy, patriarchy, capitalism and ableism. We ask contributors to consider what a sociology that is explicitly vegan looks like, and how this might be employed to conduct scholarship that is FOR nonhuman animals.

This online conference, organised by the International Association of Vegan Sociologists and enjoys the support of the animal sections of the American Sociological Association, Australian Sociological Association, British Sociological Association, Canadian Sociological Association, and Polish Sociological Association. It will be held online from October 9th-10th, 2021.

Saturday, October 9, 2021			ACDT (Adelaide)	BST (London)	EST (Toronto)
Opening Remarks: IAVS Conference Organizing Committee		15 minutes	5:45pm	8:15am	3:15am
TASA Panel: Vegan Sociology		1 hour	6:00pm	8:30am	3:30am
<i>Situating Humans and Nonhuman Animals in 'The Promise' of Vegan Sociology</i>	Zoei Sutton, Josephine Browne, Chantelle Bayes, Fiona De Rosa	The Australian Sociological Association			
Panel: Nonhuman Animals and Food		1 hour	8:00pm	10:30am	5:30am
<i>Galline Promises: Urban Chicken-keeping through a Vegan Lens</i>	Catherine Oliver	University of Cambridge			
<i>Creating a Paradigm to Understand Diet and Power</i>	Lyndsey Kramer	University of York			
<i>"Look into the Pewter Pot": The Agnotology of selling a rural brew</i>	Kate Stewart and Claire Markham	University of East Anglia and Nottingham Trent University			
PSA Panel: Animal Agency in a Human-Dominated World		1 hour	10:00pm	12:30pm	7:30am
<i>Agency Taken Away? Vegan Diets for Companion Animals</i>	Hanna Mamzer	Adam Mickiewicz University			
<i>Controversies around Animal Agency in Wildlife Conservation Programs – Evidence from Poland</i>	Krzysztof Niedziakowski	Polish Academy of Sciences			
<i>A Vegan Sociologist's thoughts on the Polish Amateur Taxidermists and the Bone Collectors and Their Approach to a Dead Animal Body</i>	Łucja Lange	University of Lodz			
CSA Panel: Interspecies abuse, gender, and speciesism		1 hour	12:00am*	2:30pm	9:30am
<i>Hierarchies and Bonds: Men's Relationships with Companion Animals</i>	Rochelle Stevenson	Thompson Rivers University	Next day*		
<i>Speciesism in Emergency Intimate Partner Violence Shelters in Ontario, Canada: A Social Justice Concern</i>	Sarah May Lindsay	McMaster University			
<i>Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse: The Differences in Perceptions of Animal Companions between Survivors and Non-experiencers of Abuse</i>	Serena Girard	Thompson Rivers University			
ASA Panel: Student scholars of the ASA		1 hour	2:00am*	4:30pm	11:30am
<i>Veganism: A Lifestyle Movement for Whom?</i>	Victoria Brockett	University of Illinois at Chicago	Next day*		

<i>A Vegan Market for Non-Vegans: The Impact of Plant-based on the Vegan Market</i>	Miri Eliyahu	Northwestern University
<i>Joining Human-Animal Studies and Public Sociology: Reducing Speciesism in the Undergraduate Classroom through Experiential and Service Learning</i>	Carol Glasser	Minnesota State University Mankato

Sunday, October 10, 2021

ACDT (Adelaide) BST (London) EST (Toronto)

			6:00pm	8:30am	3:30am
BSA Panel: British Innovations in Vegan Sociology		1 hour			
<i>Undermining Anthropocentrism: Veganism's Potential</i>	Louis Gough	University of West England			
<i>Wee Vs: The Lived Experiences of Young Vegan Children in Scotland</i>	Lynda M. Korimboccus	University of East Anglia			
<i>Taking the Field: Reflections on Finding space for veganism in British sociology</i>	Kate Stewart and Matthew Cole	University of East Anglia, and Open University			
Panel: Activism and Advocacy		1 hour	8:00pm	10:30am	5:30am
<i>Incorporating a Structural Approach into Animal Advocacy</i>	Nick Pendergrast	University of Melbourne			
<i>'Veganism and the Veterinary Profession'</i>	Donelle Gadenne	Edgehill University			
<i>From Alternative to Mainstream: Being Vegan in a Non-Vegan World (1990s) to Convenience of Veganism in 2021</i>	Jessica Greenbaum and Liz Cherry	Central Connecticut State University and Manhattanville College			
<i>Animals and biopolitical power at the Attica Zoological Park, Athens, Greece</i>	Christina Vasilopoulou and Alexandra Halkias	Panteion University			
Panel: Human-Nonhuman animal coexistence		1.25 hour	10:00pm	12:30pm	7:30am
<i>Vegan sociology for urban coexistence: A case study of pigeons and the European city</i>	Maria Martelli	Independent scholar			
<i>Banal Speciesism</i>	Brett Mills	Edge Hill University			
<i>Rights, Nonhuman Personhood, Sentience, and Legal Standing: Species and Elements of Nature Globally</i>	Jennifer Schauer and Samantha Almonacid	Boston College			
<i>Utopian action is survival action': Anthroparchy, Capitocene and a sociology of existential threat</i>	Erika Cudworth	De Montfort University			
Concluding Comments: IAVS Conference Organizing Committee		15 minutes	11:30pm	2:00pm	9:00am
International Association of Vegan Sociologists: Annual Business Meeting		1 hour	12:00am	2:30pm	9:30am

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPEAKERS

- The conference will be hosted on Zoom. The zoom link and password will be emailed to presenters and attendees in the week before the conference.
- Login 10 minutes before the actual start of the webinar for a technology check
- The webinar will go 'live' 5 minutes in advance to allow attendees to login and test their sound
- The session host (Rochelle, Sarah, Zoi, or Corey) will be opening the session and posting a welcome slide for the session.
- Rochelle, Sarah, Zoi, or Corey will be moderating the individual sessions and introducing you as a presenter
 - After you present, the moderator will read questions from the audience in the chat for you to respond
- The presenter will be responsible for operating their slide presentation (if applicable)
 - Have your presentation open on your computer
 - Select 'Share Screen' in green in your toolbar of the screen (you will see once logged in)
 - Click on the presentation and 'Slide Show' in the document
 - Remember to 'Stop Screen Share' when you finish presenting
 - You may choose to have a final slide on your presentation 'Questions' for attendees to view while you respond to questions
- The attendees will only be able to view the 'active speaker' and whatever is shared
 - If you do not wish to be viewed 'live' while speaking, please upload a picture in your zoom profile
 - Turn off your video and mute yourself when not speaking

EVENT ORGANIZERS

MS SARAH LINDSAY, ABD

Ms. Sarah May Lindsay (she/her) is a doctoral candidate (ABD) in Sociology at McMaster University. Ms. Lindsay's research areas include human-nonhuman animal relations; human and nonhuman animal shelters and housing; nonhuman companion animals; nonhuman animal use and abuse (abolitionism); environmentalism and social movements; disability, "disease", and deviance; and speciesism. She works from the intersectional perspective of Critical Animal Studies, considering the social psychological intricacies of individuals and society, and leveraging progressive pedagogy for social change. Ms. Lindsay's dissertation research surveys companion animal co-sheltering policies and practices at women's emergency shelters in Ontario, Canada. Recent publications include a co-authored introductory chapter on the connectivity of critical animal and critical disability studies; a comparative book review on arthropods; and a co-authored policy report on body-worn cameras. Ms. Lindsay is also co-chair of CSA's Animals in Society



DR ROCHELLE STEVENSON



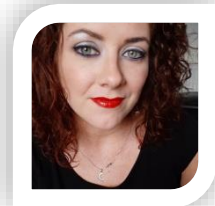
Dr. Stevenson (PhD, University of Windsor) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Thompson Rivers University, co-chair of CSA's Animals in Society research cluster, and faculty member with the Animal and Interpersonal Abuse Research Group (AIPARG). Coming from an academic background in criminology, her core research interest is the area of domestic violence, concentrating on the intersection of interpersonal violence and violence against animals. Her research has looked at safe pet programs in Western Canada, examining the avenues available to women who want to leave an abusive relationship but do not want to leave their companion animal in a situation of potential harm, as well as conducting national surveys of both residents of domestic violence shelters and shelter staff on the issue of animal abuse and mistreatment. Her research projects have also approached the issue of interpersonal violence from a different perspective: that of men who had committed abuse against their partner. Interviewing incarcerated men about their relationships with their partners and their companion animals was illuminating, albeit sometimes difficult, research. Rochelle's work maintains an intersectional and anti-oppression foundation, that violence in any form needs to be named, understood, and stopped.

DR ZOEI SUTTON

Dr Zoi Sutton is a sociologist interested in critical, nonhuman animal-centric research. She is the co-founder of the International Association for Vegan Sociologists and co-created the Australian Sociological Association's Sociology & Animal thematic group which she currently convenes with Dr Gavin Smith. She is also a member of the ICAS Oceania collective. Her dissertation examined the lived experience of human-companion animal entanglements, utilising species inclusive methods to centre nonhuman animals' experiences and encourage critical reflection on them. Other recent projects have examined the construction of killable "pest" species in print media and the depoliticised treatment of nonhuman animals in sociological literature. Underlying this research is a deep commitment to research that is *for* nonhuman animals, rather than merely about them. You can keep up to date with Zoi's research by following her on [twitter](#) or [researchgate](#).



DR COREY WRENN



Dr. Wrenn is Lecturer of Sociology with the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR) and Co-Director of the Centre for the Study of Social and Political Movements at the University of Kent. She served as council member with the American Sociological Association's Animals & Society section (2013-2016), was elected Chair in 2018, and co-founded the International Association of Vegan Sociologists in 2020. She serves as Book Review Editor to *Society & Animals*, is a member of The Vegan Society's Research Advisory Committee, and hosts *Sociology & Animals Podcast*. In July 2013, she founded the Vegan Feminist Network, an academic-activist project engaging intersectional social justice praxis. She is the author of *A Rational Approach to Animal Rights: Extensions in Abolitionist Theory* (Palgrave MacMillan 2016), *Piecemeal Protest: Animal Rights in the Age of Nonprofits* (University of Michigan Press 2019), and *Animals in Irish Society* (SUNY Press 2021).

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VEGAN SOCIOLOGISTS



The International Association of Vegan Sociologists is a scholar-activist collective putting sociological theory and practice in the service of animal liberation and veganism. It was founded in May 2020 by Corey Wrenn, Chair of the Animals & Society Section of the American Sociological Association and Zoei Sutton, Co-Convener of the Australian Sociological Association's Sociology and Animals Thematic Group.

This association was formed to provide a platform for sociologists of a Critical Animal Studies background who recognize veganism and anti-speciesism as an ethical imperative in the discipline.

Our aim is to increase the visibility and legitimacy of vegan sociology, provide opportunities for career development, and facilitate transnational networking. We are completely volunteer-based.

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TASA SOCIOLOGY & ANIMALS THEMATIC GROUP



The Australian Sociological Association's Sociology and Animals Thematic Group aims to contribute to the idea of nonhuman animals as critical members, and stakeholders in societies, who co-produce 'the social' along with humans and other nonhumans. With the rise of human-animal scholarship, sociologists are increasingly recognising the importance of including non-human animals in our academic endeavours, and the urgency of studying animals as actors, as well as subjects of marginalisation in societies. The aim of the Sociology and Animals Thematic Group is to create a supportive network of scholars working in human-animal studies, critical animal studies and/or other animal-related areas to facilitate the exchange of ideas, critical discussion and coordination of relevant academic events. We welcome all scholars conducting sociological research about, for, and/or with nonhuman animals.

EMAIL OUR CONVENERS: ZOEI.SUTTON@ADELAIDE.EDU.AU OR GAVIN.SMITH@ANU.EDU.AU

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CSA ANIMALS IN SOCIETY RESEARCH CLUSTER



We are the **Animals in Society** research cluster (RC) of the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA)! As sociologists, we see value in scholarship that goes beyond an anthropocentric understanding of Canadian society, one that includes the non- or other-than-human and pays particular attention to "the question of the animal". The work of this RC is inclusive, anti-oppressive, and critical in nature. Working from an interdisciplinary perspective, we seek to expand current interpretations of societal structures and institutions, social norms, practices, policies, and relations that involve humans and other beings. The Animals in Society RC recognizes and respects that **we are all animals in a shared society**.

EMAIL OUR CONVENERS: RSTEVENSON@TRU.CA OR LINDSAYS@MCMASTER.CA

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PSA SECTION OF INTERSPECIES RELATIONS



**POLSKIE
TOWARZYSTWO
SOCJOLOGICZNE**

The section will develop collaboration with public institutions and non-governmental organisations in the field of human-non-human animal relations. The Section's goals include: studying, describing and interpreting human-animal relations both in the local and the global dimensions; presenting the achievements and initiatives of Polish sociologist and international researchers/scholars; and cooperating with international academic institutions with the purpose of promoting Polish achievements with regard to the interspecies-relations research. The social aim of the Section is to support the academic efforts of sociologists interested in this interdisciplinary area.

EMAIL SECTION PRESIDENT: MAMZER@AMU.EDU.PL
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ASA SECTION ON ANIMALS AND SOCIETY



The purpose of the American Sociological Association's Section on Animals and Society is to encourage and support the development of theory, research and teaching about the complex relationships that exist between humans and other animals. In the process, it is anticipated that the light we shed on these issues will increase the well-being of both humans, and other animals.

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BSA ANIMAL/HUMAN STUDIES GROUP



The study of animal-human relations within the social sciences is an increasingly important, vibrant and burgeoning field. The formation of the BSA Animal/Human Studies Group in June 2006 is therefore an important step towards addressing what Bryant (1979) has called the 'zoological connection', whereby sociologists need to recognise that people co-exist and interact not only with humans but with non-human animals too. For example, animals are increasingly utilised and involved in biotechnology and genomics; animal experimentation; the production and slaughter of food animals; companion animal-human type relationships and the therapeutic use of animals. Moreover, additional animal-related issues that have attracted attention by researchers are: the potential links between animal abuse and domestic violence; the nature of animal-animal interaction; potential links between women, nature and animals; bestiality; human-wildlife interactions; and human responses to companion animal death/euthanasia. Sociologists have much to offer this emerging area of study and are well placed to engage with the multifaceted, ambiguous and challenging nature of the animal-human interface in everyday life.

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